

River Trail Middle School

-Chamber Orchestra Audition 2024-

Forms are Due April 12, 2024

Audition Videos are Due April 19, 2024

About the Chamber Orchestra

The River Trail Middle School Chamber Orchestra is an audition-only ensemble open to current 7th Grade and 8th Grade RTMS orchestra students. 6th Grade and 7th Grade students currently in the orchestra may audition to be placed in the group the following school year. The Chamber Orchestra adheres to the Georgia State Standards Excellence for the Middle School Advanced Orchestra curriculum. **The MS Advanced Orchestra Curriculum is a significant leap from the 6th Grade Orchestra curriculum** as many of the concepts and skills needed to audition are covered in the 7th and 8th Grade Intermediate Orchestra Curriculum.

Chamber Orchestra Auditions

The audition process for Chamber Orchestra is broken into two parts.

1. Students will record their **scale** and **prepared** orchestra excerpts on a video and upload the video onto Flipgrid (links on the other page).
2. The second part will involve students individually sightreading one or two short excerpts in front of Mr. Liu during class.

Students accepted to Chamber Orchestra will be enrolled in the class for the following 2024-2025 school year. **There will be no Fall Auditions during the next school year of 2024.** Students will play the required scale and arpeggio, prepared orchestra excerpts, and sight-reading. **Students - do not use vibrato on scales and arpeggios.** Additionally, students do not need to memorize the music or scales/arpeggios.

***FINALLY, students need to be mindful of their current classroom behavior and performance as it impacts acceptance into Chamber Orchestra regardless how well they perform on the audition.**

Required Scales with Arpeggios

>One **FULL BOW per note** (frog to the individual student's tip), **NO VIBRATO**, and quarter note speed between 72-88

- Violin-2 octaves F Major
- Viola-2 octaves D Major
- Cello-2 octaves A Major
- Bass- 2 octaves G Major

Prepared Orchestra Excerpts

>Required Orchestra excerpts are given during class and may be found online on the orchestra website.

>All required excerpts for the specific instrument must be performed (Violin, Viola, Cello – 2 excerpts; Bass – 1 excerpt)

>Students may use Vibrato for the Excerpts

Sight-Reading

>Student will have about 20 seconds to silently study a 4-measure excerpt before performing. Students may have the option to use vibrato for sight-reading (not required).

Chamber Orchestra Expectations

- **Music Preparation** Students understand that learning the notes (including intonation), rhythms, bowings, and printed dynamics in a piece of music are the bare minimum requirements in music performance. The music in Chamber Orchestra involves more complex awareness, adherence, and precision towards performing musical expression, tone quality, bowing techniques, and stylistic articulations required in the music. Students are highly encouraged to ask for assistance and help from the teacher to reach mastery levels in a timely manner.
- **Extra-Curricular Commitments** Chamber Orchestra students must attend the required concert performances, morning and after school rehearsals, weekend performances and rehearsals, orchestra trips, and performance workshops and clinics. Students and parents will be notified 2-weeks in advance for required morning/after-school rehearsals. **Please note that required morning/after-school rehearsals and concerts are part of the student's academic grade.**
- **Commitment to the pursuit of music and leadership.** The RTMS Chamber Orchestra is one of a small handful of middle school orchestras in the state that consistently performs at the high school level. Mr. Liu believes that students in the Chamber Orchestra are not only held at a higher standard in terms of musical performance mastery, but also in supporting and being a leader of spreading the joys of music performance. While these expectations are placed on all RTMS orchestra students, Chamber Orchestra students must adhere to the mindset that music performance is for everyone and have the willingness and respect to perform music of any level and provide positive support to others regardless of performance level.

By signing this audition form, parents and students acknowledge and agree that the **auditions results are final and based on score ranking results, balance among the instrumentation of the orchestra, and current classroom performance and behavior from the individual student.** Current 6th Grade Students who did not make into Chamber Orchestra or did not audition will need to wait for the next opportunity to audition for the following school year. **Any behavior and performance issues during the remaining school year may result in the student being removed from Chamber Orchestra prior to the beginning of the next school year.**

***There is a required after-school rehearsal (4:15-5:00PM) on April 24, May 1, and May 8 to start preparing for the next school year. Students will stay enrolled in their current class for the remaining year. These rehearsals are only for students who just made Chamber Orchestra (2024-2025) and not current Chamber Orchestra students (2023-2024).**

Parent Name _____ Parent Signature _____

Student Name _____ Student Signature _____

-Chamber Orchestra 2024 Audition Form-

This form is due to Mr. Liu April 12, 2024

(students may not audition until this form is signed by parents and turned in)

Name(first/last) _____ Grade _____ Class Period _____ Instrument _____

Scale

Intonation 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Technique/Tone 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Total

Excerpt #1

Intonation 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Rhythm/Tempo 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Technique 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Tone Quality 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Total

Excerpt #2

Intonation 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Rhythm/Tempo 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Technique 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Tone Quality 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Total

Sight-Reading #1

Intonation 1 2 3 4 5

Tempo 1 2 3 4 5

Rhythm 1 2 3 4 5

Technique 1 2 3 4 5

Tone Quality 1 2 3 4 5

Sight-Reading #2

Intonation 1 2 3 4 5

Tempo 1 2 3 4 5

Rhythm 1 2 3 4 5

Technique 1 2 3 4 5

Tone Quality 1 2 3 4 5

Total

***Video must contain scales/arpeggios and excerpts on one video**
 7th Period FlipGrid Link: <https://flip.com/b1ac9d71>
 8th Period FlipGrid Link: <https://flip.com/8567dfe4>
 1st Period FlipGrid Link: <https://flip.com/7df75b97>
**please do not email Mr. Liu the video*
***videos due on FlipGrid on April 19, 2024**

Final Score _____

Determination of Results

The student's final score in relation to other student scores plays a large part of acceptance into Chamber Orchestra. The second consideration is ensuring a balance among the different string sections of the combined 7th and 8th Grade Chamber Orchestra (ex: avoiding too many violins-very few viola/cello/bass). Finally, the student's current behavior, music performance, and upkeep of their materials (paper, pencil, music) may impact a student's acceptance into Chamber Orchestra.

Evaluation Criteria:

Intonation

- How accurate and consistent a student plays in-tune

Rhythm/Tempo

- How precise student keeps a steady tempo and follows correct rhythms

Technique

- Evaluates the consistency of arm and wrist posture in addition to the position of the instrument and bow
- Correct bowing techniques and stylistic articulations required in the music
- Correct use of bow weight and bow length

Tone Quality

- The dynamics in music and the quality and appropriateness of the sound and volume produced

Professionalism

- The current performance and behavior the student consistently demonstrates in orchestra during the current school year including:
 - Following correct bowing direction/length/style
 - Having music with appropriate technique and dynamic markings written
 - Being on task without disruptions to the teacher or other students
 - Maintaining a supportive and positive attitude towards other students