



Solo & Ensemble Contest Information

Saturday, February 20 at BMS

It's time for this year's Solo & Ensemble Contest! This competition focuses on individual and small group performances. A solo is defined as a performance given by one person, while an ensemble is a performance given by a small group of people. Each student will be judged by a professional musician and scored based on musical and technical standards.

This year's contest will be held on Saturday the 20th from 9:00am-4:30pm. Students will perform in 7-minute time slots and will come and go as needed. Performances will be held in various hallways throughout the school, and each student will have a room number assignment. **Students need to arrive 10 minutes before their scheduled performance time** in case the contest runs ahead of schedule.

Students will need to wear their formal band performance attire. Beginners will wear their band shirt tucked into jeans with a belt (for gentlemen) and closed-toed shoes, while members of the Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble will wear their formal uniform (black pants). We have selected judges who are area music educators and are considered professionals on their instrument.

Students have been preparing for this contest for months, and we want their hard work to pay off. According to the Texas Education Agency's "No Pass, No Play" Rule, all students that participate must be passing all of their classes. Students will not be allowed to attend on Saturday if they are academically ineligible, and these students will be spoken with privately.

Everyone will play a solo, and students may easily earn a 100 for this major grade by being: 1. Punctual and arrive 10 minutes before their scheduled performance time; 2. Prepared with their music, instrument, and uniform; and 3. Disciplined in their behavior. These are the 3 ratings that will be used for this contest only:

- Division One (I) Superior Rating is much like receiving an A, and students will earn a medal
- Division Two (II) Excellent Rating is much like receiving a B, and students will earn a ribbon
- Division Three (III) Average Rating is much like receiving a C, and students will only receive their comment sheet

Everyone has the opportunity to earn a first division superior rating because students are playing for a musical standard, and not against each other. Students will receive their rating via a shared Google Doc later that day, and will leave after their performance. Medals and ribbons will be presented to students at the end of the school year.

As always, if you have any questions or problems, feel free to contact us. Thanks again for supporting your child's music education!

Sincerely,

Belton Middle School Band Directors