

# Announcements

Date: 1/3/2012  
To: Oakville Tiger Band  
From: Mr. Brakefield  
RE: Announcements

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1. Band the next four weeks: Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band classes are now two separate hours. Wind Symphony will remain 3<sup>rd</sup> block and Symphonic Band students now have band 5<sup>th</sup> block. We all will be together during ANP but will follow the same rehearsal schedule as before. Wind Symphony will rehearse the 1<sup>st</sup> ANP of the Week and Symphonic Band will rehearse the last ANP of the week.
  - a. ANP B day rehearsals - Wind Symphony (1/4, 1/10, 1/17, 1/23, 1/31)
  - b. ANP B day rehearsal - Symphonic Band(1/6, 1/12, 1/19, 1/25, 2/1)
  - c. Band Concert 2/6 7:00 pm. Gymnasium A
  - d. We will begin testing on melodic minor scales and every student will have to audition for band placement in 2012-2013 beginning 1/30. All incoming freshmen and current band students will play the same material. These auditions will determine next year's ensemble roster for Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band.
2. Winter Guard
  - a. Practices: 3 PM – 6 PM
    - a. 1/3 – OHS commons
    - b. 1/5 – OMS gym
    - c. 1/10 – OHS commons
    - d. 1/12 – OMS gym
    - e. 1/17 – OHS Gym B
    - f. 1/19 – OMS gym
    - g. 1/24 – OHS possible gym B, if no cmns
    - h. 1/26 – OMS gym
    - i. **1/28 – 1<sup>st</sup> CONTEST (Eureka HS, info TBA)**
    - j. 1/31 – OHS Gym B
  - b. Payment # 2 is due 1/15
3. Pep Band Dates:
  - a. 1/6 – H Band
  - b. 1/10 – S Band
  - c. 1/13 – O Band
  - d. 1/20 –H Band
  - e. 1/24 – S Band
  - g. 1/31 – O Band
4. After school Jazz Band
  - a. Rehearsal are every Tues. and Thur. immediately after school till 3:30 PM. (Yes they start the day we get back!)
  - b. You will have 9 practices till your concert on 2/6.
5. All Suburban People
  - a. Rehearsals January 6 (7-9:30pm) January 7 (9 am – 4 pm) You must bring your lunch!
  - b. Concert January 8 @ Ladue in the afternoon. Report times will be announced at the rehearsals.
6. Washington D.C. Festival
  - a. January Payments are due 1/15. If you have credit in OBPA, please use those funds to avoid additional out of pocket expenses this time of year.
  - b. Please help by continually making your payments on time.
7. State Music Convention is January 25-29.
8. Solo and Ensemble Contest is approaching see page 2-3 for details.

## Band Memo: Weekly Schedule

### About the Solo/Ensemble Contests

This information is for musicians and their families who are new to the Oakville's music program, or who would like to understand the solo/ensemble contests better.

**Purpose.** The solo/ensemble contests are intended to provide student musicians an opportunity to perform a solo or an ensemble in front of an adjudicator and a limited audience, and to receive written constructive comments from the adjudicator. The primary benefits to the students are the experience of performing alone or in a small group, and a critique from someone other than their regular music teacher(s). These contests also serve as qualifying events for the State Solo/Ensemble Contest every spring.

**Clarifications.** A solo is considered to be a piece performed either entirely alone with a piano accompaniment (some percussion solos do not require an accompaniment). An ensemble is a group of from 3 to 8 musicians performing together, with or without a piano accompaniment. The adjudicator (often called a judge) is a music teacher from another district or state.

**Entries.** Participation in these contests is highly encouraged but not required. Many students are eager to participate and other need a gently nudge out of the nest. A student's decision to enter or not enter will have no effect on that student's grade in class. But they can earn additional awards and recognitions. Multiple entries are permitted: a student may enter no more than three entries.

**Fees.** The entry fee is \$10 per event. It makes no difference it is a solo or eight people...it's still \$10. Besides one or more entry fees, a student's other potential expenses are accompanist's fees (see below) and potential purchase of personal copies of music. Oakville has a small library of solo and ensemble music that you are welcome to check out. If we don't have it, you'll have to buy it...potentially two copies as photocopying is not allowed.

**Ratings.** Each adjudicator judges a series of entries, all on the same instrument or class of ensemble, and gives each performance a rating in the form of a Roman numeral with a possible modifier (such as II, I-, or III+). Many performances will receive the same rating during a contest. This rating reflects various technical and artistic aspects of the performance. A rating sheet showing these components and the adjudicator's comments is given to the music teacher who will then pass it on to the students. If you receive a superior rating (I) at District you are eligible to participate in the State Solo and Ensemble Contest.

**Locations and Dates.** District – March 3, 2012 at Florissant Valley Community College & State - April 28, 2012 at University of Missouri.

**Music.** The state of Missouri has a Prescribed Music List. The music must be on this list. The selection of music to be performed is left to the performers and their teachers. The music teacher can suggest one or more selections appropriate for the student's ability; performers may propose their own choices to their teacher. The music does not have to be memorized. You will need an original (not photocopied music) for yourself, the accompanist, and the judge. If a solo, the solo part (not the piano part) must be supplied to the adjudicator or the score if an ensemble must be supplied to the adjudicator and picked up after the performance. You are financially responsible for any music lost.

**Accompanists.** Most solos and some ensembles call for a piano accompaniment. Rehearsals and contests take up an accompanist's time and gasoline, and there is a fee for their services. This fee is must be negotiated between the student and the accompanist. A fee for one or two rehearsals and the performance typically ranges between \$30 and \$60. Be sure to clarify if this price includes another performance in Columbia should you make a superior rating at District.. Selecting an accompanist is critical to your success and must be done well in advance because a contest limits how many entries each accompaniment can accept. The accompaniments' name must also be included on the registration form. Below is a small list of accompanists we recommend (in no particular order). You are welcome to use someone else, but please make sure they are a quality musician.

1. Kathy Schneller - 314-846-8170 or rschneller@sbcglobal.net
2. Eveylyn Archer - archerbe@sbcglobal.net
3. Patti Mathews - 314-846-6971 or sfmplmadm@sbcglobal.net

## Band Memo: Weekly Schedule

**Preparation.** Students need to learn their music prior to scheduling a rehearsal with their accompanists. We the directors are available during ANP or after school for individual help; no class time will be used for preparing this music. Before the first rehearsal with the accompanists the student should have his or her part learned; the accompanist's services do not include teaching it.

**Schedule.** There are several adjudicators at each contest, each using a different room in the host school. Each entry is allocated a seven-minute time slot in one of these rooms. The scheduling of events is done online to avoid scheduling conflicts between students and their accompanists. This schedule is released a few days before the contest. It is difficult to maintain this schedule with precision. Unforeseen delays can cause a particular room to run behind, while "no-shows" can put another room ahead of schedule. Because of this uncertainty, and to allow time to warm up, students and accompanists are advised to appear at the contest at least an hour before their first scheduled performance. Travel planning should allow time for traffic and weather conditions, as well as for finding unfamiliar locations.

**Conduct.** Semi-Formal dress (such as ties or heels) is not required, but it is encouraged to dress "nicely", as one might for church. Students are only allowed to play in the designated warm-up room. Conversation should be kept to an absolute minimum in the halls, especially near the adjudication rooms. Food and drink should be consumed only in the area where they are served.

**Procedure.** Performers are expected to appear with their music and accompanist at the proper place and time.

**Performance.** Seats are provided in the adjudication room for a small audience. Teachers, family, and friends are welcome to attend. The audience is not allowed to enter or leave the room during a performance, or to engage in any distracting activity (moving or talking) while in the room. The adjudicator normally talks with the performer(s) before and after the performance but does not reveal the rating to them directly.

**Results.** The rating sheets are collected periodically from each adjudication room and taken to the contest office for verification. They are retained and given to the appropriate music teacher at the end of the contest. The ratings are also posted in a central area as soon as they are verified.