What is MPA??

MPA stands for **Music Performance Assessment**. It’s like the FSA of the music world—it’s our big evaluation. It’s also an exciting opportunity to perform for people from around the district and receive feedback from educators from across the state.

Each year, our MPA-bound orchestras travel to another school to perform. Each orchestra plays three pieces on stage for a panel of three highly-qualified adjudicators, who provide verbal (recorded) and written feedback. After the stage performance, the ensembles move to a different room to play a piece they have never seen, without practicing, with only 5 minutes to look at the music. This is called Sight-reading. The sight-reading judge also provides written feedback and has a few minutes to work with the group after their performance in a sort of mini-clinic, if they so choose.

In addition to their feedback, each judge also provides a rating: Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor. The ratings average for an overall score. ***We are most interested in the feedback from these educators****.* Feedback allows us to grow and improve. The rating is simply a status reference marker: “this is where we are at this moment in time for this particular performance.” The rating does not define us. As we prepare, it’s important to strive for our best and the best we can make of the music—not for a particular score.

The MPA window of performances in our district spans three days for middle school. While directors may submit requests for performance times, there are many considerations that come in to play when making the schedule. Therefore, we ask that our students keep all three days clear until we know our performance day(s) and time(s). Each group will only perform once at some point in the window. This year’s window is **Month, Day, Year.**

Since we run this performance trip through the school as a field trip, we do need chaperones for the event—at least one for every 10 students—though anyone is welcome to attend! All MPA stage performances are free and open to the public. Parents and chaperones from our school are even welcomed (and encouraged!) to join us in the sight-reading room and watch our students’ learning in action. It’s quite the experience!

If you have any questions regarding this event or the MPA “season,” please do not hesitate to contact me. My email is **[enter email address]**

Read on for the MPA Rehearsal Schedule for this season. Thanks for all of your support!!

**Teacher Name**

**MPA REHEARSAL SCHEDULE**

Our orchestra has a strong tradition of solid preparation and performance for any of our concerts, but we really pull out the stops to ensure our students *feel* as prepared and confident as possible for MPA, since the strange location and extra element of adjudication can be nerve-wracking for young students. Therefore, we “up the ante” a bit in the time leading up to our MPA performance. **Please ensure the following dates and times are reserved** for your student to participate in the entire preparation process:

ALL ORCHESTRAS

**[Include Date and Time]  
Type of Rehearsal Event - Example: MPA Rehearsathon & Pre-MPA Performance (Informal)**

*Students from all MPA-bound orchestras participate in an evening of sectionals and rehearsal with guest teachers from the area, gleaning new information and valuable advice from experts on their instrument. Regular school clothes for this event. Rehearsathon will officially end at 7:30, when the Pre-MPA Performance begins.*

**(Same day) [Include Date and Time]  
Pre-MPA Concert (Informal)**

*Students will perform their MPA music for their friends and family. This is the primary opportunity for parents to hear the music we are preparing for MPA.  
The performance is free and family/friend attendance is encouraged. Students will be dressed casually for this performance.*

Questions? Conflicts? Please contact me in advance!

**email.address@orchestrateachersareawesome**