

**MSHSAA Prescribed Graded Music List  
String Solo and Ensemble Matrix**

Instrument	Grade C (ASTA Levels 1 & 2)	Grade B (ASTA Level 3)	Grade A (ASTA Levels 4, 5 & 6)
Violin	All notes of 1 <sup>st</sup> position and some 3 <sup>rd</sup> position. Required shifting is rare. Rhythmic patterns may include dotted notes and other irregular groupings. Most emphasis is on legato bowing and some dynamic changes. Sustained bow strokes and slurs are common and may include slurred string crossings. May also require martele, detache, legato and short slurs.	Repertoire at this level requires shifting and playing in the first three positions with some rare usage of 5 <sup>th</sup> position. Advanced string crossing skills, variety of bow strokes and greater control of dynamics in both long and short bow strokes are required.	Repertoire at this level requires shifting and playing in the first five positions on all four strings. Double stops and chords appear. Hemiola and polyrhythm may be found. Passages requiring spiccato, sautille, staccato, flautando, ponticello and col legno bowings may be found in this music.
Viola	All notes of 1 <sup>st</sup> position used. Some shifting and easy double stops and more varied rhythmic patterns used. Some varied bowings and special techniques such as spiccato, loure, tremolo, harmonics, and trills are introduced.	Repertoire at this level requires ability to play and shift in the first three positions. Clef changes, double stops and harmonic are possible. Pieces require a greater degree of dynamic control, more sophisticated bow strokes and musical expression.	Repertoire requires ability to play in the first five positions and higher notes may be added. Double stops and chords appear frequently. Bow strokes include spiccato, sautille and staccato.
Cello	All notes of 1 <sup>st</sup> position used. Some shifting and ability to shift and play 1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> position are posed. Rhythms and bowings are varied and include string crossings.	Repertoire requires ability to read tenor clef and shifting requirements extend to 7 <sup>th</sup> position. Thumb is used on the center harmonic. Bowing styles required include lengthier slurring, staccato and spiccato. Simple double stops may be found at this level.	Repertoire employs all positions, extensive use of thumb position, double stops and use of treble clef. Variety of advanced bowings used including sautille.
Double Bass	Repertoire includes have and 1 <sup>st</sup> positions with some chromatic alterations. Simple bowings with slurs and irregular groupings of notes are employed. Bowing styles consisting of legato, staccato, tenuto and more advanced styles may involve slurs across two strings are used. Increased variability of dynamics for music expression is used.	This repertoire requires the left hand to play in half position; shifting requirements extend to 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> position, extended use of chromatic alterations and some harmonics. Bowing styles required include lengthier slurring, staccato and spiccato. Simple double stops may be found at this level.	Repertoire employs all positions, extensive use of thumb position, use of tenor and treble clef, and expanded use of harmonics and double stops. The right hand is expected to articulate all standard bow strokes and dynamics.