

◆◆◆ Festivals ◆◆◆

What are they?

Music Festivals are similar to competitions, but students are competing against themselves rather than other groups. Each performing group performs two to three pieces selected from a classification music list.

How are they judged?

A panel of three experienced adjudicators will evaluate each group's performance of the selected pieces. They evaluate everything from interpretation and tone quality to playing the right notes and rhythms. Each adjudicator will give an overall rating: V=Poor, IV=Fair, III=Good, II=Excellent, I=Superior. The three ratings will then be averaged together for an overall rating.

Sight-reading?

Sight Reading is another part of the Festival experience. After the performance of the prepared pieces the students will go into the sight-reading room and be greeted by another adjudicator. This adjudicator evaluates the group on how well they play a piece of music that they have never seen before. The director is given one minute to discuss the piece without counting or singing rhythms out and then we play through the piece to the best of our ability. At the end of this performance the adjudicator will discuss some ways that we can improve this process in the future and give us an overall rating. This rating is not averaged into our other rating.

When are they held?

Festivals are held during the Spring Semester. Some may be during the regular school day, so students may miss some of their classes. Some orchestra festivals are held at night. Most Jazz Festivals are held on Saturdays.

How do we get there?

Transportation arrangements will vary. Students will be notified in advance.

What does my student need to bring?

Besides the essentials (instrument, music), students should bring a sack lunch if festival is a daytime event. Medals and stickers are available for the students to purchase after their rating is posted.

What do I wear?

All students must wear attire specified by their instructor. (See page on "Performance Attire.")

Parent support?

Parents are encouraged to attend Festivals. The host school usually charges an admission fee as these are fundraisers for the host school. Festivals are open to the public.