



Dear Parents and Students,

As we transition into the next part of our performing year, we want to make sure that all of you are getting prepared for the Region 17 UIL Solo and Ensemble contest on February 6<sup>th</sup> at Clear Creek High School. This event is required for all DHS Band students, and will constitute a major portion of their grade.

Students should plan on getting their music as soon as possible. Students may select their own solo if they wish, but it must be approved by a band director or private lesson instructor. On Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, RBC music will be at DHS with pieces of music for students to select. Students and parents may purchase their piece at this time. The cost for this will vary depending on the difficulty of the piece and the publisher. Please note that UIL requires students to have an original copy of their piece when they perform.

In addition, UIL also requires that students have a live accompanist for their performance. We will have accompanists available for the students for this event. Please note that students may only use a DHS approved accompanist. This ensures that students will have a reliable person to perform with. Rehearsals with accompanists will begin two weeks prior to the contest. Students will be able to sign up for rehearsal times during school. The cost for the accompanist will range from \$35 - \$50 depending on the difficulty of the piece being performed.

All students must turn in a numbered piano part by Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. This will be for a double major grade, so please make sure that you meet this deadline. These parts will then be given to the student's assigned accompanist. Students will keep the original solo part to give to the judge the day of the contest.

Every student is required to participate in an ensemble as well. Students may choose the membership and select the piece for their ensemble, pending approval from the DHS directors. Students must play with people from their class period. It is highly recommended that students have this decided prior to the Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> music fair so that the ensemble can decide as a group what piece to play and can share the cost of that music. **Please note that all pieces for UIL Solo and Ensemble must be on the UIL Prescribed Music List.** This can be found online at [www.utexas.edu/uil/pml/](http://www.utexas.edu/uil/pml/).

This year's contest will be held at Clear Creek High School. The exact schedule for the day will be set by the region as we get closer to the event. We will discuss this with the students in more detail as we get closer. Because of the unique nature of this event, students and parents will be able to take care of their own transportation to CCHS. This will allow students to arrive, play promptly, and then leave to enjoy the rest of their Saturday.

This activity is a great opportunity for students to become more individually proficient on their instrument. Parents, please make sure that you are hearing your child play their instrument **EVERY DAY!** Consistent practice is the key to being a successful musician!

Musically Yours,  
Dawson High School Band Staff