



Solo Performance Exam



All Sparta Lincoln band students in grades 6-8 are required to work on a solo for their 3rd quarter grade. The students will listen to and choose their own solo material from our collection of available music. I will determine the level of difficulty of the solo for each student based on their previous performances and the amount of time on their instruments. We will work together on preparing these solos in our weekly lessons, but additional individual practice time will be necessary to obtain a good grade. Students will be asked to play the solo and submit their recordings through SmartMusic. The students will have all quarter to practice these solos and submit their best score by the end of 3rd quarter.

Why is this a required assignment?

1. When a student plays their instrument alone, they listen more to the quality of their sound than if they were playing with the full band. Therefore, individual tone quality improves dramatically.
2. As students practice more on solo music they gain independence as individual players. This makes them better musicians and also makes the band as a whole much stronger.
3. Band is a performance class. We should be exploring all types of performance styles. Solo performing and small group ensemble playing are just two more opportunities to grow as musicians.

Extra credit

If a student chooses to take their prepared solo to the Solo & Ensemble contest, they will receive 10 extra credit points added straight to their solo test grade. Additionally, if a student chooses to take an ensemble to contest, I will add an extra 5 points to their solo test grade. If they were to take their solo AND an ensemble to contest, they would receive 15 extra credit points.