Dear Parents/Guardians of ________________________________,

It is my pleasure to inform you that your child has been invited to participate in the OPS Beginning Band Solo/Small Ensemble Festival scheduled for Saturday, April 6th, 2019! Please know that your child has truly earned this invitation… only a short time ago they were at the very beginning of their musical journey in band— learning how to put the instrument together, learning how to make a quality sound, reading notes on a music staff for the first time— and we are amazed with how far they have come since that time! We want to reward and celebrate your child’s dedication and hard work by inviting them to participate in this fun and educational festival.

Some of you may have older children or relatives that participate in other music festivals or contests at the middle or high school level (All-State Band, Elkhorn Band Olympics, or other music contests in our area). It is important to note that the OPS Beginning Band Solo & Small Ensemble Festival is not a competitive event- there will be no 1st place or champions declared. Everyone will support each performer and celebrate their first solo or small ensemble performance experience.

Each performer will receive a ribbon for participating, but more important, each performer will receive positive feedback from the adjudicator directly after their performance. The adjudicator will point out things they did particularly well, but also offer suggestions for improvement as they continue to mature as young musicians. The OPS band staff feels this is perhaps the most valuable “take away” for young band students as they continue to learn musical skills they can use as they prepare for high school.

We sincerely hope your child can participate in this unique learning opportunity… the vast majority of beginning band students have never performed a solo or small ensemble before. The simple fact that your child is brave enough to actually PERFORM in front of an adjudicator and audience (and learn everything that is required in the preparations leading to the performance) should be considered extremely impressive!

We realize that some families may already have other activities scheduled for April 6th. If your child is unable to participate due to other previously scheduled activities please indicate that on the attached sheet. Please note that because this festival takes place outside the normal school hours there will be no bus transportation provided. However, if transportation is an issue we encourage you to let your band teacher know now so they can help you arrange transportation to the event. It should also be noted that there is no cost to participate in the festival. Please complete the attached page and return to school with your child indicating if he/she can participate. Feel free to contact your child’s band teacher at any time with questions about the Beginning Band Solo & Small Ensemble Festival.

Musically Yours,

Mr. Braun    Mr. Spath    Mr. Cosby    Mr. Myre
Omaha Public Schools Instrumental Music

Beginning Band Solo & Small Ensemble Festival
Registration Form
(please return with your child as soon as possible!)

Student Name: _________________________

Recommended Type of Performance for Your Child:

SOLO    SMALL ENSEMBLE    BOTH

Other Details that Parents/guardians will want to know:

- The date of this performance is Saturday, April 6th, 2019.
- All performances will take place between 8:00 am and noon on April 6th. The exact time for your child’s performance will be given to you at a later date.
- All performances will take place in the Buffett Magnet MS Music Rooms. Information with directions to Buffett will be given to you at a later date.
- There is NO COST for band students to participate in this festival. There is also NO COST for parents/guardians to come watch the performances.
- Your child’s band teacher will help find appropriate music for your child to perform and will help them prepare for the performance.

Each band student will receive comments from a highly qualified music educator to help them improve as they move forward. To help us know how many adjudicators to have on hand for this festival please place an X below to indicate whether your child has your permission to participate:

☐ YES, I want my child to participate in the Beginning Band Solo & Small Ensemble Festival! I understand that there is no bus transportation provided by OPS for this event and I should contact my child’s music teacher if help with transportation is needed.

☐ NO, my child will NOT be able to participate in the Beginning Band Solo & Small Ensemble Festival. I understand that this opportunity is being offered to all the 5th grade band students at my child’s school. However, my child is unable to participate at this time.