

Marching Band Contest: Everything You NEED to KNOW!

Introduction

The Teays Valley Marching Band performs in four District Adjudicated Events (Contests) over the course of the fall. The Ohio Music Education Association sanctions these events and the adjudicators (judges) who evaluate our performance. The goal of participating in Band Contests is to constantly strive for Improvement and Performance Excellence each week.

Band Class Description

Each Band performs in a Class or division that is based on their school size not their band size. School size is determined by grades 10-12 minus Career Center and Digital Academy Students.

Class C=300 and below	Class A=601-900
Class B=301-600	Class AA=900 and above

Ratings

The bands do not compete against each other in a contest, but rather against an approved standard of excellence. Bands are issued ratings (I-V) based on their musicianship, performance accuracy, showmanship and confidence. Bands that earn an overall rating of I-Superior at a District Event are eligible to perform at the State Level. Teays Valley has been a part of State Finals **every year** since 1980 *except 1991*.

Here is a summary of the Ratings and their meanings:

I Superior An outstanding performance with very few technical errors and exemplifying a truly musical expression. This should be reserved for the truly outstanding performance.

II Excellent A strong performance in many respects, however not worthy of the highest rating due to minor defects in performance, ineffective interpretation or improper instrumentation.

III Good An acceptable performance, but not outstanding. Showing marked promise, but lacking in one or more essential qualities.

IV Fair A poor performance showing many technical errors, poor musical conception, lack of interpretation, incomplete instrumentation, or lacking in any of the other essential qualities.

V Poor A very poor performance indicating deficiencies in most of the essential factors and indication that much careful attention should be given to the fundamentals of good performance. This rating should be used sparingly and only when it is possible to cite major faults.

Obviously, the goal of the band is to perform at its very best and ultimately become better musicians and performers. Awards and high ratings are a result of their best effort.

Rankings

The District Contests that we attend will assign each band a rating in addition to ranking the bands from highest points to lowest points in each class-C, B, A and AA. It is possible for more than one band to get a Superior Rating. Ratings are always assigned by receiving a certain number of points. Obviously, the band with the highest total of points wins the class. Awards are usually presented by class, and the band with the overall highest point total is usually named the Grand Champion.

Judges

There are seven judges involved with the evaluation of the band. There are 2 Music Judges, a

Percussion Judge, 2 General Effect Judges, a Visual Judge and a Color Guard Judge. All judges have comment sheets to provide written feedback. They also make a digital recording while the show is being performed so there are recorded comments in “real time.” The two music, general effect and visual judge all give up to 100 points that helps to determine the rating of each band. The final numerical score is the average of the points added together and divided by 5.

Music Judges evaluate the technical accuracy of the performers. They will concern themselves with how well the winds and percussion play together, and the quality of the repertoire being performed. Each music judge can award up to 100 points that helps to determine the final rating. The percussion judge gives a score, but the score is not included in the overall points.

General Effect Judges evaluate the musical and visual presentation of all of the performers. They also look at how effective the performance is in the area of creativity and imagination and how well the music and drill coordinate together for a unified production. The General Effect judges also consider how the color guard and drum majors contribute to the overall effectiveness of the show. Each general effect judge can award up to 100 points that helps to determine the final rating.

The Visual Judge will watch the marching performance, evaluate the accuracy of the marching definition, and evaluate the construction complexity of the patterns and designs with respect to individuals. The Visual Judge will also determine how well the construction of the show including how well the drill matches the music and how well the visual aspects (especially the color guard) of the show are coordinated. The Visual judge can award up to 100 points that helps to determine the final rating.

Some General Hints to Band Members:

- Contests are different from football games...it will be very quiet. Don't let this rattle you. Just *focus* and march/play your show at the highest level possible.
- The percussion judge usually spends some time on the field. You should avoid contact with the judge if at all possible.....meaning don't run him/her over.
- Get your *toes up and your shoulders cranked to the sideline*. You must over exaggerate everything you do in order for it to be seen from the press box
- *Watch the Drum Major*. The DM is always right, no matter what.
- Make sure that your sound blends together with the other players in your section. *Balance and Blend*.
- Know the important parts of the music in regard to balance and dynamics.
- Make each musical phrase *Rise and Fall*, don't just play notes.
- Color Guard marching is as important as spinning. Good Timing is essential. ● DON'T MOVE for any reason when the band is stopped. “*One mistake becomes two.*” If you make a mistake, recover....don't fall to pieces.
- Get your show music passed off as early as you can. It will make contest performances much more enjoyable.
- Your uniform shirt is the only shirt that you may wear under your uniform. We will usually change after the performance into clothes that are alike. For example: Your Show Shirt, Jeans and comfy shoes.
- Hornline: We want you to play. If you are one of those kids who has issues with marching, it is much better to stay in step and focus on marching until you are more comfortable doing both at the same time.

Do Your Best no matter what. That is all that anyone here will ever expect from you.
Have FUN! You have worked hard all season to perform for an appreciative audience.

Parent Hints for Contest:

- Insist that your band kid gets some sleep the night before and eats breakfast the morning of contest.
- Please attend contest. Your band kid may never say it directly to you, but performing at contest is much more fun when you know there's someone in the audience cheering just for you!
- Try to sit with other Teays Valley Parents. The kids love to see a large cheering section. Please be a little early for our performance. If you get there after we have already gone on the field, you'll miss the show, because you can only sit down in-between the bands.
- Don't try to second guess the judges. The staff has been attending contests with bands for over 99 years combined, and we choose to focus on steady improvement. Assume that the kids did their best, and it will improve the following performance. Every judge won't love us every show....hopefully most will.
- We will get the weekly schedules with the contest information out to you as soon as possible. Sometimes, though, the contest chairmen wait until the last minute to publish the schedule. You should block out the entire day for Band Contest.
- We need you to cheer for us....but unfortunately; there are certain times that we need to be able to hear on the field. In general, please go nuts any time that they introduce our band and at the end of songs when the Drum Major faces the audience. Please applaud for solos, but remember, there is usually other music happening following the solo.
- **Please, please, please PLEASE refrain from yelling out when the stadium is quiet.** It is the last chance for the band to focus. It's especially distracting when parents yell out one performer's name. It disrupts the flow of the show, and interrupts the concentration of the band and judges. Remember, each and every kid is important and vital to our success.
- Wear your Teays Valley Band Apparel. We want everyone to know who we are.

There is a huge tradition of Excellence that has become an expectation for The Golden Sound of the Vikings! The tradition wouldn't be the same without dedicated parents, students and supporters. We're all in this together.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!