

# McDuffie County Band Festival

Thomson High School Auditorium

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade bands will be performing at the McDuffie County Band Festival on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Their performances will be evaluated, and the band will receive a rating based on their scores. The ratings are **Superior (I), Excellent (II), Good (III), Fair (IV), and Poor (V)**, and the band receives a plaque with their earned rating on it to display in the bandroom. Bands from all over the CSRA will be participating in this competition.

To receive a **Superior** rating (often referred to as simply a “one”) is not an easy task. Two of the three judges must believe our performance was of superior quality and standards. The three judges, all renowned in the music world as former or current band directors and clinicians, will have copies of each student’s music and will be following along as we play – being critical of not only missed notes and rhythms, but also of style and overall sound.

Every band student everywhere performs at a Festival for ratings – it’s universal in music education. It can be both exciting and “nerve-wrecking!” The students prepare music for several months leading up to their Festival performance. Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade band is no exception. They’ve put in a lot of very hard work to prepare for this performance evaluation.

Here’s what you can do to help our performance:

1. Make sure your child has his tuxedo shirt, bowtie, and black pants ready to go.
2. Ask your child to perform for you in the days leading up to the McDuffie Co. Band Festival.
3. - **Make sure that your 7<sup>th</sup> grade child is at Thomson High School by 7:15 am** to warm-up with the rest of the band on stage
- 3.b - **Make sure that your 8<sup>th</sup> grade child is at Thomson High School by 7:45 am** to warm-up with the rest of the band in the THS band room.
4. *Stay and watch the performance at 8 and 8:30am.* It’s open to the public, and we’d love to have the extra support! This will be the only time we perform this music that we’ve worked hard to prepare.

This is a required performance by all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students at Thomson Middle School. The Festival is listed on the school calendar, as well as on the TMS Band calendar online at [www.tmsband.org](http://www.tmsband.org). Each student’s participation will factor into his overall grade for the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks as stated in the TMS Band Handbook issued at the beginning of the school year. Please see the TMS code of conduct as to what constitutes an excused absence. In the event that a conflict exists and your child must miss the performance, an alternate assignment will be given to make up the grade. **The excused absence must be approved by the band directors!** Contact us at (706) 986-4460 with any questions. No medal or merits will be awarded to any student not participating in the festival.

Please sign below acknowledging that you received this letter from your child, and return it to Mr. Henderson or Mr. Pirkle by February 27<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!

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Check Here:  I have read the letter and understand the importance of this performance.  
My child will definitely be there!

Uh oh, there’s a conflict. I’ll be contacting the band director’s this week!

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Student’s Name

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Parent Signature

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Date