

**NCHS Bands**  
**IHSA Solo and Ensemble Contest**  
**Saturday, March 3, 2012**  
**Normal Community West High School**

All band students are encouraged to participate at Solo and Ensemble Contest! You can play a solo and/or perform in small ensembles with your friends. You will perform in a classroom, in front of a judge and audience (family, friends) and receive a rating. Division I ratings are awarded medals. This provides a great opportunity to become a better musician!

SOLOS

- If you take private lessons, you are *highly encouraged* to play a solo for contest.
- If your solo/ensemble has an accompaniment part (piano), you must perform with an accompanist. Piano accompanists vary in price range; the average rate is \$25.00 – \$30.00 per accompaniment. Please let your director know if you need help securing an accompanist.
- You may select music on your own, with the help of your private teacher, or ask your director for recommendations. You should select quality art music for this contest, i.e., no “pop” or movie music. You can find music at any music store in town or online. Students will be responsible for purchasing their own solo music.
- Show your music to your director to confirm that it meets all Contest requirements.
- Talk to your piano teacher about taking a solo to contest.

ENSEMBLES

- Students can form their own small ensembles (2-6 players). These ensembles will be given some class time to prepare for contest, but should also plan on spending a good amount together of time outside of regular rehearsals.
- The band owns some music for small ensembles, and students are welcome to select from our library. If students find a piece at a store that we consider to be “basic library” (a classic or standard piece), we will purchase it.
- Think about music selection when you’re forming your group. There aren’t a lot of duets written for piccolo and tuba! Also, each player has to perform *their own part* – no doubling allowed.
- Show your music to your director to confirm that it meets all Contest requirements.

## OTHER INFORMATION

- You can receive extra credit in band for participation in Solo and Ensemble Contest. Points will be awarded based the events you perform in and the ratings you receive.
- The district pays for the students' entry fees for the contest. If a student withdraws from the contest, or the directors feel that he/she is exceptionally unprepared, the student will be responsible for reimbursing the school for the cost of the entry fee.
- You will receive more information about Contest as we get closer to March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- If you register to participate but are unprepared the week before Contest (at your director's discretion), you will forfeit your performance time and be responsible for reimbursing NCHS for your Registration Fee.
- To participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest, fill out the attached Registration Form, have your parents sign, and return it to your director on or before **Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>**. If you need help selecting music or finding an accompanist, please turn in the form **ASAP**.

# IHSA SOLO AND ENSEMBLE CONTEST Registration Form

Please check all that apply and supply requested information:

\_\_\_\_\_ ***Piano Solo*** Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ***Instrumental Solo*** Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years I've played this instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

Accompanist: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I need help selecting music

\_\_\_\_\_ I need help finding an accompanist

\_\_\_\_\_ ***Instrumental Ensemble*** Title: \_\_\_\_\_

List ALL other members/instruments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ We need help selecting music

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\_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to participate in the IHSA Solo and Ensemble Contest on March 3, 2012. We have read and understood the guidelines above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature Date