

Lawton Chiles Middle Academy Band
Solo/Ensemble Festival

Solo/Ensemble Festival will be held February 9-10th, 2007. The festival will be held at Bartow Senior High School.

SUPERIOR - An outstanding performance. Musical details were apparently rehearsed. This performance was very well prepared.

EXCELLENT - An excellent performance. There were a few minor problems. Student may not have paid close attention to dynamics or phrasing.

GOOD - Student shows potential. Piece played fairly well. Needs more attention on phrasing, dynamics, intonation, tempo or rhythmic accuracy.

FAIR - Student has a basic idea how the piece should be played. Obviously needs more rehearsal time.

POOR - Unrehearsed, Some serious musical problems were evident. Basic fundamentals of playing should be reviewed.

Ms. Sholine will be available for individual help sessions. Students who are not taking private lessons should practice with Ms. Sholine at least once a week. We will be spending a lot of time to help students prepare for this experience. Students should be prompt for their help sessions, warm up before their session and allow extra time in case we run behind schedule. Students continuously late or forgetting to attend help sessions may be dropped from the festival.

All students must be "checked off" by the band director before they are allowed to proceed to festival. The band director will not allow students who are not sufficiently prepared to participate in the final festival performance. You will not be checked off for the final performance if the band director is not convinced you will have the opportunity for a positive learning experience.

ENSEMBLES

You must practice your individual parts before trying to rehearse together. All members of the ensemble should be present for scheduled help sessions with the band director. You will need several coaching sessions before checking off for final performance

DRESS

You will be expected to "dress up" for this performance. This is a live performance - be professional in your attire and presentation.

Make plans (when/where) to meet your accompanist or ensemble members.
Arrive 45 minutes prior to your scheduled performance.
Warm up in the warm up room only! No playing in the hallways.

1. **Arrange for a piano accompanist** and practice together. (Please thank your pianist and arrange to pay him/her at you first meeting.)
2. **Number the measures** on the original copy of your solo. This is a festival requirement. Make a couple extra copies after the measures are numbered. The judge must be provided with the original copy of the music at the festival. If you play a solo selected by Ms. Sholine she will give the original to the judge.
3. **PRACTICE** - How you practice the solo is important!
 - a. Practice standing (except horns, bassoons, tubas) Soloist should perform standing.
 - b. First work out little passages that give you difficulty and go over these passages until they can be played ten times perfectly.
 - c. Breathe in the same places as you practice. Mark breaths in pencil and use this phrasing every time you practice.
 - d. After you have worked out all the hard spots in your solo, go back and play the entire solo from beginning to end without stopping.
 - e. Put the solo away for the day but remember the places you had trouble and practice these spots again the next day.
4. **KNOW YOUR SOLO INSIDE OUT**
Work out all the technical difficulties prior to the festival.
5. **MEMORIZE**
You'll play more musically if you are not entirely dependant on the music.
6. **TONE**
Constantly work for a better tone. Listen for good intonation and strive for good balance at all times.
7. **PHRASES**
Be sure your solo is performed with good musical phrases and breathe support.
8. **INTERPRETATION**
Give the solo meaning for yourself and the listener. Watch the tempo, rhythm, style and overall expression of the solo.
9. **TECHNIQUE**
Work for accuracy, good phrasing, rhythmic accuracy and special instrumental techniques of your solo.
10. **TEN TIMES** through perfectly before it is ready for festival.
11. **TUNE UP**
12. **HAVE CONFIDENCE** in yourself and your solo performance.
13. **APPEARANCE**
Stand tall, relax and play your best. Hold your instrument properly. Dress up!
14. **GREET YOUR JUDGE, INTRODUCE YOURSELF, ANNOUNCE YOUR SOLO TITLE AND COMPOSER**

SOLO/ENSEMBLE - FEBRUARY 9TH & 10TH