

CHAIR CHALLENGES (SYMPHONIC BAND ONLY)

Chair rankings are the most common form of organization used by bands and orchestras worldwide. The ultimate goal is to place the most proficient players on the most difficult parts. Chairs are established within the first two weeks of the symphonic band portion of the school year. There are no chair rankings during marching band. All parts are assigned. After chairs are established students are afforded the opportunity to move to a higher chair position. This procedure is called 'chair challenge.'

1. There is no limit to the number of chairs ahead that a student may challenge (i.e. 23rd chair may challenge 1st chair).
2. No student may refuse a challenge, or forfeit a challenge.
3. Music selection by the challenger must be from the band folder and must be the instrumental part played by the chair being challenged. For example, if 17th chair kazoo usually plays 4th part, and is challenging 3rd chair kazoo who plays 1st part, then it is the 1st part that will be played in the challenge. It is the responsibility of the person challenging to get a copy of the part before the challenge takes place.
4. The challenge will be performed **no less than** one week after it has been formalized. Both people need to agree to the day and time. A Sign-up Genius will be distributed with time slots available. The challenger will sign up, and put the name of the person being challenged on the sign-up notes.
5. The outcome of a challenge will not have an effect on any students' grade.
6. The instructor will select the *section* of the chosen piece, and adjudicate the challenge on the basis of an overall musical performance and determine the winner.
7. If the challenger wins, he/she is then seated in the chair that was challenged. The student that lost the challenge would move down to the next chair along with the rest of the students below the chair that was challenged. For example, if 5th chair challenges 1st chair and *wins*, 1st chair becomes 2nd chair, and everyone moves down one accordingly. If 5th chair challenges 1st chair and *1st chair wins*, then seats remain as they were.
8. If either student is absent the day of a challenge the performance shall be rescheduled by signing up for a different slot that both people have agreed to. Depending on circumstances, the students may be pulled out of class to complete a challenge.
9. There will be no challenges performed within two weeks of a scheduled concert performance.
10. The outcome of a challenge will not determine who plays solo passages in band class or in performances.
11. Challenges are on a first-come, first-served basis. (i.e. If more than one student challenges first chair, the one that schedules first will play the challenge). Challenges are chair to chair not student to student and should not ever be considered as a personal attack or affront. The instructor will evaluate any challenge that has this appearance.
12. If a challenge results in a tie, seating will stay as is. The instructor may also either ask students to play again at another time, or choose sight reading or memorized scales as a tie-breaker. This decision is at the discretion of the instructor.