



BAND MIDYEAR EXAMS

WHEN: Exams begin Monday, January 4. Sign up for a study hall, before school or after school time. If you sign up for a class time, the teacher may not let you come & you will lose responsibility points for missing your exam. If you have not signed up for a time before vacation, I will sign you up for your earliest possible study hall or after school time.

WHAT: Except for the symphonic band percussionists, everything you need to play for the exam is stuff you already know, or you need to learn, so this is a great time to show off! Here are the 3 things you need to prepare to play for me:

1. Scales or Rudiments (3 points) THESE MUST BE MEMORIZED! (You may use scales & rudiments that you have already played for me, they do not need to be new.)

>Concert band:

Winds: *chromatic scale* 1 octave, memorized

Plus 2 *major or minor scales* - know the key signatures & memorized

Drums: even single strokes; alternating single stroke sixteenth notes and quarter note roll (the cadencing rolls exercise); chromatic scale on xylophone or marimba (say note names); 2 rudiments from memory (know their names, be careful of accents and counting).

>Symphonic band:

Winds: *chromatic scale* 1 octave, memorized

Plus 3 *major or minor scales* - know the key signatures & memorized. Advanced students should push themselves to perform at the Junior District scale requirement level, or at least aiming in that direction.

Drums: even single strokes; a sustained long roll; a long roll - crescendo, decrescendo (8 beats each way, metronome marking about 80); chromatic scale on xylophone or marimba (say note names); 4 rudiments from memory (know their names, be careful of accents, counting and upstrokes, slow / fast / slow).

2. Music (3 points)

>Concert Band: Check your personal goal & our band goal (created in band)

Winds: *Curse of Tut* - prepare from 11-20 (trumpets, take the pickups). Dynamics are VERY important here to give the feel of something mysterious! This section is slow. ALSO, prepare 55 - the end. Be able to count and clap any place in these sections and use your tongue correctly! !

>>Count carefully, watch for accents, slurs, dynamics and all those details. I will be asking you to count out loud through any long rests. Work on DETAILS! I want to hear a pretty tone and great dynamics - there are lots of dynamic changes; be careful! Work hard and show off how great you can play!

Percussion: *Curse of Tut* - prepare 55 to the end. I will be looking for dynamics, counting (rests and where you play), keeping track of where you are in the music and accurate playing technique. Also, everyone please prepare 51-55 of the snare drum part.

Count out loud: you will not get an A if you don't count out loud!!!!

>Symphonic Band: Remember your personal goal and our band goal

Winds: *Danse Macabre*

Prepare about 8-16 measures of a challenging spot of your choice. Get the details, smooth out the finger / tongue coordination and pay attention to your tone. Also, prepare any short section from either piece that shows your more legato playing (pick a section that makes sense musically - don't stop or start in the middle of an idea). Be sure you get all of the dynamics, slurs and other markings.

>>I will ask you to count the long rests & I will be listening for awesome, incredible dynamic contrasts. Watch the details.

Percussion: Prepare the Junior District auxiliary percussion part. Practice the rhythms at home, but come in at lunch, during study, before school, or after school and work on playing it on the appropriate instruments. Percussionists must count out loud, get details, count rests correctly, change tempos, and use correct technique for each instrument. This is tough, but you can do it and I will help you if you ask! Also, take it to your private teacher.

3. Sight Reading: (3 points)

You will get an 8 measure exercise and you need to do four things: write in the counting, set up the beat and say the counting, practice silently and play! You get two tries - if you don't like the way you played it, you can practice silently some more and take a second try. Check the practice sheet for an example.

> **Concert Band:** Your sight-reading will concentrate on eighth note, quarter note, half note notes and rests.

> **Symphonic Band:** Your sight-reading exercise will include dotted eighth - sixteenth and dotted quarter-eighth patterns.

4. Overall Performance & Preparation: (1 point)

GRADING: 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. The grade will be your quiz and test grade for this term. (Notice, you can earn 2 extra points for a well played exam, because the test and quizzes category is only 8 points and you can earn up to ten points for the exam -- a perfect 10 points is not expected. These extra points can be enrichment.)

HINTS:

- > Don't wait until the last minute to sign up.
- > 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!) All advanced players should sign up for the first or second week (except SB percussion - you need more time).
- > *See me (or your private teacher) if you need help -- you don't have to prepare alone! I want you to do well!*
- > *Percussionists count out loud...*
- > Watch details! Dynamics, slurs, accents, length of note, accurate rhythms, style are all necessary for a good grade!
- > Remember to check your goals and see if you are meeting them in the exam!
- > If the assignment is too hard for you, see me for an alternative assignment.

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

- The goals you set for yourself
- The exam self-assessment sheet -- *not* filled out!
- The band progress chart we did in rehearsal -- *filled out!*
- Your music
- Your brain and nerves of steel. (But you're not nervous, right? Of course not, because you've *practiced!*)

(If you have practiced, I will be able to tell -- even if you aren't the best player in the band. I've listened to students play for over 30 years, and I recognize who has practiced and who hasn't! Work hard and I will be proud of you no matter how well you play compared to everyone else!)

Practice hard, and you'll find this exam easy and good for your self-esteem! --It is fun to show off what you can do!

