

## MCPS Honors Jazz Ensembles 2025 - 2026 Audition Information

*All information and files can be found in this folder:*

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-WjHw5-Twx1OssuxcllWRjM3j88zN3Kw?usp=sharing>

**You must be logged into your MCPS Gmail (mcpsmd.net) account to access the materials.**

*All auditions will be held live and in-person.*

### **Junior Honors Jazz**

1. Perform the etude appropriate for your instrument from the etude packet, found here:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pwB2GXly\\_HFLPLv0lcEhWXoMsXsW\\_22N/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pwB2GXly_HFLPLv0lcEhWXoMsXsW_22N/view?usp=drive_link)
  - You can practice along with the backing track, found here:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gxCEa1plrLPagDCIAIBhXV2nclKc1\\_j1/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gxCEa1plrLPagDCIAIBhXV2nclKc1_j1/view?usp=drive_link)
  - During the audition, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and vibraphone players will perform the etude **without a backing track**. Piano, guitar, bass, and drum set players will perform the etude **with a live rhythm section**.
  - You are expected to play the entire etude.
2. Be prepared to sight read a jazz excerpt.
3. Trumpet and trombone players will be asked to perform a chromatic scale (ascending and descending) to demonstrate your range. You can start and end on whatever notes you choose.
4. **Updated for the 25-26 school year:** Students auditioning on drum set must also perform 8 measures of the following grooves at the indicated tempi, and include stylistically appropriate fills in the 4th and 8th measures:
  - a. Fast Swing: quarter note = 180
  - b. Samba: half note = 120
  - c. Brush Ballad: quarter note = 60
  - d. Waltz: quarter note = 116

### **Senior Honors Jazz**

1. Perform the etude appropriate for your instrument from the etude packet, found here:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kzqxLJfD5NKjms4NGNYO4V3atsF1wPJS/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kzqxLJfD5NKjms4NGNYO4V3atsF1wPJS/view?usp=drive_link)
  - You can practice along with the backing track, found here:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/10Yrul-WStPS579cGUbgXv5iczjRMNDkw/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/10Yrul-WStPS579cGUbgXv5iczjRMNDkw/view?usp=drive_link)
  - During the audition, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and vibraphone players will perform the etude **without a backing track**. Piano, guitar, bass, and drum set players will perform the etude **with a live rhythm section**.
  - You are expected to play the entire etude.
  - All trumpet and trombone players will perform the corresponding "Section" part of the etude in its entirety.
    - If you wish to be considered for lead trombone/trumpet, you must also play measures 24-end of the "Lead" parts of the etude.
    - If you wish to be considered for bass trombone, you must also play measures 24-end of the "Bass Trombone" part of the etude.
2. Improvise 1-2 choruses of blues using the backing track "Nothin' But the Blues, Volume 2," Number 10, Fast Blues in F from the Jamey Aebersold Jazz Play-A-Long series. You can access the track here:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sSZyS6vxLtgN6a4bQT6sKlxDI\\_2rGUr/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sSZyS6vxLtgN6a4bQT6sKlxDI_2rGUr/view?usp=drive_link)
  - During the audition, all students will improvise with the backing track.
3. Be prepared to sight read a jazz excerpt.
4. Trumpet and trombone players will be asked to perform a chromatic scale (ascending and descending) to demonstrate your range. You can start and end on whatever notes you choose.
5. **Updated for the 25-26 school year:** Students auditioning on drum set must also perform 8 measures of the following grooves at the indicated tempi, and include stylistically appropriate fills in the 4th and 8th measures:
  - a. Fast Swing: quarter note = 180
  - b. Samba: half note = 120
  - c. Brush Ballad: quarter note = 60
  - d. Waltz: quarter note = 116