



# END-OF-YEAR SHOW-OFF BAND EXAMS

I am really looking forward to hearing you show off for me!

**WHEN:** Exams begin May 9, 2011. Sign up for a study hall or before/after school time. Signups will be available beginning the week of April 11.

**Sign ups are tricky...** each line is for one time slot (time to do your scales & sight-reading for example - approximately 8 minutes). If you want to do a performance & your scales & sight-reading, sign up for two slots.

**Eighth graders** should all sign up for two slots for the sight-reading. If you want to do a performance, sign up for a third slot! (But, plan on the whole block - it usually takes people most of the block and I go back and forth between the people there.)

**WHAT:** 6th & 7th graders, your exam is the following: (EIGHTH GRADE, SEE OTHER SIDE!!!)

## I. Scales or Rudiments (3 points) THESE MUST BE MEMORIZED!

**WINDS:** chromatic scale 1 octave, plus 4 major or minor scales - memorized and know the key signatures. Advanced students should push themselves to perform at the Junior District scale requirement level, or at least aiming in that direction.

**DRUMS:** a sustained long roll - no bumps! - the chromatic scale, and the following rudiments: flam, paradiddle, flam tap, ruff, flam paradiddle (know their names).

## II. Sight Reading: (4 points) Sight-reading for grade 6 is in cut time, and grade 7 is in 6/8. See the practice sight-reading page for more details.

- Write in the counting
- Demonstrate the rhythm by speaking it and setting up the beat in your lap
- Play the exercise. (You may have two tries.)

These first two parts of the exam(sight reading and scales / rudiments) are required of everyone and can get you up to 7 points (exam grade is worth 8 points on your report card). If you want to go for the full 10 possible exam points, also prepare a performance. (Don't forget to sign up for a second time slot - it doesn't have to be on the same day!)

## III. Performance (3 points)

Music of your choice (band, private lessons, something you are playing on your own).

Watch out for dynamics, ritards, articulations (slurs, staccatos & such), and other details -- don't just play notes!

Rhythms must be accurate! Beware of playing a popular song that you know well; it is easy to end up playing the rhythms the way you think the song should sound rather than the way it is written!!!!!!!!!!

Pick something to show off how well you can play (NOT Let's Go Band!)

>> Make sure it has some kind of *style contrast* such as: fast/slow or staccato section and legato section,. Dynamic contrast is not enough; all pieces have dynamic contrast. Be prepared to tell me what the contrast is.

You should have a total of at least 8 lines of playing. You may do two short sections in order to get the contrasts (ex: part of *Semper Fidelis* and part of something from your lesson) A line of mostly rests is not a line of music!!!

OR... you may get together with friends and prepare an ensemble - see me for info

See the other side for preparation hints and grading.



**EIGHTH GRADERS: your requirements are on the other side...**

## EIGHTH GRADERS:

Your requirements are a bit different this year. There are no scale/rudiment requirements for you and the sight-reading is different. Your only requirement is the grade 8 rhythm reading test (which will go with you to the high school to show Mr. O where your particular strengths and weaknesses are). The sight-reading is worth 7 points!!! It includes: basic rhythms in duple and triple time, dotted quarter notes, dotted eighth/sixteenth, syncopation, a section in cut time and one in 6/8. BEWARE of long notes and long rests! Count!! You will need to write in counting and speak/tap the rhythm as well as playing the pieces. See me if you aren't sure on any of these. If you practice the review sheets, you should be in good shape (pages R6, R11, R13 & R14 in the band stuff book). You may look over the sight-reading sheet again if you wish. You may not take it home, but you may think through the rhythms and see what you still need to practice; it was out for viewing in workshops last week, but if you missed it, see me. *Sign up for two time slots for the sight-reading part.*

You may choose to do the optional performance -- the showoff music selection(s) mentioned on the other side - it is worth 3 more points. Sign up for a **third** time slot.

**GRADING (for all grades):** See the exam self-assessment sheet to check the criteria for a well played exam! You can earn a maximum of 10 points for your exam if you do the optional performance and 7 points without it. The grade will be your quiz and test grade for this term (notice, you can earn 2 extra points for a well played exam with the optional performance, because the test and quizzes category is only 8 points and you can earn up to ten points for the exam. These extra points can be enrichment.).

**WHAT IF THE REQUIREMENTS ARE TOO HARD???:** See me. We will come up with an alternative assignment -- no lost points.

## HINTS:

- > See me (or your private teacher) if you need help -- you don't have to prepare alone!
- > Watch details! Dynamics, slurs, accents, length of note, accurate rhythms are all necessary for a good grade!
- > Sign up SOON to avoid having me sign you up!! (I will choose the earliest possible time!)
- > Sign up for study hall, before school or after school. If you sign up for a class time, the teacher may not let you come and you will lose points for missing your exam and you will have prevented someone else from having that spot.
- > Don't wait until the last minute to start practicing!
- > Sign up for an early time and get it over with (besides, I'm stricter on mistakes for those who have later times and longer to practice!)

**YOU MUST BRING TO YOUR EXAM:** (check them off when you have everything ready)

- The exam self-assessment sheet -- *not* filled out!
- This term's band progress chart (the one with the boxes) -- *filled out!*
- Your music if you are doing the optional performance (know what the contrasts are)
- Your brain and nerves of steel. (But you're not nervous, right? Of course not, 'cuz you've *practiced!* )

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