

# Advanced Band Concert MPA



Dear Parents and Guardians,

MPA stands for “Music Performance Assessment”. Students in the Advanced Band and selected students from Jazz Band and Percussion Ensemble will participate in this annual performance in late March. Parents, please mark your calendars now.

At this event, middle school bands from multiple counties will perform three prepared pieces for a panel of judges in a large auditorium filled with their peers, family members, and professional musicians.

The judges at the event are experienced professional musicians that grade the students’ performance. Using a music rubric, the judges grade separately and then afterwards average the scores for an overall rating. The ratings include: “Superior” = A, “Excellent” = B, “Good” = C, “Fair” = D, and “Poor” = F. After the students perform the prepared pieces, they are ushered to the school’s band room to sight read two pieces of music they have never seen before. This is to assess the students’ sight-reading ability.

Our top band has consistently been awarded an overall superior rating for their past performances. If a superior rating is earned, medals will be distributed to student participants and worn at the final concert.

## Rehearsals and Performances

To prepare for this event, the students need to have some rehearsals after school to rehearse with professionals. This is also a *GREAT* learning experience!

Please check the dates below. Students that don’t attend the rehearsals cannot attend the EOY Trip. Also, the MPA performance and rehearsals are a *large* part of the grade for the third and fourth quarters.

Please attempt to schedule other events around the dates below. If there is a conflict, please contact Mr. Ostrow asap or turn in the excuse form to Mr. Ostrow on the back ASAP.

- 1) **Woodwind** Sectional in the Ainger band room, Thursday Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm.
- 2) **Brass and Percussion** Sectional in the Ainger band room, Thursday March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4-6pm.
- 3) **Full Band** Rehearsal in the Ainger band room on Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm with a guest clinician.
- 4) **Full Band** Rehearsal in the Ainger band room on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm with a guest clinician.
- 5) **MPA Performance on Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at the Venice HS Performing Arts Center.** Exact performance time is TBA. Buses to and from the performance will be provided. Students will receive a performance checklist as we near the performance.