

North Orchestra

What is orchestra?

Orchestra is a collection of violins, violas, cellos, and basses (harp and piano too!) that come together to create comprehensive and enjoyable music for audiences.

When are auditions?

For the 2023-2024 school year:
February 6th and 9th, 2023.

Why North?

Orchestra is fun! It is our goal in orchestra to bond with one another, make beautiful music, and challenge ourselves each day. North orchestras have traveled around the district and state (including Disney World!) to perform for others. North is the ONLY center for the arts in the West Zone of Lee County that has an orchestra program. Here at North, we strive for excellence. Students are simultaneously challenged while still having every chance of success. It is our goal to become the premier orchestra in Lee County. North is one of the only schools that has a comprehensive music program that allows students to participate in various ensembles, but also take various levels of music theory classes and piano classes. North's orchestra program is one-of-a-kind in the Southwest FL Public School systems, as it is the only school that offers harp as a part of the program. North orchestra students are high achievers, as we have had students attend the Florida All-State Orchestra conference EVERY YEAR. We have FUN in class :) We perform music from standard repertoire, movies, musicals, etc. and we have a strong sense of family in the orchestra program.

Our programs as of 2022-2023:

There are 53 orchestra students currently with two student conductors. We have two concerts a semester with additional performances added for advanced groups and chamber groups.

Instruments offered:

Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Harp, Piano, Student Conductors

Orchestras at North:

Concert: Beginning level

Sinfonia: Intermediate level

Philharmonic: Advanced level

Do I need experience?

There is no experience required! You can register for the concert orchestra and learn any instrument you want!

How can I audition?

Auditions are taking place in February 2023.

Requirements:

- A short sight reading selection.
- 3 of the 12 major scales and arpeggios asked at random, from memory, in as many octaves as the student's ability at a consistent tempo.
- A prepared solo to include both a slow lyrical section and a fast technical section appropriate to the student's current ability level.

Do I need my own instrument?

You are not required to have your own instrument; however, the school has limited supply so it is recommended to rent or purchase your own instrument.

Are students required to take private lessons?

No, but it is HIGHLY encouraged, as it will significantly improve your performance skills and increase chances of making it into a higher ensemble.

Philharmonic minimum requirements:

Vln:

- Comfortable shifting in 1-5th position
- Variety in dynamic and bow use
- Technique- no issues, bow hands nearly perfect. Relaxed technique and vibrato

Vla:

- Comfortable shifting in 1st-5th position
- Variety in dynamic and bow use
- Technique- no issues, bow hands nearly perfect. Relaxed technique and vibrato

Cello:

- Comfortable shifting in 1-6th position.
- Variety in dynamic and bow use
- Technique- no issues, bow hands nearly perfect. Relaxed technique and vibrato

Bass:

- Comfortable shifting up through octave G harmonic thumb with no issues.
- Variety in dynamic and bow use
- Technique- no issues, bow hands nearly perfect. Relaxed technique.

Sinfonia minimum requirements:

Vln:

- Comfortable shifting in 1-3rd pos.
- Developing tone and dynamics; building confidence with playing
- Technique; minor issues that do not detract from performance (ex; bow hands)

Vla:

- Comfortable shifting in 1-3rd pos.
- Developing tone and dynamics; building confidence with playing
- Technique; minor issues that do not detract from performance (ex; bow hands)

Cello:

- Comfortable shifting in 1, 3, and 4th pos.
- Developing tone and dynamics; building confidence with playing
- Technique; minor issues that do not detract from performance (ex; bow hands)

Bass:

- Comfortable shifting up through the D position with no issues.
- Developing tone and dynamics; building confidence with playing
- Technique; minor issues that do not detract from performance (ex; bow hands)

Concert:

No audition or experience required :)

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