

# PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR ORCHESTRAS

## Instructions for auditioning for orchestra at PLD Rebecca Goff and Anna Watts, directors

There are 4 orchestra levels at PLD. We will need to hear an audition to determine the best fit for your needs as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader. No one is ever turned away; you cannot “fail” this audition. Auditions will be the last week of February. PLD directors will come hear you at your school.

**Level one** is for the typical 9<sup>th</sup> grader who needs to continue learning skills at the normal pace. In this class we work on intonation in multiple keys, shifting and reading in 3<sup>rd</sup> position (4<sup>th</sup> for cello, 5<sup>th</sup> for bass) and vibrato. Students wishing to play in Level One just need to do the standard Etude and scales that serve as the entrance audition for all orchestras in Fayette County.

**Level two** is for the 9<sup>th</sup> grader who is currently working at a higher level than most of his or her 8<sup>th</sup> grade class. Students in this level need to already be comfortable in 3<sup>rd</sup> position and have a workable vibrato. In this class we work in higher positions and more complex key signatures. Students who wish to skip level one will need to play the scales marked for level 1 AND level 2. The excerpt will be the same as Level One, but it must be played up to speed and polished to a high level.

**Level three** is for the advanced 9<sup>th</sup> grader. Typically this student has had some private lessons. This class plays music that contains complex keys, complex rhythms, and music that demands polished use of bow placement and style. There are many students in this orchestra who are in CKYO's concert orchestra. To audition for this, you must play the level ½ etude AND level 3 audition music. There is a solo and excerpt from a piece recently played in our level 3 class.

**Level four** is for the VERY advanced 9<sup>th</sup> grader, typically someone who is or will be in CKYO's top orchestra. In this orchestra we read in all positions (there was some 9<sup>th</sup> position on the first violin test of the year) and in all keys. For this you will need to play the 3 octave scales sent out (two octave for basses), an excerpt, and the exercise which is from Sevcik's Opus 8. If you have not played a Sevcik exercise before, make sure to have your teacher explain how it works. To audition for this, you must play the level 3 AND the level 4 audition music. **You must also play a solo of your choice.**

If you have any questions, please email [Rebecca.goff@fayette.kyschools.us](mailto:Rebecca.goff@fayette.kyschools.us)