Greetings Parents/Guardians of 5th Grade Band Students!

It is hard to believe that only a short time ago your students 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 4th. 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. **More information can be found on the following page.** Feel free to contact your child’s band teacher at any time with questions about the Beginning Band Solo & Small Ensemble Festival.

Musically Yours,

*OPS Music Staff*
Beginning Band Solo & Small Ensemble Festival Information

* Students can perform SOLOS, SMALL ENSEMBLES (duets, trios, quartets) or even BOTH!

* Solos will be performed with piano accompaniment- in most cases a music teacher will play the piano with students who will be performing solos. In some cases an older students (7th or 8th grader) may play piano with students.

* Small ensembles can sometimes be the same instruments, but do not always have to be- there are options available for “mixed” instruments. However, know that there are some instrument combinations that are difficult to accommodate (for example, flute and tuba)- please talk with your music teacher for guidance in choosing a small ensemble piece.

Other Details that Parents/guardians will want to know:

- The date of this performance is Saturday, April 4th, 2020.
- All performances will take place somewhere between 8:00 am and 1:00 pm on April 4th. The exact time for your child’s performance will be given to you later.
- All performances will take place in the Buffett Magnet MS Music Rooms. Information with directions to Buffett MS 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.
- Know that OPS does NOT provide transportation to this event as it is outside the normal school day.
- If transportation is an issue for you and your student please contact your band teacher and they will help you solve this issue!
- 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 contact Mr. Cosby to get a sign-up sheet for this event!