

Musical Milestones



Dunlap School District Bands

The Musical Milestones program is designed to recognize the individual musical achievements of band students in grades 5-8. This program focuses on 5 areas of musicianship at 5 levels of achievement. The 5 areas of musicianship are listed below. We collectively refer to them as “The Five Ts.”

1. **Tone** – Does the student demonstrate a characteristic sound on the instrument? Is the student using proper embouchure formation and posture?
2. **Timing (Rhythm)**– Is the student able to count rhythms correctly at a steady tempo?
3. **Technique** – Does the student demonstrate proper coordination of tongue and fingers? Does the student use proper hand/finger technique?
4. **Taste** – Does the student understand elements of musical expression (dynamics, phrasing, etc.)?
5. **Thinking on the Fly (Sight-reading)** – Is the student able to look at a piece of music for the first time and perform the notes, rhythms, dynamics, and articulations as indicated in the music?

The levels of musicianship are outlined below.

1. **Bronze Star Musician** – A student possesses a preliminary understanding of the fundamental concepts of performance on his particular instrument.
2. **Silver Star Musician** – A student has mastered the fundamental concepts on his instrument is able to perform at an early intermediate level.
3. **Gold Star Musician** – A student possesses a preliminary understanding of more advanced musical concepts beyond the fundamental concepts on the instrument and is able to perform at an intermediate level.
4. **Platinum Musician** – A student is able to perform at an upper intermediate level and performs at IGSMA Solo & Ensemble Contest.
5. **Diamond Musician** – A student is able to perform at an advanced level and is selected for participation in the IMEA concert band.

To achieve each milestone, a student must successfully perform for an instructor the etudes in each of the 5 areas of musicianship. Performance opportunities will happen at the instructor’s discretion. Upon successful completion of each level of musicianship, students will receive an award pin for display on their band uniforms. Levels must be completed sequentially.

Bronze Star Musician



Woodwind and Brass etudes for the Bronze Star Musician milestone are taken from *Essential Elements 2000*, Book 1.

1. **Tone** – page 40 #1 (page 41 #1 for horn and oboe)
2. **Timing** – page 42 (count entire page aloud)
3. **Technique** – page 26 #135
4. **Taste** – page 11 #51
5. **Thinking on the Fly (Sight Reading)** – Due to the nature of the Sight-Reading area, the etude will not be revealed until the performance with the instructor.

Percussion etudes for the Bronze Star Musician milestone are taken from *Fundamentals of Rhythm for the Drummer* by Joe Maroni and *Snare Technique Exercises* (supplemental material provided to all percussion students). All etudes will be performed on snare drum.

1. **Tone** – Snare Technique Exercises #4 (Drum must be properly tuned for good tone.)
2. **Timing** – page 27 Rhythm Study (count aloud)
3. **Technique** – Snare Technique Exercises #2
4. **Taste** – Snare Technique Exercises #1 (performed at 1" and 6" stick heights)
5. **Thinking on the Fly (Sight Reading)** – Due to the nature of the Sight-Reading area, the etude will not be revealed until the performance with the instructor.

Silver Star Musician



Woodwind and Brass etudes for the Silver Star Musician milestone are taken from *Essential Elements 2000, Book 2*.

1. **Tone** – page 22 #107
2. **Timing** – page 42 measures 1-20 (count aloud)
3. **Technique** – page 16 #80
4. **Taste** – page 14 #65
5. **Thinking on the Fly (Sight Reading)** – Due to the nature of the Sight-Reading area, the etude will not be revealed until the performance with the instructor.

Percussion etudes for the Silver Star Musician milestone are taken from *Fundamentals of Rhythm for the Drummer* by Joe Maroni and supplemental materials supplied for timpani, bass drum, and multi-toms. Tone, Timing, Technique, and Taste will all be considered for each etude.

1. **Snare Drum** –page 87 Rhythm Study (Maroni)
2. **Timpani** –supplemental etude
3. **Bass Drum** – supplemental etude
4. **Multi-toms** –supplemental etude
5. **Thinking on the Fly (Sight Reading)** – Due to the nature of the Sight-Reading area, the etude will not be revealed until the performance with the instructor. This etude will be performed on snare drum.

Gold Star Musician



Woodwind and Brass students will play the “Individual Study” on page 40 of *Essential Elements 2000, Book 2*. The performance will be evaluated based on tone, time, technique, and taste. Superior performance in each of these areas of musicianship must be achieved for Gold Star status. Additionally, students will sight-read one etude.

All Percussion students will play the five “Individual Study” etudes on pages 39-A and 39-B of *Essential Elements 2000, Book 2*. Additionally, snare track students will play Solo #12 (supplemental materials), and mallet track students will play the “Individual Study” on page 40-A of *Essential Elements 2000, Book 2*. The performance will be evaluated based on tone, time, technique, and taste. Superior performance in each of these areas of musicianship must be achieved for Gold Star status. All percussion students will sight-read one etude (either snare or mallet).

Platinum Musician



Students will prepare and perform a solo at IGSMMA Solo & Ensemble Contest in March. Alternatively, students unable to attend Solo & Ensemble Contest may prepare a solo and perform it for the instructor. The solo must be at a higher level of difficulty than the solos played to achieve Gold Star status.

Diamond Musician



Students will audition and be selected for the IMEA concert band. Auditions take place in early October, and the Festival takes place in mid November. The audition consists of a scale sheet and one etude for woodwind and brass players. Percussionists will play timpani, snare drum, and mallet percussion etudes.

Students who audition but are not selected may still achieve Diamond status through a superior performance of the etudes for an instructor.