Each year the Georgia Music Educators Association sponsors a Solo and Ensemble Festival. This event is designed to give students the experience of performing alone or in small groups for a judge and receiving a rating. When the students are properly prepared, Solo and Ensemble Festival can be one of the most rewarding and educational experiences offered during the year. At the same time, if not handled correctly, it can be an unnerving, non-educational exercise in futility that can do more harm than good.

**GENERAL RULES**

1. Students may participate in no more than 2 events (either one solo and one ensemble or two ensembles). There is simply not enough time to adequately prepare for more than two.
2. Students are expected to take Solo and Ensemble Festival as seriously as Full Band Festival. To perform at a level to be proud of, it will take serious preparation.
3. One of the band directors will help students pick out an appropriate piece of music.

**SPECIFIC RULES FOR SOLOS**

1. The majority of all solos require piano accompaniment. Since Mrs. Estes plays piano, she will be able to accompany our Smitha students free of charge. Please make arrangements with Mrs. Estes if you want her to accompany you on piano.

**SPECIFIC RULES FOR ENSEMBLES**

1. Since ensembles are a group effort involving several students, it is important that each member spend time preparing their individual part before the group rehearses together. Students do not have to be studying privately to participate in an ensemble.
2. As a general rule, stay within your instrument’s “family” (i.e. brass with brass, woodwinds with woodwinds, percussion with percussion) when forming your ensembles.
3. Since ensembles involve only a few people, each member is vitally important. Be committed to your group and the group’s success.
4. All ensembles should plan on scheduling time to rehearse with one of the band directors. Coaching time is available before and after school. Be sure to schedule a specific time with the director who is working with your group.

**DATES, DEADLINES and FEES**

1. The site for this year’s Festival is Hightower Trail Middle School on Saturday, November 12th. We will probably not receive exact performance times until the week of the festival. Therefore, do not plan anything else on that date from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. since we have no idea when you will be scheduled. We will let you know exact times as soon as we receive them.
2. Fees, as dictated by GMEA, are as follows:
   - **SOLOS = $12.00**
   - **ENSEMBLES = $12.00 per SLOT (12 divided by # of students)**
3. Make all checks payable to Smitha Middle School. **Fees must be paid by THURSDAY, SEPT. 8.** This is an ironclad deadline since we have to mail in all applications on time for them to be accepted. **All monies are non-refundable once we send them to GMEA.**

**SIGN-UP SHEET IS ON THE BAND OFFICE DOOR!**