



Ligon Middle School Orchestras

Ligon GT Magnet Middle School offers four orchestras:

Beginning/Apprentice Orchestra: Apprentice Orchestra is open to all students and it *meets during 7th period*.

This class is designed to teach basic skills to students with little or no previous playing experience.

During classes students will learn basic, good foundation for playing an instrument with good posture technique, and proper rehearsal and concert etiquette. They learn theory concepts such as reading and interpreting standard notations, symbols for music, music vocabulary in the category of dynamics, tempos and articulations and they learn pieces specifically composed for the level of the orchestra. Students also learn to care for, and to proficiently play one of the four orchestra instruments: violin, viola, cello and double bass. Not only will students learn how to play instruments, but they will also learn how the music relates to history, culture, and other types of arts. Students will also learn to read and critically analyze the music they will be playing and listening to. During the school year students are required to practice at home daily and to attend two evening performances. **No audition required**

Intermediate Orchestra I (Concert Orchestra): Open to all students who had a minimum of one year of playing experience on violin, viola, cello or bass. This class meets *during 1st period*. The class builds on the knowledge and skills already learned and challenges the students with higher level performance skills. In addition to the basic concepts, other music concepts will be developed that include, but not limited to, development of better intonation, intermediate bowing skills, explorations of alternate fingerings, intermediate level time and key signature, complex rhythm, and more music vocabulary in the category of dynamics, tempo and articulations. A wide variety of music is explored, as well as music theory, music history and ear training. During the school year students are required to practice at home daily and to attend all after school rehearsals and evening performances. **No audition required**

Intermediate Orchestra II (Philharmonic Orchestra): Open to all students who had sufficient training and high level of technical proficiency. This orchestra meets *during 3rd period*. In addition to stressing basic playing techniques, emphasis is placed on tone quality and expressiveness. Students will also learn shifting, ensemble techniques, and advanced time and key signatures in preparations for high school orchestra. A wide variety of music is explored as well as music theory, music history and ear training. During the school year students are required to practice at home daily and to attend performances. **Entrance by audition only**

Advanced Orchestra (Silver Strings): Silver Strings is the most advanced orchestra at Ligon GT Magnet Middle School that *meets during 4th period*. The class is open to *7th and 8th grade* students who have sufficient training and high level of technical proficiency. Emphasis of this orchestra is to demonstrate the highest levels of musicianship through performances of respected and diversified selections of orchestra literature. During the school year students are required to practice at home daily and to attend all after school rehearsals and performances. Since it's a small capped class, all performances are required. **Not participating in any one of the scheduled performances (only exceptions are family emergency or illness) will result in the student's dismissal from Silver String during the following school year. Entrance by audition only**

Audition Requirements:

1. Audition form (back of this packet)
2. Student assignment form or letter of acceptance into Ligon (only students not currently enrolled at Ligon)
3. Required scale and arpeggio by memory (see below)
4. Required solo piece (see below)
5. Sight-reading

Philharmonic Orchestra	Silver Strings
<u>Required Scales:</u> Violin: Two Octaves C and B-flat major scales and arpeggios Two Octaves A melodic minor scale and arpeggio Viola/Cello: Two Octaves D and F major scales and arpeggios Two Octaves D melodic minor scale and arpeggio Bass: Two Octaves E Major scale and arpeggio One Octave G Major scale and arpeggio One Octave A melodic minor scale and arpeggio All scales and arpeggios must be played by memory	<u>Required Scales:</u> Violin: Three Octaves C and G major scales and arpeggios Three Octaves A melodic minor scale and arpeggio Viola/Cello: Three Octaves C and D major scales and arpeggios Three Octaves D melodic minor scale and arpeggio Bass: Two Octaves E and G major scales and arpeggios Two Octaves A melodic minor scale and arpeggio All scales and arpeggios must be played by memory
<u>Required Solo</u> Allegro by Mozart from Solo Time for Strings, Book IV (by Etling) p. 24	<u>Required Solo</u> Allegro by Mozart from Solo Time for Strings, Book IV (by Etling) p. 24

******Please note that playing the required scales and solo will not automatically guarantee the placement in the chosen orchestra.******

Audition Dates:***Violins only***

Wednesday, April 15, 2020
2:30-5pm

Viola, Cello and Bass only

Thursday, April 16, 2020
2:30-5pm

Communication

e-mail: prajki@wcpss.net

website: ligonstrings.weebly.com

twitter: @LigonOrchestras

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. Do I need to sign up in advance for my audition?

A. No. All you need to do is come on the designated day and sign in.

Q. Why do I need to bring my Ligon acceptance letter?

A. This is a WCPSS policy. We are not allowed to hear your audition until we know that you have been assigned to Ligon Middle School

Q. Do current school seating, All State Orchestra, JERO placement, or Philharmonic Association seating play a role in placement?

A. No. Placement is based solely on the audition. Prior placements at other schools and regional/local orchestra placements are not considered.

Q. Does being a 6th grader mean that I can't get into a higher level orchestra?

A. Silver Strings is only for 7th and 8th grade students because we have 6th grade lunch during 4th period, when Silver Strings meets. Philharmonic orchestra is open for all students, even 6th graders. Students will be placed in orchestras based on their level of technical proficiency at the time of the audition.

Q. Does playing the requirements guarantee placement in a higher orchestra?

A. No, it just means that you will be considered for those levels however you will be placed in an orchestra based on your level of technical proficiency at the time of the audition.

Q. When will results be made public?

A. I will contact parents via e-mail in May after the counselors have the chance to work on the schedules. Please make sure to print your e-mail clearly on the Audition Form.

Q. Are students allowed to re-audition if the audition did not go well or they did not get placed in the level they wanted?

A. No. All audition results are final.

Q. When register for classes, how do I signed up for orchestra?

A. All experienced rising 6th grade students need to register for Intermediate Orchestra. After the auditions have taken place, the results will be turned over to the Ligon scheduling team and students will automatically be placed in the correct level.

Audition Form

Fill out, sign and turn in this form on the day of the auditions. If this form is not returned, you will not be able to audition this year

Student's name _____ Instrument _____

Parent e-mail address (please print!) _____

School currently attending _____ Current grade _____

Current orchestra teacher _____

Name of private teacher (if any) _____

List of auditioned electives you have plan to do: _____

Orchestra auditioning for (check one) _____ Philharmonic _____ Silver Strings

I have read and understand the expectations and placement procedures of the Ligon GT Magnet Middle School orchestra and I agree to abide by the decision of the orchestra director, Ms. Rajki. We are aware of the responsibilities required as a member of the Ligon GT Magnet Middle School orchestras and with my signature below I agree to support the decision of the director

Parent signature _____

Student signature _____

The bottom portion of this form will be completed by Ms. Rajki during the audition

_____ Scale Score _____ Prepared Piece Score

_____ Sight Reading Score _____ Total Score

Orchestra placement recommendation: _____