



# HOW TO ... REGION AUDITION

## PARENT EDITION

Each year in late July, three audition etudes are chosen for each instrument. The books from which these etudes are chosen will be announced in late spring and each student is highly encouraged to purchase their own copy of the audition material book. The audition etude book list as well as selected etudes can be found at [www.tmea.org](http://www.tmea.org) and books can be purchased from [www.penders.com](http://www.penders.com) or [www.jwpepper.com](http://www.jwpepper.com).

### THERE ARE FOUR AUDITION DEFINITIONS TO BE FAMILIAR WITH

**FRESHMAN AUDITIONS** - exactly as it sounds, there are auditions for 9th graders **ONLY**. The date and location for the auditions are determined at the Spring Region meeting and etude requirements are modified to shorter "cuts" of only TWO of the etudes. Freshmen will want to ask their lesson teachers about the "freshman cuts".

**PHASE 1 / PHASE 2** - depending on the number of students auditioning for a particular instrument, the audition may be divided into two "phases". The first phase is designed as a "preliminary" round and only a pre-determined percentage of those who audition will advance to the "finals" (Phase 2). Dates and locations for both phases are determined at the Spring Region Meeting and once announced can be found on the band calendar.

**5A TRACK / 6A TRACK** - Liberty HS students, by default, are registered in the 5A classification (because we are a 5A-sized school). In the event a student has already made the 5A All-State group in a prior year, they **MAY** be considered to audition in the 6A classification. This decision should be considered carefully with the consultation of directors **and** private lesson teachers. In the event a student is "auditioning up" to the 6A Track, they will need to fill out a "Track Declaration Form" before their audition. The directors will handle this process automatically for the students.

**FLIGHT** - Audition rooms will be divided into "flights" to maximize the efficiency of the audition process. For example, if there are 40 students auditioning, the audition will be divided into 2 "flights" of 20 students each. The first flight will audition first, and subsequent "flights" will audition at least an hour later.

### PREPARING FOR YOUR REGION AUDITION

After audition etudes are announced in late July, you should secure your copy of the music. Your **BEST** option is to have purchased the specific book the etudes have been chosen from (announced in late spring), but you can always get a copy from the directors during summer marching band rehearsals.

In high school this is an extremely competitive process and it is **EXTREMELY** rare for a student to make the All-Region Band without taking **private lessons**. Therefore, signing up for (or continuing with) private lessons is a **GREAT** idea. Furthermore, students who eventually make the All-State Band will have practiced their audition etudes in some capacity **EVERY SINGLE DAY**.

As you prepare, it is wise to remember that accuracy is more important than speed and you should practice with an audible metronome at all times. It is imperative to know at what metronome marking you can play each etude flawlessly and **NOT** try to compete with someone else's performance tempos.

### AUDITION DAY

Generally speaking, we don't provide transportation to and/or from the audition for a few reasons. First, most of the auditions are held relatively close to our Liberty neighborhoods and second, this way students aren't "stranded" until the completion of all auditions and, quite frankly, some of the audition rooms can run rather long (ie. Flute, Clarinet, and Percussion).

Upon arrival to the audition school, you will want to locate your audition room and check in. The monitor there will inform you in which "flight" you will be performing and possibly even give you an audition letter (if you are in a later "flight", they may wait to distribute audition letters before your actual audition). Do not share your audition letter information with anyone (especially directors and lesson teachers who may be judging).

If you are auditioning in the first flight, you will report to the designated warm-up area and get warmed-up. **DO NOT** overdo the warm-up process by trying to cram in a full-fledged practice session. If you aren't prepared by this point, cramming isn't going to help. In fact, over playing will do more damage than good.

If you are auditioning in the second or third flight(s), you will report to the designated warm-up area and occupy your time with homework or reading. Keep a close eye on the clock so you can begin warming up in ample time to be ready for your audition, but again don't overdo it. Be sure to arrive back at your audition room at the time the monitor asked you to report. If you are late, you may not be allowed to audition.

## **INSIDE THE AUDITION ROOM**

Once inside the audition room, you will be seated in audition letter order by the monitor. You must make sure your phone is either A) completely turned off for the duration of the audition process, or B) left in your case in the warm-up area (or in your car during the process). If your phone makes any sound during the audition process (even a vibration), you may be disqualified and ejected from the room. Per TMEA Rules, you may NOT use your phone as your metronome source.

Be advised, everyone scheduled to audition during your "flight" will be in the room during your audition. High school auditions use a system referred to as "round robin" where each player plays ONE etude and then returns to his or her seat until the entire group has performed that etude. Then each player will perform the second etude one-by-one until the whole group has performed. There are NO SCALE requirements and NO SIGHT-READING requirements for high school auditions.

As you move into "performance position" check your inaudible metronome for your tempo (refer to the comment earlier about knowing your metronome marking for flawless performance) then place it beneath your seat, empty any moisture from your instrument, play the FIRST NOTE of the etude cut, then perform. If you get nervous, the first thing to shut down will be your concept of breathing. You will have to force yourself to think about breathing with bigger and deeper breaths.

Upon completion of your etude, take all your materials back to your chair and sit quietly while the others complete the round. After every fifth player, the monitor will give the entire group 30 seconds to "warm-up" (basically "stay fresh" for the next round). BE SMART! Again, don't overdo anything. Make sure you are physically and mentally prepared for the next round.

## **AUDITION COMPLETION**

After the entire audition has completed, return to the designated warm-up area to pack and retrieve your things. In high school, audition results are posted as soon as they can be calculated and printed. It will be easy to locate where results are being posted - just look for the swarm of students that look like Koi fish in a pond trying to get what they think is their last meal.

If this is a PHASE ONE audition, the results will indicate if you have advanced to the second phase. If you advance to the second phase, you will complete this process again a few days later. Some instruments only do a single-phase audition, therefore only audition on the Phase 2 audition date.

In the event you are named to the All-Region Band (upon completion of Phase 2 auditions), you will report to a designated area to pick up a folder of music and/or information about the All-Region Band clinic and concert (usually held in January). Make sure not to leave the audition site without picking up this information.

Those with the highest scores earn the distinction of making the "AREA AUDITION". This means you are one-step closer to making the All-State Band. If you are bestowed with this honor, you will be asked to pay an Area Audition Fee when you pick up your All-Region music folder. Typically, this fee is \$5.00 and should be paid in cash.

## **AREA AUDITIONS**

Area auditions are typically held during the first weekend of January (after we return to school) and the audition process is identical to the one described above for All-Region auditions.

Those with the highest scores at the Area audition earn the distinction of making the ALL STATE BAND. If you are bestowed the honor of being named a member of the All-State Band, you will need to pay the All-State fee and pick up a folder of audition music and information.