

Dear Parents,

We are preparing the Solo and Ensemble roster for this year. Please read the following information about Solo and Ensemble contest.

➤ **What Is Solo and Ensemble?**

“Solo and Ensemble is a special opportunity to work on individual and small group playing. Students who are in solo and ensemble experience a growth in their musicality that transfers to concert band and life. Solo and ensemble helps students to be evaluated on their individual effort.”

➤ **When is Solo and Ensemble?**

Solo and ensemble will be held on April 1st. Your son/ Daughter will be scheduled for a performance time closer to the date (we usually know the exact times about 2 weeks prior to the event). We can request that your son/ daughter go in the morning or afternoon, but with the massive amounts of students in district IX (our OMEA Section) those times are not always guaranteed. You will arrive about 30 minutes before your performance time and many times you will stay up to 30 minutes after your performance time to receive your score and rating sheets.

➤ **Where is Solo and Ensemble?**

Solo and ensemble is held at West Muskingum High School. You will need to provide your own transportation to and from the event. Since the Franklin local Jr. High Band program usually has a number of participants that can start as early as 8:00 a.m. and end as late as 5:00 p.m. most students do not wish to hang around all day. Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Brenning are not able to supervise students that are not performing, because we are with the students that are performing. Most parents also like to see their son/ daughter perform.

➤ **What is the cost of Solo and Ensemble and when is it due?**

Students taking a solo must pay the \$15 fee by February 25th. Students participating in an ensemble will split (among the members of the ensemble) the \$19 Ensemble fee. The ensemble fee will also be due February 24th (so that I may calculate the amount each student owes for the registration fee, after the permission slips are collected). We will then determine the number and type of ensembles after all permission slips are turned in. **All fees are non refundable.** We have to pay OMEA these fees and they are non-refundable to us.

➤ **When is the Permission slip due?**

The permission slip is due by January 27th. If your son/ daughter is interested in only taking a solo, ensemble or both, please mark the correct box on the permission slip. We are not mind readers and like to keep everything straight.

➤ **How Does Solo and Ensemble Work?**

We will select a piece of music that is suited to your son/ daughter's ability. Mrs. Brenning will work with students and ensembles as often as she can. It is the individual student's responsibility to prepare the music and scales on their own. Mrs. B and Mrs. Scott are guides to help make your son/ daughter a success. This is an opportunity for your son/ daughter to achieve a great individual or small group success. Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Brenning have the authority to cancel a solo if it is not prepared up to standard. If we cancel your solo/ ensemble, you will not receive a refund and you will not receive your 10% bonus.

The Actual Day Process

You will arrive at least 30 minutes prior to your scheduled performance time. You will then find a warm- up room for your instrument (brass, woodwind or percussion). Mrs. Scott or Mrs. Brenning will try to meet you in the warm up before you perform. This is not always the case; we are listening to and helping all of the other students. At this time you should warm up slowly (not fast and loud), review your scales and your solo. If you are in an ensemble take this time to tune to the section leader and run through your piece. Then you are to report to your performance room (have your parent find this) about 10 minutes before your performance time. Mrs. Scott or Mrs. Brenning will be in the room or outside of the room you are to perform in if we have not seen you already. You will enter your room and the judge will ask you if you would like play a scale (memorized) or your prepared piece first (solo's only, ensembles just tune and play their selection). You perform you scale and your piece in whatever order you want for the judge, the judge may or may not speak to you. You are welcome to have anyone you wish in the performance room. There may be others in your room that you do not recognize; it is okay everyone is there to support you! After you performance, then you may put your instrument away and go to the cafeteria. Your scores will be posted in the cafeteria. Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Brenning will have your comment sheets on Monday if we don't see you later that day. Then you are free to go. You will receive a 10% bonus for the 4th 9 weeks if you prepare and perform a solo.

➤ What do you wear?

Wear your concert dress. You will be standing to perform your solo/ ensemble, make sure you are comfortable in your clothes and shoes. Do not let a too small shirt or too big shoes hinder your musical performance.

➤ What happens if I don't show up without an accepted excuse?

After you sign the permission slip you will receive a concert grade on the 4th 9 weeks grading period. If you do not show up you will receive a 0 for you concert grade thus lowering your the 4th 9 weeks band grade 20%. Don't do this you have worked too hard!

Thank you,

Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Brenning

Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Brenning

Solo and Ensemble Permission Slip and Registration Form

Student Name: _____

Student Instrument: _____

Student Grade: _____

Student Homeroom Teacher: _____

I would like to participate in: *please circle one*

A solo only

Both a solo and an ensemble

I _____ (parent Name) agree to allow my son/ daughter to participate in solo/ ensemble on April 1st. I also agree to encourage my son/ daughter to practice daily on their music. I also agree to either take my son/ daughter to this event or make arrangements for them to attend on time.

Parent Signature

Date