

WNCBA All-District Band

Judging Guidelines

Updated 1/15/2017

We are all here to make certain every student gets an opportunity to perform their requirements and be judged as fairly as possible. Some of us have done this for many years and for some this may be our first time judging. Following are some guidelines for us all to make certain this is the most positive experience for all of the students auditioning.

- PLEASE take students in numerical order when possible. This helps in the calling of numbers and keeping the hallways manageable.
- Students arriving late (middle school SAT students especially) will be allowed to audition when they arrive – **Out of order is OK**, but we should do our best to remain on schedule and in order.
- Do not change rooms and/or judging assignments.
- Please welcome the students and make them feel as comfortable as possible.
- Please confirm that the name on the sheet is the student auditioning. Also, make certain that the student's first and last names are both on the audition sheet.
- They may sit or stand – if applicable.
- Invite students to play a few warm up notes.
- Please thank the students after they are finished.

DO NOT:

- Ask students what school they are from
- Ask students if they take lessons or from whom
- Ask brand name or quality of instrument/equipment questions

Scales/Solos/Scoring

- Do not cut or shorten the solo. Every student must play the entire district selection.
- All High School scales must be played in the order on the sheet.
 - 9/10 and 11/12 students: The sheet provided will list whether scales are tongued or slurred – it will alternate. It may not be a mixture of slurred and tongued within the scale. Be consistent throughout the day – do not change which scales are slurred. Chromatic = slurred.
 - Middle School – all scales, except chromatic, are tongued. Middle school scale order is as follows (Concert Pitch): Clarinet, Tenor Sax, and French Horn - Eb, Ab, Bb, F, C, G, and Chromatic. All other instruments: Bb, Eb, Ab, F, C, G, and Chromatic.
- Scales are to be played "...in a timely manner". Use your best professional judgment and please be consistent (your standard should remain the same throughout the audition process)
- A score of "0" may ONLY be given for students that did not attempt that portion of the audition.
- Try to avoid large discrepancies in scoring – communicate ALWAYS.
- Make sure all scores are written on the tote sheet.
- Write a number for each individual scale, do not leave blank.
- Add score totals on sheets – check addition carefully – especially scales
- Please make a note for any for students who do not audition at the end

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- Keep track of your scores throughout the day to avoid ties. This may be difficult with a large number of students and a small number of points (MS Clarinet scales), but is very important if you are judging all requirements.
- Each judge should initial any changes on the tote sheet.
- Upon agreement of both judges, a recommendation can be made to the auditions host and president-elect to limit the number of players making the band where wide gaps of playing ability are present.
- You may evaluate the student's performance only on the required material. Playing extra octaves will not be credited or penalized.

Sight Reading

Sight Reading procedure is as follows:

1) Use a timer (a watch is acceptable) to monitor that you are giving **each person 60 seconds** of time to preview the sight-reading selection; 2) Say to the auditionee "Please find the sight-reading"; 3) Let the auditionee find it; 4) Say to the auditionee "You have 60 seconds to look at it before we ask you to begin playing"; 5) When the allotted time is used, say to the auditionee "Please play the sight-reading."

- Consistent approach with EVERY student is especially important during sight reading.
- Do not shorten the sight reading. The excerpts provided are appropriate.
- No playing before you sight read. (tizzle, air, etc – OK) • "May I play a few notes?" – be consistent. May be more appropriate for some instruments/grade levels than others – use your best judgment (Remember: with middle school students– we want to see them a few years from now at the high school level!)

Miscellaneous

- If a student's instrument is "broken" – don't take the time to do "in the field" repairs – just send them back to the warm-up area and we'll have someone look at it, so you can keep the audition process moving. Exception: once a student begins his/her audition, they must complete it.
- Take the time to give advice or pointers – this is not the time for a lesson
- Please do not eat while you are judging – either grab a few bites between students or stop for a meal break
- Do not identify your own student until the judging process is complete for that student.
- Do not double the other judge's score for your own students. Sometimes two judges are consistent in their rankings, but their numbers may be higher or lower than the other person. Use your best professional judgment.
- At the end, please bring your tote sheets to the library and make sure we have all sheets accounted for before you leave. Please make sure you see the AUDITIONS CHAIRMAN and AUDITIONS HOST before you leave.

- **All audition rooms are open until the Auditions Chair closes the room.**