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EAST CLUSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND SOLO FESTIVAL 2019

On Saturday, May 4, Bowman Middle School will host the East Cluster Middle School Band Solo Competition. This is a major event for our young musicians and an incredible musical experience.

Students will perform their prepared music for a judge who will then provide constructive comments on their playing. The judge will also rate each performance in quality from first division to fifth division. All students receiving a first division rating will earn a medal for their performance. In addition, a select few students who perform solos exceedingly well may earn an exemplary musicianship award and receive a patch with their medals.

This event requires the students to dress nicely. Appearance is an important aspect of performance and will factor into the performance rating.

FEE INFORMATION

There is a \$8.00 entry fee to enter the competition. This covers the expenses of running the contest – no profits are made. This fee is due on **Friday, April 5**. This payment and registration will be done through Parent Portal and the Murphy Band website.

SOLO INFORMATION

Any student involved in private lessons should be currently working on a solo, and Wind Ensemble students are required to prepare a solo. Students not in lessons can see their band director for music selection. **Each student must provide a clean copy of the music for the judge and a piano part for the accompanist. Some solos can be purchased, other will be provided by your private teacher.** The music is inexpensive and will include the solo part and piano accompaniment part. Music stores such as The Music Store, Nadine's Music Manor, or B&C Music of Plano will either carry parts or order them for you. Ballard Street Music in Wylie might carry the music as well. You may also try websites such as www.jwpepper.com and www.penders.com.

Students who perform a solo will require a **piano accompanist**. We have contacted a few accompanists who will be able to rehearse with our students mostly during school. Our students will have two rehearsals before they perform on Saturday. The standard rate for accompanists in the district is \$45-\$55, and our accompanists have agreed to play for \$40, though if you are playing a CLASS 1 (difficult) solo, you can expect to pay \$50 or more. The piano accompanist may charge more if the piano part is difficult and requires extra time to prepare. **Checks should be made to the accompanist** and payment should be made on the first rehearsal. Students who will use our accompanists will need to give a copy of their piano part to their band director as soon as possible.

SEE REVERSE FOR IMPORTANT TIMELINE INFORMATION

SOLO CONTEST TIMELINE

March – Select a Solo

**April 1 – Order an original copy and piano accompaniment part. Options:
Purchase locally at Williamson Music, Nadine’s Music Manor, etc.
Purchase on-line www.jwpepper.com; www.penders.com, etc.**

April 5 – Pay the entry fee and register on-line. www.murphymband.com

April 15 – Turn in piano parts to Mr. Seibert. If you are playing a class 1 solo (very difficult) you should get it in sooner.

Please mark with the following:

- 1. Your name**
- 2. Murphy MS**
- 3. Your performance tempo**
- 4. Clearly mark the movements or sections you are playing or not playing.**

April 16 – Be sure you have listened to a recording of your solo several times so that you understand how your part and the piano part fit together. (youtube is a great resource for this).

April 22 – Rehearsals with your piano accompanist will start this week. Bring payment to the first rehearsal, check (made out to the accompanist) or cash.

April 29 - Your second rehearsal will be this week.

May 5 – Dress nice and play beautifully!