

WESTWINDS – PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR ENSEMBLE MEMBERS

Name of Group	Level of Music	Scales/Technical Requirements	Rhythmic Proficiency	Sight-Reading/Singing Proficiency
Wind Orchestra	Grade 4.5 – 5.5	A wide variety of major scales, played over the full range of the instrument in a variety of articulation and rhythm patterns. Tone quality consistent with performing music at this level is essential. Performance of solo music in the form of a solo repertoire, etudes or studies is encouraged. Percussionists must be able to read music, demonstrate rudimentary skills at this level and may be expected to play any and all percussion instruments.	Count and play rhythm patterns commonly associated with standard time signatures (4/4, $\frac{3}{4}$, 6/8, 5/8 etc.).	Grade 3 – 3.5 music.
Silver Band	Grade 3.5 – 4.5	Bb, Eb, F, Ab and C concert scales in a variety of articulation and rhythm patterns. An understanding of all fundamental articulations and the ability to perform them. Tone quality consistent with performing music at this level is essential. Percussionists must be able to read music, demonstrate rudimentary skills at this level and may be expected to play Snare, Bass drum, Mallet Instruments, Cymbals and Auxiliary Percussion.	An understanding of all simple meters (4/4, $\frac{3}{4}$, 2/4, 2/2, 5/4 etc) as well as basic compound meters (6/8, 9/8 etc.), demonstrated through playing or clapping.	Grade 2 – 2.5 music.
Bronze Band	2.5 – 3.5	Bb, Eb, F, and Ab concert scales in a variety of patterns. An understanding of a variety of articulations and the ability to perform them. Tone quality should reflect the development of a sound fundamental approach to playing. Percussionists must be able to read music, demonstrate rudimentary skills at this level and may be expected to play Snare, Bass drum, Mallet Instruments, Cymbals and Auxiliary Percussion.	An understanding of most simple meters (4/4, $\frac{3}{4}$, 2/4, 2/2, 5/4 etc) as well as some compound meters (6/8, 9/8 etc.), demonstrated through playing or clapping.	Grade 1 – 1.5 music.
Blue Band	Grade 1-2	Bb, Eb, and F, concert scales in a several patterns. An understanding of slurred, legato and marcato articulation styles and the ability to perform them. Demonstration of a controlled tone quality. Percussionists should be able to read music and may be expected to play Snare, Bass drum, Bells, Cymbals and Auxiliary Percussion.	All players should be able to read, clap and play whole, dotted-half, half, quarter and eighth notes.	Grade 1- music.
Green Band	Beginner	None – will be taught throughout year	None – will be taught throughout year	None – will be taught throughout year

Jazz Orchestra	Advanced – grade 5 +	<p>A wide variety of concert scales as major, mixolydian, dorian, natural minor and blues utilizing a variety of articulations consistent with the performance of jazz music (swing, latin, funk etc.). All reed players must "double". Tone quality and range consistent with performing music at this level is essential.</p> <p>Rhythm section players should be able to read music and play Swing, Rock/ Funk, Latin and Ballad styles at a variety of tempos, demonstrating an understanding appropriate voicing and comping techniques.</p> <p>An ability to solo (improvise) in a variety of forms (blues, modal, rhythm changes etc.) is an asset.</p>	All players should be able to read, clap and play rhythms associated with jazz repertoire (variety of styles) in a variety of meters, including mixed and odd meters.	Grade 4 - 5
Gold Jazz (Wed and Mon)	Grade 4 - 5	<p>Most concert scales as major, mixolydian, dorian, natural minor and blues utilizing a variety of articulations consistent with the performance of jazz music (swing, latin, funk etc.). Tone quality and range consistent with performing music at this level is essential.</p> <p>Rhythm section players should be able to read music and play Swing, Rock/ Funk, Latin and Ballad styles at a variety of tempos, demonstrating an understanding appropriate voicing and comping techniques.</p> <p>An ability to solo (improvise) in a variety of forms (blues, modal, rhythm changes etc.) is an asset.</p>	All players should be able to read, clap and play a wide variety of rhythms commonly associated with jazz repertoire (variety of styles) in a variety of meters.	Grade 3 – 4
Silver Jazz	Grade 3 – 4	<p>Bb, Eb, F, Ab, and C concert scales as major, mixolydian, natural minor and blues utilizing a variety of articulations consistent with the performance of jazz music (swing, latin, funk etc.). Tone quality and range consistent with performing music at this level is essential.</p> <p>Rhythm section players should be able to read music and play Swing, Rock/ Funk, Latin and Ballad styles at a variety of tempos, demonstrating an understanding appropriate voicing and comping techniques.</p>	All players should be able to read, clap and play whole, dotted-half, half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes.	Grade 2 - 3
Bronze Jazz	Grade 2 - 3	Bb, Eb, F, and Ab concert scales as major,	Be able to count, clap and	Grade 1 - 2

		<p>mixolydian, natural minor and blues utilizing a variety of articulations consistent with the performance of jazz music (swing, latin, funk etc.). Tone quality and range must demonstrate the development of a sound fundamental approach to playing.</p> <p>Rhythm section players should be able to read music and play Swing, Rock/ Funk and Ballad styles at a variety of tempos, demonstrating an understanding appropriate voicing and comping techniques.</p>	<p>play basic rhythmic patterns, including dotted-sixteenth and tied rhythms.</p>	
Choral Ensemble	Advanced intermediate to advanced.	<p>Members must have strong individual singing skills, including good intonation, resonant and mature tone, able to sing independently in SATB and divisi parts, able to blend and balance with other voices, familiar with musical notation.</p>	<p>Members should be able to tap, clap, and sing simple and compound rhythms. They must have a good sense of internal rhythm.</p>	<p>The ability to sight sing is very helpful, although quick learners, strong vocal skills, and good ears can overcome a deficiency in this area. Members need to have the ability to learn parts on their own.</p>
Women's Choir	Intermediate to medium advanced	<p>Members need to be able to sing independently and accurately without the aid of accompaniment and with good intonation. Members should have a good working knowledge of proper vocal production techniques that will be built upon throughout the year. It is essential that members of this ensemble be familiar with musical notation and are confident in following a choral score.</p>	<p>Be able to count, clap and sing a variety of rhythmic patterns in various meters.</p>	<p>The ability to read music is strongly encouraged. Unfamiliar notations will be taught during rehearsal.</p>
Mixed Choir	Intermediate	<p>Members should have an understanding of how to read and follow a choral score. Some working knowledge of good vocal production techniques.</p>	<p>Be able to count, clap and sing basic rhythmic patterns.</p>	<p>An understanding of written music is helpful although unfamiliar concepts will be explained during rehearsal</p>
Green Choir	Beginner	<p>None – will be taught throughout year</p>	<p>None – will be taught throughout year</p>	<p>None – will be taught throughout year</p>