

# Non-Beginner (Advanced 6th Grade) Orchestra Audition Requirements and Video Submission

Greetings from the Vandeventer Orchestra,

This information is regarding auditions for incoming 6th-grade Vandeventer students who have prior experience with a string instrument (violin, viola, cello, or bass). Typically, students need at least 1 year of experience to skip beginner and move to the intermediate/Philharmonic Orchestra level.

**VMS Orchestra Video Audition Window: Tuesday April 1st - Wednesday, April 30th, 2025.**

**Please don't submit before April 1, and be sure to get it done before April 30th.** This is to get an accurate representation of your student's skill at that moment in time, which is around the same time our current students are auditioning for next year.

We will assess the videos and make a recommendation to the counselors so they may create your student's schedule. Audition submissions should be recorded videos placed into a Google Folder and then shared by emailing a Google Folder link. There are other ways to send videos, but this has been the most reliable version for files to be accessible on FSD computers.

Please locate and print your instrument packet (violin, viola, cello, bass) using the following link and take these technical exercises to your private teachers for instruction and practice over the next few months before submitting your audition video.

[Scale, Arpeggio, and Thirds Instrument Packet \(print out your instrument\)](#)

Videos you should include in your audition Google Folder:

## **Philharmonic Level (Third Orchestra - Sub Non-Varsity, Orchestra C):**

- Scales recorded at Quarter Note = 80 BPM
  - C major - Two-Octave Scale, Arpeggio, and Thirds
  - G major - Two-Octave Scale, Arpeggio, and Thirds
  - D major - Two-Octave Scale, Arpeggio, and Thirds
- There is no 3-octave scale requirement
- Solo Repertoire - Record full solo
  - For this level, typically a Suzuki book 1 or 2 solo (or equivalent level)

## **Symphonic Level (Second Orchestra - Non-Varsity, Orchestra B):**

- Scales recorded at Quarter Note = 100 BPM
  - C major - Two-Octave Scale, Arpeggio, and Thirds
  - G major - Two-Octave Scale, Arpeggio, and Thirds
  - D major - Two-Octave Scale, Arpeggio, and Thirds
  - A major - Two-Octave Scale, Arpeggio, and Thirds
  - F major - Two-Octave Scale, Arpeggio, and Thirds
- One, 3-Octave Scale and Arpeggio - your choice (any scale)
- Solo Repertoire - Record full solo (see Part 2 below)
  - For this level, typically a Suzuki book 2 or 3 solo (or equivalent level)

### **Chamber Level (Highest Orchestra - Varsity, Orchestra A):**

- Scales recorded at Quarter Note = 120 BPM
  - C major - Two-Octave Scale, Arpeggio, and Thirds
  - G major - Two-Octave Scale, Arpeggio, and Thirds
  - D major - Two-Octave Scale, Arpeggio, and Thirds
  - A major - Two-Octave Scale, Arpeggio, and Thirds
  - F major - Two-Octave Scale, Arpeggio, and Third
  - Bb major - Two-Octave Scale, Arpeggio, and Thirds
  - Eb major - Two-Octave Scale, Arpeggio, and Thirds
- Two, 3-Octave Scale and Arpeggio - your choice (any scale)
- Solo Repertoire - Record full solo (see Part 2 below)
  - For this level, typically a Suzuki book 3 or 4 solo (or equivalent level)

### **Part 1 – SCALES, ARPEGGIOS, and THIRDS - [Click here to access the Scales Packet Folder](#)**

- Scales, arpeggios, and thirds should be practiced and performed with an **AUDIBLE METRONOME in the video**. The metronome should be set to the BPM, or beats per measure, noted above in the audition section, for the Orchestra in which you are auditioning.
- Fingerings and scale patterns are subjective, so you may choose which fingerings and scale method to use. Intonation accuracy, tone quality, shifting, vibrato, and demonstrating your ability to stay with the metronome are the items you will be scored on.
- Scales may be performed with the music or can be memorized.

### **Part 2 – SOLO PIECE**

- Record a solo that best represents your playing level and ability.
- The solo should not be more than one page long.
  - Record one page of the solo if the solo is multiple pages.
- A metronome is not required for the solo video.

### **Part 3 – Google Folder Submission**

#### **How to create and share a Google Folder**

1. Open Google Drive (create a free account if you do not already have one).
2. Right-click on empty space - Select "Create Folder"
3. Right-click on the newly created Folder - Rename the Folder to "2025 Orchestra Auditions - *STUDENT NAME - INSTRUMENT*"
4. Record and upload the technical exercises depending on the orchestra in which you plan to audition.
  - a. Requirements are listed by level above
  - b. Please have your upper self (torso) - both hands, face, and instrument/bow visible in the videoing frame so we can assess posture and position for accurate placement. Make sure the music stand doesn't obstruct the camera view.
  - c. Please label each video clearly by technical exercise. Examples: "D major Thirds," "G major Arpeggio," "Solo Piece - Minuet from Suzuki Book 2."

5. Right-click on Folder - Click Share - Change Link Sharing to "Anyone with the link can view."
6. Copy and paste the Google folder link into an email to Mr. Roane (roanej@friscoisd.org)
  - a. In the body of the email also include which level/music group the student is auditioning for, the student's full legal name, and also their student ID#.

### **Curriculum Emphasis and Learning Targets**

#### **(Hints for quality preparation for recordings and auditions):**

1. Posture: Correct left-hand shape, correct bow hold, and body posture.
2. Intonation: Playing in tune is essential to progress as a musician. Use your tuner in your home practice to correct intonation.
3. Tempo/Rhythm: Use a metronome when you practice. Adhere to the tempo markings as closely as you can (and remember - you do not win points for playing too fast and out of control. Practicing slowly at the beginning will help you build a strong foundation). Rhythmic accuracy is imperative (be especially careful of rests & longer note values).
4. Tone: Always strive to produce a clear, focused, resonant sound. To do this you must carefully monitor the straightness of your bow, the amount of weight you are using, and the speed of your bow. Use vibrato as often and as consistently as you can.
5. Musicianship: You should do more than play the exact rhythms and notes in the music. You should use vibrato as much as possible and add phrasing dynamics. You should pay close attention to articulation and style in every part of the audition (including the scales!).

### **Orchestra Audition Commitment**

Audition results will be posted in late May for middle school auditions. The orchestra structure, pacing, and curriculum will be challenging and thoughtful in every Orchestra next year, so please do not be concerned that you will not be challenged. No one will be denied participation in an Orchestra program; this evaluation is to ensure that each student is placed in the appropriate environment for their abilities.

- **Please remember, you are auditioning ALL THE TIME!** Behavior, attitude, work ethic, and performance technique are constantly being assessed by your directors. Academic performance, passing all classes, timeliness, and responsibility are additional skill sets that are considered for orchestra placement.
- **All Orchestra Members** are expected to represent the orchestra program with professionalism, a positive attitude, and a strong work ethic.
- **Chamber Orchestra** has additional commitments and requirements such as: region orchestra auditions, Elementary Tours, 5<sup>th</sup> grade recruiting, performing for award ceremonies/Multicultural Night, morning rehearsals, Vikings Time rehearsals, and recording for competitions.
- **All students are highly encouraged to take Private Lessons.**
  - **Chamber Orchestra members are required to participate in private lessons (during school or outside of school).**

Work hard, prepare your best, and we look forward to having you in the orchestra next year!