

PVA Middle School Percussion Audition

5th and 6th grade



General Information

- All students interested in PVA must complete an **online application** at aacps.org/magnet
- All students interested in PVA must complete an **audition** to be considered for the program. You will be assigned an audition appointment once you have passed the academic screening.
- You will be required to complete five tasks as part of the performance audition:
 - Scale performance:
 - A one octave major scale on mallet percussion starting on B-flat
 - Scale must be memorized.
 - Rudiment performance:
 - Single paradiddle on the snare drum.
 - Double stroke roll on the snare drum.
 - The **two prepared selections** as posted on the PVA website (www.aacps.org/pva). Note that **prepared selections are required for snare and mallets**.
 - Rhythmic sight-reading
- An **interview** of three questions is required and scored along with the performance portion of the audition.
- A warm-up area will be provided and you should arrive early enough to warm-up so that you will be ready for your performance. A practice pad is recommended for snare warm-up. Mallet instruments will not be available in the warm up room.
- A snare drum, mallet percussion, mallets and drum sticks will be provided in the audition room but students have the option of bringing their own instruments and mallets.
- All students expressing an interest in the PVA Magnet Program are highly encouraged to audition, regardless of whether or not they have had formal or informal training.

Possible Ways to Prepare for the Audition

- Attend a PVA Information Night to hear more about the program and audition process and see the PVA schools.

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- Attend a PVA Audition Workshop where you can get feedback on your audition preparation from PVA staff, ask questions about the prompts, and hear more about the audition process.
- Speak to a music teacher at your school about your prepared piece, scales and sight-reading preparation.
- See your school Counselor for assistance with the application process or getting more information about the program.
- Contact Mr. Dembowski, PVA Music Chair at pdembowski@aacps.org with any specific questions you may have.

Scoring Criteria

You will be scored on the following criteria for each task:

- **Two prepared selections for snare and mallets (published at www.aacps.org/pva):**
 - Rhythmic accuracy
 - Stick technique
 - Melodic accuracy (mallets)
- **Scale:**
 - Memorization
 - Accuracy
 - Tempo/pulse
- **Rudiments:**
 - Sticking pattern
 - Stick/hand technique
 - Rhythmic accuracy
- **Rhythmic sight-reading (may clap hands or tap on lap):**
 - Rhythmic accuracy
 - Tempo/pulse

Brass and woodwind applicants must score at least an average score of 6 on their audition (including on-site audition and interview) to be eligible for this program.

**Want to sign up for an Audition Prep Night? Want more information on PVA?
Visit our website at: aacps.org/PVA**

Questions?

PVA@aacps.org