

Dear Directors,

We welcome you to Highlands Jr. School for the 2020 UIL Band Concert and Sight-reading contest held on April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. It is an honor to host this contest and it is our goal to meet the needs of every band and student involved to the best of our ability.

Our school is located at 1212 E Wallisville Rd, Highlands, TX 77562. The easiest way to get to Highlands Jr. is to take I-10 to exit 789, turn north on Thompson Rd. about 2 miles. Turn left onto Wallisville and the school will be on the right. Please enter the parking area from the far-left entrance, drive all the way around the back of the school and back to the front right side (bus lane). Both students and equipment can be dropped off there and busses / equipment trucks can remain parked there provided your arrival or departure time does not interfere with the release of school. Our school ends at 4:30 PM. **Parents may not park in the bus lane at any time.** Parents must park in either the front parking lot or the back.

You will be met by a student representative from Highlands Jr. Students will enter the Fine Arts wing through the door by the orchestra room and will be directed to the waiting area or warm-up room and the location of the nearest restrooms.

Upon arrival, each director should check in with the contest office located in the black box (theater room). Please remember to have numbered judges scores with your school's name on the front and remember that **YOU STILL NEED A FORM 1.**

Student monitors will be assigned to your group and will lead you through the contest process. Please leave your cases on the bus or truck as there is no storage area available. We also strongly encourage you to have your students dressed upon arrival as we cannot provide dressing rooms. There will be enough chairs for each group in warm up, stage, and sight-reading rooms but be aware that the warm-up room will not be set up for your ensemble. In the warm-up room we will provide a metronome and a chromatic tuner.

#### **Equipment available for the stage:**

Bass Drum

Four Timpani

Chimes

Xylophone

Marimba

Gong

No mallets or sticks will be provided

#### **About the stage:**

The acoustical shell will be left in place for all bands unless requested otherwise. It is my suggestion that you leave it up for the best sounding performance. The stage has a good acoustical balance. There is a large apron at the front of the stage which is suitable for woodwinds. We recommend that you position brass behind the curtain line. I do not suggest using risers. The auditorium has very nice resonance and is great for recording.

We will do our best to keep the contest on schedule, so please be prepared to enter the warm-up room on time and plan to leave the warm-up room 5 minutes early. We will have a stage crew to set up for your band, but it is in your best interest to have another band director available to fine tune your setup. Please instruct your percussion section to set up on their own for the performance (the same way they do at home). If your setup changes from your original version, please send us a new one as soon as you can.

We will be using the choir room as a holding area if needed. Absolutely no playing will be allowed in the choir room. Warm-up will be in the orchestra room. We request that the door to this room stay closed during warm-up. After warm-up your monitor will direct you to the auditorium. After your stage performance you will be led to the band hall for sight-reading. Please note the route for these changes in the map. Ratings will be provided in the contest office. Please do not enter the judge's room for any reason without Ben's permission.

Auditorium doors will be closed during each performance. The Highlands Jr. administration would like all directors to remember that classes are still in session. Please do not allow students to leave your group. Students must also remain quiet in the fine arts hallway because of the proximity to the performances.

Please keep contact with your transportation providers. The buses should not have to move once you are unloaded but in case there is an issue it may become important to contact your drivers. Upon completion of your sight-reading you will be led back to the drop off/ pick up area. Make your drivers aware of the approximate time of your departure. Also, please be aware that student monitors cannot watch students when a director is not present. Please make arrangements to have another director or parent chaperone available.

**VERY IMPORTANT!** If your arrival time or performance time is between 8:00 to 9:00 am or 4:00 to 5:00 pm please be prepared for traffic.

It is our desire to do everything in our power to ensure that you and your students have a successful UIL experience. If at any time we can do anything to assist you, please do not hesitate to ask. We wish you the best of luck.

Thank you.

Von Silverberg (409) 201- 4636

Leslie Moore (281) 787-0374

[von.silverberg@gccisd.net](mailto:von.silverberg@gccisd.net)

[leslie.moore@gccisd.net](mailto:leslie.moore@gccisd.net)