

Solo and Ensemble Information
Dulles Middle School Band



The last performance opportunity for the DMS Band is *Solo and Ensemble Contest* on May 17th at the DMS Band Hall. Honor, Symphonic, Concert and select Beginning Band students will participate. All students have received their solos and should be preparing them a little each day. They should be working on them in their private lessons, seeking help from their directors and friends, and preparing for the experience. Here's what you need to know about the contest:

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Each student will perform a solo in front of a judge for a rating. The University Interscholastic League (UIL) rating scale is as follows:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | Superior (medal is earned) |
| 2 | Excellent |
| 3 | Good |
| 4 | Fair |
| 5 | Poor |

If a student is performing in an ensemble (small group of players), the above ratings are used for the ensemble as well. If a "1" is earned, all of the students in the ensemble receive medals.

• **IS THERE AN ENTRY FEE?**

Your \$15 entree fee is being covered by the VBB thanks to our awesome fundraising efforts this year! Thank you to all who helped support the DMS Band!

• **WHAT ABOUT THE PIANO ACCOMPANIST?**

We have secured qualified piano accompanists to work with us for solo and ensemble contest. Accompanists will come to school during class or before school to work with band students. Each student will receive two practice sessions before the contest with his or her accompanist. Students **must** attend their schedule rehearsals and should have their music learned *before* they go to these rehearsals.

The cost for the accompanist is \$25.00 – Students will make this payment directly to their accompanist at their first rehearsal. Cash is preferred, but your accompanist may also provide you with a digital method or accept a check. This \$25 payment covers both rehearsals and the performance.

• **HOW DO WE PREPARE?**

Home practice is key to success. Students should practice each day to build proficiency *and* confidence. Your directors and lesson teachers will help as much as possible, but we cannot be a substitute for practice. Here are the guidelines for preparation as well as the grade breakdown of this project:

Progress Check 1 – Demonstrate correct rhythm and notes in isolation	Daily Grade
Progress Check 2 – Demonstrate proficiency in performing entire solo	Daily Grade
Attend 2 Accompanist Sessions	Daily Grade
In-Class performance and critique:	Daily Grade
1st division rating at contest:	Major Grade of 100
2nd division rating at contest:	Major Grade of 85
3rd division rating at contest:	Major Grade of 70

For Beginning Band students, this is all extra credit!

• **WHEN AND WHERE IS THE ACTUAL CONTEST?**

WHEN: Friday, May 17th (after school)
WHERE: DMS Band Hall/Orchestra Room

TIME: TBA (each student will have an individual performance time)
DRESS: Nice!!! (No jeans, shorts, t-shirts, tennis shoes, etc.)

