

Frequently Asked Questions

When do I audition for next year's orchestra?

Auditions:

Auditions for next year's orchestra placement for **High School** string students will take place in early February. The only high school string students who must audition in February are those wishing to be considered for Chamber and/or Symphony Orchestra.

Auditions for next year's orchestra placement for **Rising Freshman** string students will take place in early February. All incoming freshman should register for Freshman Orchestra. Adjustment for your orchestra placement will be made after your audition.

Audition Requirements:

1. Solo

Perform one selection of your choice that best demonstrates your skill level to date.

2. Scales

For *General Placement* play any scale you are comfortable performing

For *Advanced Placement* (Symphony and/or Chamber Orchestra at the Winnetka Campus), you must be prepared to play the following three octave (double bass two octave) C, G, D, A, E, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Major Scales and their relative Minor Scale counterpart (all scales to be performed ascending and descending: quarter note = 120.

How does orchestra work for Rising Freshman?

Please note, all freshman should register for Freshman Orchestra and adjustments will be made for placement after the auditions!

As a freshman orchestra member you will fall into one of three categories:

1. You will be in the Freshman Orchestra at the Northfield Campus, **or**
2. You will be in the Freshman Chamber Players and Freshman Orchestra, **or**
3. You will be in Symphony Orchestra at the Winnetka Campus

All orchestras are curricular and meet as regular classes during the school day. Students in Symphony Orchestra will travel to the Winnetka Campus and meet during period 6. During their return and in the time before their next class, they can opt to eat lunch (it should be noted that this procedure has worked very well for over fifteen years). Students who are in the Freshman Chamber Players will rehearse and perform more advanced repertoire in addition to performing with members of Freshman Orchestra. Freshman Orchestra and the Freshman Chamber Players will meet during the same period, period 2, and will work with one or both of the New Trier Orchestra Program teachers. Mr. Rosheger will work with both freshman ensembles. All concerts, except for one, on which the freshman orchestras perform, will include one or more of the orchestras from the Winnetka Campus. Concert performances will utilize facilities at both the Northfield and Winnetka Campuses.

What do I wear for Concert Performances?

Concert Wear (All options are provided by the Music Department):

1. Black Dress Blouse and Black Dress Palazzo style Pants
2. Black Tuxedo with Short Jacket or Tails depending on the Ensemble and Bow Tie

How should I practice?

HOW TO "PRACTICE" MORE EFFECTIVELY

Young musicians need **support and encouragement** to maintain an effective practice schedule. We have found that most students need to practice an average of 30 minutes per day to achieve the greatest benefit from their time. Below are a few helpful hints to make that home practice time a productive and rewarding experience.

1. For all musicians, practice time should be a period of concentration, devoted to the idea of **working out** rather than **playing through musical** material.
2. The practice area should be **private and quiet**, without distractions of television, stereo or other people. It should have good lighting, a music stand for proper instrument position, and a firm straight back chair for correct posture and breathing.
3. The practice session is most beneficial when the student reserves a certain time of the day to work.
4. Usually a practice session at the end of the day, when the student is mentally and physically fatigued, is fruitless.
5. For some, shorter practice sessions (15 or 20 minutes) during the day are preferable to a single, longer practice session. Example: One session after school or before dinner and another session later in the evening as a break from other studies.
6. When beginning a practice session, have a well-organized idea of how to use the time that is available. Select from the following:
 - Warm-up materials
 - Scales
 - Exercises
 - Private lesson material
 - Orchestra Repertoire
 - Sight-reading material
7. It is important to practice **slowly** and to avoid continued **unsuccessful** repetitions of a problem passage (this means narrowing the focus to what is creating the problem).

What should all instrumentalists carry with them?

Items that all instrumentalists should carry with them:

- metronome/tuner and pencil

String players:

- extra set of strings, rosin and cleaning rag, rock-stop for violoncello and double bass end pins

Wind players:

- proper cleaning cloth/swab
- slide or valve oil as necessary

- reed players should maintain several good quality reeds

Why take Private Lesson?

What students gain from taking Private Lessons...

- Inspiration and motivation enriching their musical experience
- Individual instruction tailored specifically to their needs
- Hearing a professional play and talk about their instrument on a regular basis
- Gaining a stronger understanding of the technical aspects of their instrument
- Troubleshooting any specific problems or challenges
- Guided practice strategies
- Personal investment in their music education and development
- Artistic enrichment
- Desire to practice more
- Working on exciting solo repertoire

New Trier High School provides access to a professional staff of private teachers for on-campus lessons. These lessons can be scheduled before or after school, during a lunch period or free period and sometimes during the student's orchestra class.