

Extra-Curricular Music Ensemble Participation Policy

In addition to the curricular, regularly-scheduled large ensembles (i.e. Band, Orchestra, and Chorus), Westport's schools offer extra-curricular musical groups which may be available by audition only. These extra-curricular performing groups are an extension of the larger curricular school ensembles, and are provided to complement (not replace) the larger curricular experience by offering additional challenge and growth opportunities for more advanced and/or motivated students.

It is the policy of the Westport Public Schools Music Department that students who participate in these after-school or before-school extra-curricular performing groups also be enrolled in a curricular, regularly-scheduled large ensemble.

Players of the guitar and the piano, which are not a regular part of any regularly-scheduled curricular large ensemble, are expected to participate in chorus or on a different instrument within the Band or Orchestra.

This policy is in place because it is in the larger curricular performing ensemble classes that important ensemble and other musical skills are taught and reinforced. These ensemble skills are an integral part of any performing group, and the select ensembles' limited rehearsal time is such that it is insufficient, alone, to provide adequate instruction in all necessary areas.

This policy also applies to students who wish to participate in Connecticut Music Educators Association Regional and All-State Festivals, Fairfield County String Festival, and other area youth orchestras and similar ensembles, and is reciprocated in those organizations' policy requirements.