York Preparatory Academy

Band of Revolution

3rd 9 Weeks Performance Assessment and

SCBDA Concert Performance Assessment

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter is to inform you of the requirements (playing quizzes) necessary to meet the student’s Individual Performance Assessment for the 3rd 9 Weeks. The Individual Performance Assessments (Chair-Placements) will also be used to determine participation the 2016 South Carolina Band Director’s Association Concert Performance Assessment (aka. “Festival”) in March of the upcoming year.

The Concert Performance Assessment is the State’s “standardized test” for instrumental music. Each year, both Middle and High Schools showcase their best performers and performances at 1 of 5 venues located around South Carolina. Participation in the SCBDA CPA is based solely on the responsibility and dedication of the individual student. Weekly Chair Placement testing is aimed to:

1) Encourage and motivate students to practice

2) Engage the students’ musical abilities

3) Help students achieve personal goals

4) Increase musical awareness and appreciation for band.

The YPA Middle School Symphonic Band has seen growth and success through previous years of participating in this event: 2012-EXCELLENT rating, 2013-EXCELLENT rating, 2014-EXCELLENT rating, 2015-SUPERIOR rating.

THIS DOES NOT CORRELATE WITH THE **CAROWINDS MUSIC FESTIVAL**. ALL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE AT THE CAROWINDS FESTIVAL OF MUSIC REGARDLESS OF GRADE, SCORES OR CHAIR PLACEMENTS.

Procedures/Requirements

1. All 7th and 8th Grade Band Students will be given a playing quiz every week. After each playing quiz, their scores are averaged from the previous week; then ranked accordingly.
2. Playing quizzes will be announced 1 week prior and posted onto Echalk.
3. All 7th and 8th Grade Students will be given anywhere between 6 and 7 playing quizzes total.
4. Students may retake playing quizzes as many times as they need to for improvement (or “challenge” the adjacent student).
5. Students may make up any playing quizzes in which he/she may miss before or after school.
6. Students are NOT given a zero if they miss a quiz, however, they will not receive credit either.
7. Students must acquire and maintain a chair placement average of **42 Points** (out of 50) to be eligible to attend the SCBDA CPA.
8. To determine the student’s grade for a particular quiz, add 50 points (42 = 92 B).

Expectations

1. **Ensemble Presence**
2. Posture (student sits with their feet flat on the floor, back is straight and away from the back of the chair)
3. Instrument Carriage (instrument is held at its respected angle, elbows are not tucked into body, hand position is correct)
4. **Performance Criteria**
5. Tone (student uses an adequate amount of air to produce a mature sound, the sound is not “limited” or “pinched.”)
6. Style (student plays appropriate articulations, dynamics, and completes phrases)
7. Rhythm Accuracy (student plays all the rhythms correctly)
8. Note Accuracy (student plays all the notes correctly using correct fingerings)
9. Tempo (student keeps a consistent pace; student does not stop and start again)
10. **Non-Performance Criteria**
11. Attentiveness (focused and ready in “set” position)
12. Responsibility (student practices, keeps up with music, brings instrument to class, etc.)
* Students are deducted 5 points if they talk or create any disruption while another student is playing their test.
* Any accelerated 6th grader may also participate if proper instrumentation is needed. They too, must meet the same requirements.
* Playing Quizzes may include Sight Reading
* Students will also be given a multiple choice test on the Sight Reading room Procedures

**All scores will be locked Tuesday, March 15th**

**This is not a permission slip. Permission slips will be given to those students who meet the requirements. HOWEVER, ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS ARE ASKED TO SIGN THIS TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE IS IN GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE EXPECTATIONS FOR THE THIRD NINE WEEKS PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT AND CPA ELIGIBILITY.**

I have read and understood the Procedures and Expectations set forth to meet the requirements for the 3rd Nine Weeks Individual Performance Assessment and Participation eligibility for the 2016 SCBDA Concert Performance Assessment.

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

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