**All-State – Second Round Auditions**

So you got recommended for the All-State Band…

Because you performed the music so well at the All-District audition, you’ve been recommended to audition for the All-State ensembles. There are 3 All-State Ensembles: the All-State Orchestra, the All-State Symphonic Band (top players) and the All-State Concert Band. Only the best students in the STATE get to participate in the All-State bands and even then it’s usually only once. Getting in is a HUGE DEAL ☺

When is the audition?

**Saturday December 9th** at John Hardin HS in Elizabethtown. Times are randomly assigned (coming soon.)

What do we do?

There are three parts to this audition – the **prepared excerpts, scales, and sight reading**.

Prepared Excerpts: these are the same two excerpts you used to audition for All-District Band. KEEP WORKING ON THEM. In this round, everyone is VERY proficient at them – you have to stand out in a very good way. Musicality is very important – phrase shapes, crescendos, diminuendos, etc. Feel free to add some in that aren’t written on the page (that’s REALLY being musical - I can help you with this.) Make sure there’s shape even in quicker passages.

Scales: (WINDS AND BRASS ONLY) these are the same scales you used to audition for All-District Band. However, now they MUST be performed at quarter note = 120 bpm and MUST be the octaves written or you will receive a 0. These are judged in a separate room from your prepared pieces. You can still use your scale sheet.

Sight-Reading: Sight-reading is the new element and judged in the same room as your scales (same room as excerpts for percussion.) If students do well on the sight-reading it can give them a great edge over other performers. Students receive 30 seconds to look over a short excerpt (NO PLAYING) and then must perform it from beginning to end and they only receive one chance. Here are steps to being a successful sight-reader:

1. Look at the KEY SIGNATURE. Keep in mind which notes are sharp or flat and make note of them as you look through the excerpt.
2. Look at the TIME SIGNATURE. A lot of times the All-State sight-reading will be in a less common signature (sometimes you’ll get lucky and get 4/4, 3/4, or 2/4, but if so there’s usually some trickier passages.)
3. Look through the excerpt for any tricky rhythms or faster passages and finger through them.
4. Use the time you have left to finger through (and sing in your head) the passage from beginning to end. DON’T FORGET DYNAMICS. It’s better to make a shape and miss a note, than to play all the notes correctly but not make it musical.
5. When you begin playing, select a COMFORTABLE tempo that allows you to play the quicker passages cleanly.

**SmartMusic is going to be your best friend when it comes to sight-reading.** There are hundreds of excerpts available in the software. Click “Free Selections” on the right and you’ll see “Sight Reading Excerpts” levels 1-10 (1 is the easiest.) The higher level excerpts are similar to what you’ll see on the All-State audition - work your way up. It only lets you study them for 30 seconds before it makes you play so it will be exactly like the audition.

Mrs. B would LOVE to help you!!! I will be setting up EDGE sessions multiple days a week, and I also have afternoons open to help prepare you for the auditions. We can do a lesson over the excerpts or have a sight-reading lesson. I’m here to help in any way you need!