

Monroe School District #70
5137 W. Cisna Road | Bartonville, IL 61607
(309) 697-3120

SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST

On Friday, March 8, select members of the Monroe Band and Choirs will be attending the Solo & Ensemble Contest at Illinois Central College. This is a great experience for our students to represent our school. Performing in solos or in small groups is a unique experience that challenges the students in ways that full group ensembles cannot. Preview night has helped to prepare our students for success on this night and many factors of contest are the same in terms of how students present themselves and perform. The biggest difference is that each event will receive a rating from the judge with competition only against the event itself, not other events.

March 8th is an 11:05 Dismissal Day. We will be taking a bus from Monroe over to ICC that afternoon leaving at **2:15pm**. (Students are not allowed to stay after school from 11:05 until the 2:15 bus departure unless they are staying as part of the After Care program.) This will put us to ICC with plenty of time for students to warm up and be ready to perform for our first events. There will **not** be a bus returning to Monroe following the contest because of the varied times of performances – our last event is not until 9pm, if rooms are running on time. If the lack of a bus is a concern, please contact Mr. Driscoll. It is my recommendation that students who do not perform until 6:00 or later do not ride the bus and come to ICC separately. If this is the case, they should arrive at least **half an hour** before their scheduled event. Students should wear nice clothes (no jeans!) and nothing that says “Monroe” as judges are “blind” as to what school performers are from: they should NOT wear their polos for this night. Students are encouraged to watch other events (both from Monroe and other schools) to see what other musicians their age are doing!

The ICC Cafeteria will be open that day until 7:30, so students may want to bring money for dinner depending on the time that they are at ICC. **Students are NOT ALLOWED to purchase Energy Drinks from the ICC Cafeteria.** This is not an ICC rule but a Monroe/Mr. Driscoll rule – the Cafeteria will still sell them to you, but students will throw them away if they are seen with them. They do not need these in their system before performing their events.

There are over 900 events performing on Friday, so it is impossible to know whether or not rooms will be running on time. At Preview night, events were scheduled every 9 minutes, but here at ICC they are scheduled every 6. Flexibility is very important to help keep contest running on schedule but to also work around unavoidable delays. Be to your room early but be understanding if they are behind. If you have multiple events at the same time, go to the one that affects the *most people first*. If it is your time to perform and your accompanist is not there yet, simply tell the judge that you are waiting for your accompanist. Should the room be running ahead, the judge may ask you to perform early – you do not have to do this, especially if you are waiting on parents/immediate family to watch your performance.

IMPORTANT: Each school is allowed a Homeroom from ICC for us to drop our coats, bags, instrument cases, etc. In order for us to take advantage of this, we must have an adult in the homeroom at ALL TIMES to supervise. Mr. Driscoll is accompanying a number of events and will be in and out of the room. Parents are asked to please try to be present in the homeroom if you have downtime during the evening to help cover this. If we do not have enough chaperones, students will not be allowed in the room. Food and drink are NOT ALLOWED in the Homeroom, nor is playing/singing. Our homeroom is usually very close to many contest rooms and the contest office, so it is important we are representing Monroe our best! Our homeroom will be **213A**.

On the following pages you will find the schedule of our performances, and some important reminders.

Thank you,
Mr. Driscoll (309) 697-3120 jdriscoll@monroe70.org

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

My student, _____ will be:

_____ Riding the bus to ICC

_____ Not riding the bus to ICC – We will be there half hour prior to our first event.

Parent Signature: _____ Emergency Contact Phone: _____

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

- **ALL School Rules** in terms of behavior and conduct still apply. You are representing yourself and Monroe. Hallways should be kept quiet out of respect for the people performing.
- Remember all necessary pieces: instrument, music, reeds, valve oil, water, music, before we leave Monroe. If you are not riding the bus to ICC, make sure you get these or ask someone to bring them for you. **DO NOT ASSUME THAT THEY WILL MAKE IT TO ICC BY THEMSELVES.**
- Students are to wear nice clothes (no jeans) but should NOT wear anything that says "Monroe" on them. The judges do not know what school you are from and judge "blind."
- Car Parking is available in Lots A, B, and C.
- Make sure your cell phone is OFF if you are in a contest room!
- All the music teachers and contest officials will be wearing name tags to identify themselves. Students are expected to follow any direction given by these individuals.

- There is NO Food or Drink in the Homeroom other than water.
- Students are NOT allowed to purchase Energy Drinks from the ICC Cafeteria. They will throw them away if seen with them.
- There is to be NO singing or playing in the Homeroom.
- Students are not to be in the ICC Technology Center or use the Elevators.

- On arrival to ICC, the first thing you should do is locate your performance room(s) so that you know how to find them.
- Check your room often – it may be running behind or ahead.
- No one enters or leaves a Contest Room during a performance.
- Before you perform, **make sure you stop by our homeroom to get your Judge's Copy/Original music.**
- After you perform, pick up the Judge's copy when they are finished and return it IMMEDIATELY to the box in the homeroom – many students share books and need these quickly.
- Warm-Up rooms are available near Room 127A, but they are limited. Do not hog these – warm up in your room then get out and let others take advantage of them. (Piano students warm-up on the piano in the contest room.)