

Jazz Audition Guidelines for Westlake HS: 2026

Welcome to the Westlake HS 2026/2027 jazz auditions! We have designed a single-tiered audition process that accommodates players of all skill levels while allowing advanced musicians to showcase additional expertise. Please carefully review the guidelines below.

Instrumental tune suggestions and music provided is located on the last page of this packet.

[Submit all auditions to this Google Form](#) by 5:00pm on August 10th, 2026.

Audition Requirements:

Woodwinds / Brass / Mallets

Tunes:

- Submit two contrasting jazz standards (ballad and swing, blues and straight 8th, etc.)
- Play melody and improvise 2 choruses (with a backing track is preferred)

Scales:

- 6 major scales (your choice), one to two octaves, ascending and descending. Play each scale twice—
 - as quarter notes = 120-160
 - as eighth notes (twice as fast) = 120-160
- Blues scales. Choose 4 different keys.
 - [Bass Clef Scale & Chord Arpeggio Examples](#)
 - [Treble Clef Scale & Chord Arpeggio Examples](#)

Chord arpeggios (tempo of your choice):

- 6 examples from the following arpeggios: one octave, ascending and descending. We suggest examples in Bb, C, F or G but the choice is yours. Choose your own comfortable tempo. Examples to choose from:
 - Major triad
 - Minor triad
 - Dom. 7th
 - Minor 7th
 - Diminished 7th
 - Augmented 7th
 - Major 7th

(See Bass/Treble Clef Scale & Chord Arpeggios Examples link above)

Piano

Tunes:

- Submit two contrasting jazz standards (ballad and swing, blues and straight 8th, etc.)
- Play the melody, comp a chorus, and improvise two choruses

Scales:

- 6 major scales (your choice), 2 hands, 2 octaves, ascending and descending. Play each scale twice one to two octaves, ascending and descending. Play each scale twice—
 - as quarter notes = 120-160
 - as eighth notes (twice as fast) = 120-160
- 4 Harmonic minor scales, 2 keys, 2 hands, 2 octaves, ascending and descending, same metronome markings as above.
- Blues scales in 4 keys, ascending and descending.
 - [Treble Clef Scale & Chord Arpeggio Examples](#)

Chord arpeggios (tempo of your choice):

- 6 examples from the following arpeggios: one octave, ascending and descending. We suggest examples in Bb, C, F or G but the choice is yours. Choose your own comfortable tempo. Examples to choose from:
 - Major triad
 - Minor triad
 - Dom. 7th
 - Minor 7th
 - Diminished 7th
 - Augmented 7th
 - Major 7th (see Musical Examples)

Bass

Tunes:

- Submit two contrasting jazz standards (ballad and swing, blues and straight 8th, etc.)
- Play the melody for one chorus, then walk a bassline (or play equivalent groove for tune of choice) for one chorus, then improvise for two choruses.

Scales:

- Pick four Major Scales (F#, E, A, D, G, D, or C). Play ascending and descending as quarter notes = 120-160 and as 8th notes (twice as fast) quarter note = 100-140
 - Pick two Harmonic Minor scales (B, D, A, E). Play ascending and descending as quarter notes = 120-160 and as 8th notes (twice as fast) quarter note = 100-140
- Chord arpeggios (tempo of your choice)

Chord arpeggios (tempo of your choice):

6 examples from the following arpeggios: one octave, ascending and descending. We suggest examples in Bb, C, F or G but the choice is yours. Choose your own comfortable tempo. Examples to choose from:

- Major triad
- Minor triad
- Dom. 7th
- Minor 7th
- Diminished 7th
- Augmented 7th
- Major 7th (see Musical Examples)

Guitar

Tunes

- Submit two contrasting jazz standards (ballad and swing, blues and straight 8th, etc.)
- Play the melody, comp a chorus, and improvise two choruses

Scales

- 6 major scales (your choice), 2 octaves, ascending and descending. Play each scale twice one to two octaves, ascending and descending. Play each scale twice—
 - as quarter notes = 120-160
 - as eighth notes (twice as fast) = 120-160
- Blues scales in 4 keys, ascending and descending. Quarter note = 160-210
 - [Treble Clef Scale & Chord Arpeggio Examples](#)

Chord arpeggios (tempo of your choice)

- 6 examples from the following arpeggios: one octave, ascending and descending. We suggest examples in Bb, C, F or G but the choice is yours. Choose your own comfortable tempo. Examples to choose from:
 - Major triad
 - Minor triad
 - Dom. 7th
 - Minor 7th
 - Diminished 7th
 - Augmented 7th
 - Major 7th (see Musical Examples)

Drums

Rudiments:

- Play 4 bars of the following, metronome marking quarter note = 120-135
 - Triplets (8th note triplets)
 - Paradiddles (16th note paradiddles)
 - Para-para-diddle
 - Para-diddle-diddle
 - Flams (8th notes w/flams)
 - Double stroke rolls (open and closed), sustained for 4 bars
 - Single stroke rolls (slow to fast. No metronome tempo needed)

Grooves:

- Swing at slow tempo, metronome marking a quarter note = 74 for 8 bars
- AABA song form, swing at medium tempo, metronome marking a quarter note = 120-135 for 32 bars
- Swing at faster tempo for 24 bars (2 choruses of blues) a quarter note = 210-240
- Basic bossa nova at medium tempo, metronome marking a quarter note = 110-130 for 8 bars
- Play a funk, rock or hip-hop pattern for 16 bars

* For Studio Jazz Ensemble (H) placement

- Jazz waltz, metronome marking a quarter note = 140-180 b/m for 16 bars
- Play Samba or other faster “Latin groove” of your choice, a quarter note = 220-250 for 16 bars

Soloing:

- For 16 bars: Play (trade) fours with yourself at medium swing tempo, metronome marking a quarter note = 120-160
- For 16 bars: Play fours with yourself, 8 bars with brushes, and then 8 bars with sticks at faster swing tempo, metronome marking a quarter note = 160-200
- For 16 bars in 3/4 time: Play fours with yourself, 8 bars with brushes, and then 8 bars with sticks at faster swing tempo, metronome marking a quarter note = 160-200

* For Studio Jazz Ensemble (H) placement

- Play solo of your choice, 1-2 minutes. Be creative, melodic, use sticks, hands, brushes, etc.

Instrumental Tune suggestions (music provided):

BLUES:

- [*Blue Seven*](#)
- [*Billie's Bounce*](#)
- [*Sandu*](#)

SWING:

- [*All The Things You Are*](#)
- [*Beatrice*](#)
- [*There Will Never Be Another you*](#)

STRAIGHT 8th:

- [*Black Orpheus*](#)
- [*On Green Dolphin Street*](#)
- [*Invitation*](#)

BALLADS:

- [*In a Sentimental Mood*](#)
- [*Round Midnight*](#)
- [*Body and Soul*](#)

ALTERNATES:

- [*United \(Wayne Shorter\)*](#)
- [*Evidence*](#)
- [*I Got Rhythm*](#)