

January 14, 2019

Dear Band and Orchestra Families,

On Saturday, March 30, 2019, Long Reach High School will host this year's Howard County Elementary Solo and Ensemble Festival. All students enrolled in Band or Orchestra are eligible to participate as either a solo performer with a piano accompanist (accompanist not required but highly recommended), or a small ensemble consisting of two or more instrumentalists. Upon Mrs. Cherry and Mr. Deitrich's approval and submission of the attached registration form and required fee, students will be given a ten-minute time slot between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm, to perform their prepared work. Students will receive written and verbal feedback from their adjudicator as well as a certificate commemorating their participation. Although a request for an AM or PM time slot may be made, this is not a guarantee and families should anticipate reserving the entire day to avoid conflicts.

Students who take private lessons should be advised by their private instructor regarding participation and repertoire. Students who elect to perform a solo are encouraged to do so with a pianist although this is not a requirement. Families are responsible for procuring an accompanist and scheduling rehearsals prior to the Festival performance. It is important that pianists are compensated for their time. Families should anticipate paying fees for rehearsals as well as the performance.

If your child elects to participate in an ensemble (2 or more students), we can assist them in selecting the appropriate music. Practice at home is essential to the students having a positive experience. We will be able to offer some assistance to small groups but the majority of the practicing is to take place outside of the school day.

As you can see, this is very much an independent project. Students will need to pace themselves and be sure to practice so they are ready to perform. ***It is incredibly stressful for all involved when a student is not prepared and time to do so has run out!***

In order to participate, complete the attached registration form and return it to us by Wednesday, February 20, 2019 along with the registration fee. Cash is fine and checks should be made out to Clarksville Elementary School.

Once the festival coordinators schedule all of the events, they will email a list of performance times to all of the directors. As soon as we have that information, we will send it along to you. If you have any questions, please contact us at school.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cherry, Band
Mr. Deitrich, Orchestra