

TRYOUT DAY TIPS

MIKE CROOM

DO

1. Get a good night's sleep before
2. Eat breakfast
3. Bring extra reeds, oils, sticks, percussion equipment
4. Dress warmly on the bus
5. Find posted material and tryout number early
6. Warm up slowly: Flutes - Long tones
Reeds - Pick today's best reed
Brass - Mouthpiece Buzz/Lip Slurs
Perc - Hand/Wrists Exercises/Rudiments
All - Briefly review posted material and scales
7. Find repairman if needed
8. Arrive at room early. Relax and focus while waiting
9. Visualize taking the tryout in slow motion. Keep reed moist and instrument warm
10. Use your own music with markings/paper clip pages
11. Listen for correct tryout number announced
12. Empty water keys/ angle bell front brass slightly away from judges
13. Play exercises in any order. Play scales in posted order
14. Take 3 deep breaths. Play first note on everything (sustained), then start
15. Play all required material in split rooms
16. Play aggressively with confidence
17. Count right and exaggerate dynamics
18. Play exercises, scales and sight-reading up to the same level
19. Sight-reading: A. Study key, time, tempo, dynamics, rhythm
B. Finger thru to a set beat
C. Wait for start from judge
D. Most important: Correct notes & rhythm

DON'T

1. Be concerned because of your number
2. Assume when your number will be called due to no shows
3. Tell anyone your number
4. Warm up too much
5. Listen to others warm up or try out
6. Be distracted
7. Use scale sheets in the room
8. Let the monitor in your line of sight
9. Talk in the room
10. Go too fast
11. Ask to start over
12. Go in the tally room

MOST IMPORTANT

1. Centered Sound and Good Counting
2. Smooth phrasing
3. Know you played as good as you can

LEAST IMPORTANT

1. Speed

RULES

1. Missed tryout time – 5% deduct per sheet
2. Play scales as prescribed to score above center line
3. Timpani tuning devices allowed are pitch pipe, tuning fork and keyboard percussion
4. Bass Trombones must have a .559+ bore and a bass shank mouthpiece
5. Ties are broken by sight-reading, then expression
6. Posted results are tentative. Results are final at 5:00 pm the following Monday

