

Bingham High School Band & Percussion Audition Info

Welcome to the BHS Department of Music! There are a wide variety of musical opportunities at Bingham and we are very proud of our long-standing musical tradition. If you have spent several years learning and perfecting a musical instrument, we want you plan to continue your music participation at Bingham. There is plenty of room in your schedule to fit music along with all the other course opportunities you might want to explore, regardless of what you might have heard. Listed after the audition requirements are some suggestions to help you in making your schedule at BHS.

This information will hopefully help you through the audition process and give you some suggestions on how to make music a successful part of your high school experience. **All auditions are in the BHS band room.** We look forward to seeing you in the music hall!

Wind Symphony Auditions:

Audition Requirements:

Be prepared to perform any 3 major and 3 minor scales and arpeggios on request from the preparation sheets listed below. (*you can use the sheets, but they must be prepared!*)

Perform a 2-octave chromatic scale slurred up and tongued down at mm 120. (*please memorize*)

Perform one prepared piece from your known, prepared literature showing your abilities and musical strengths (*you may use music*).

There will be a sight-reading piece.

Retrieve all treble / bass clef scales and arpeggios from “Wind Symphony Audition Materials” at www.binghambands.org/pages/windsymphony.html. Do not repeat scales or arpeggios.

Jazz Ensemble I Auditions:

Audition Requirements:

Be prepared to demonstrate ONE of each of the following scales (you choose the key): Major, Minor, Dorian, Mixolydian, Whole Tone & Blues

Be prepared to solo over the Bb Blues progression for several choruses

You must be concurrently enrolled in a core BHS band or have taken marching band this year. Placement is related to availability.

Jazz Ensemble Auditions will be held at the same time during the Wind Symphony audition. Retrieve materials for the Jazz Band auditions from “Jazz Band Audition Materials” at www.binghambands.org/pages/jazzband.htm. The major and minor scales are the same as the Wind Symphony sheets.

Percussion Ensemble Auditions:

Audition Requirements: Prepare the snare, mallet and tympani etudes for performance in no particular order. Piano skills are a plus, but not yet required. Please have your own sticks and mallets for the audition. A short interview will follow your performance.

Retrieve materials for the Percussion Ensemble auditions from “Percussion Ensemble Audition Materials” at www.binghambands.org/pages/percussionmain.htm.

How to make music fit in your already full schedule . . .

As sophomores, you already know what a heavy class load you end up having your first year at BHS. This full schedule can make it difficult to take elective courses such as music or art. It is also a fact that students who drop music their sophomore year usually never come back; and that is such a loss after you have spent years learning to play (and paying for) a musical instrument.

Every year BHS has many sophomore students who successfully take music (sometimes several music classes) and still have plenty of time to take AP courses or required classes later without dropping the Arts. Studies show that students involved in music score higher in college placement exams and are considered by colleges to be well rounded and successful. Here are some suggestions to help you remain in music all through high school.

1. **Don't load up so much your sophomore year.** You have to take these classes to graduate, but there is some flexibility on what year you take them. Many music students actually take some of their 10th grade courses their junior and even senior year. This opens your 10th grade schedule up to more electives. Also, leave AP courses to your junior and senior year when your schedule is less full. Many sophomores do poorly when adjusting to the new schedules and level of coursework at BHS.
2. **Tell your counselor to help you get into more music – they work for you!** Sometimes they might be swamped and just want you to take what the book tells them sophomores should take, but make them help you prepare the schedule that you want and that helps make you well-rounded.
3. **Take financial literacy, certain P.E. classes, Lifetime Fitness and other courses available online.** There are many courses that can be taken online without you having to sit in a class for a semester wasting your time. Time after time we hear that financial literacy and some of these other new courses mandated by the state are a waste of time to sit through. There are many courses that can be taken here leaving more room in your schedule.
4. **Be careful what AP classes you take.** Although many people will tell you that all these AP classes count towards college credit, the truth is that some of them do not. Many Universities won't turn that much control over to public schools, especially when it takes money from them with tuition. You might be surprised how many AP courses don't waive you from taking the same type of class at college. Trust me, I've been there! Do your homework!

5. **Some courses can be taken in a lot less time in the summer.** There are some summer course offerings you can take that can lighten your load during the regular school year. Also, the Careers class is not required to graduate so don't feel like you have to take it even when the counselors want to put you in it. You have plenty of time to decide what you want to do in life. Most college students change majors 2 or three times before deciding. Also, be careful with concurrent enrollment courses – these can kill off several course needs, but are difficult to complete and can set you back.
6. **Look into early morning or home Seminary.** Early morning seminary is an option for students at BHS and can mean the difference in getting the schedule you want and not getting that desired class. Parents will have better results if they make it known to Seminary staff that it's important to you to have that option and that they want you in there.
7. **Avoid Teachers Aide and Office Aide positions.** Although they sound fun (and EASY) they're simply a waste of time. Use your time to do something worthwhile and self-empowering.
8. **Take Marching Band!** It 's a Fine Arts credit and we can give you a full year of it at BHS for summer and fall participation (a total of only 12 weeks work!)
9. **Take Tech Center courses in the afternoon rather than the morning.** That way you won't miss out on the main music classes at BHS. Besides, who really knows what they want to do for a living this early anyway. So many students are trying to grow up too fast – just be a student and enjoy what high school has to offer and leave campus after lunch.
10. **ASK FOR HELP!** Part of our job in the music department is to help students get the most out of their high school years. Don't hesitate to ask for help and ask other upperclassmen how they have done it. Many of our students take two or more music classes their sophomore year and still have open space their senior year. It can be done so ask for help if you need it.

Hope this information helps you as you transition to the music department at Bingham High School. Our department has some of the friendliest, brightest, funniest students at BHS and we want you to be one of them. With the tours and trips, top-notch performance opportunities, and good, clean fun, the Bingham Department of Instrumental Music is a great place to call home during high school. If you have other questions, please don't hesitate to call. We hope to see you there!

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