

TO: 7TH & 8TH Grade HMS Band Students & Parents
FROM: Mr. Krauklis & Mrs. O'Donnell, HMS Band Directors
RE: Solo & Ensemble Festival

GREETINGS!

We are now in our festival season at HMS and as we begin to select and prepare music, we wish to keep you informed as well. Hopefully this memo will answer most, if not all of your questions that may arise. If not, please contact either of us directly so that we may assist in making this an enjoyable and educational experience for every student musician.

WHAT IS SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL AND WHY DO WE DO IT?

District and state solo and ensemble (S & E) festivals are held every year, state-wide for all band, choir, orchestra and piano students in grades 7-12. They are administered by the state organization, Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA). Locally, we are members of the La Crosse Area Music Festival Association (LAMFA) conference. Member school districts are: La Crosse and Onalaska public schools, Holmen, and La Crescent, Minnesota. Solo & small ensemble (duets, trios, etc.) performing is an integral part of Holmen's (and every school's) music curriculum. It is specifically cited as a National Music Content Standard, Wisconsin State Music Standard and American School Band Directors Association (ASBDA) Level 2 outcome. Performing solos and small ensembles is a very different experience than performing in the full band. It teaches individual responsibility, musical independence, self-confidence, perseverance, pedagogical mastery and offers immediate feedback from an expert adjudicator. Additionally, playing solos and in small groups with friends and classmates is fun. S & E Festival is also a listening and analyzing experience. Students will complete one or more self-assessments along the way and also listen and assess others' performances. They will get to hear student-musicians from other schools as well as support their friends and classmates from HMS.

All 7th & 8th grade band members are expected to participate. Select 6th graders are also given the option of participating for either a rating or for comments only. The largest portion of our band budget each year is dedicated to festival participation, so we always strive to maximize the level of participation in order to reap the greatest benefit to our band program.

Please contact Mr. Krauklis or Mrs. O'Donnell if you have further questions.

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