

Dutchtown Middle School Band

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Band Parents:

Each year we make the opportunity to enter LMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival available to all DMS Band Members. For 6th grade band members and concert band members, participation in this is encouraged. Participation in this event is a normative part of Symphonic Band membership and this is a grade for those students. Symphonic Band members must participate in at least one event for this grade.

For those of you that have not done this before, this is the way it works. Student can come after school on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays to get help picking out a solo or an ensemble. Solos are pieces of music that the student will learn and perform by themselves and ensembles are small group pieces that several students learn and perform together as a team. Small ensembles can consist of 2 to 6 students.

Once the students have selected their solo or ensemble, they will work out a time to practice it, and then we enter them in the solo and ensemble festival. Solo and Ensemble Festival will take place on **Saturday, May 9th** here at DMS. Students must pay their entry fee of \$5.00 per event by May 1. Students may enter in more than one event at \$5.00 per event. Each member of an ensemble must pay the \$5.00 entry fee. A student may do a solo as well as no more than two ensembles.

On the day of Solo and Ensemble Festival, each solo or group will perform at a pre-determined time in front of a judge. The judge will give each event a rating, similar to band festival ratings. Students that receive a superior (highest) rating will get an official medal and will be recognized at the Spring Concert.

At this time, all I need you to do is allow your child to pick a day to stay after school to pick out music for this event. Ensembles are pretty much student organized, which means that if a group gets together, I will find appropriate music for them and then they will work on it on their own, with my supervision. Be aware that students must be picked up from the bandroom by 3:45 PM and should not be elsewhere on campus or off till they are picked up.

The entry form is attached to this letter and is on the band website. This should be turned in by May 1st at the latest. You should not turn in this form until the students are fairly sure of what they are playing and their ensemble has had a practice or two. Symphonic band members are expected to participate in at least one event.

Thanks,

Mr. Richard Bresowar
Band Director