

Application for Seal of Excellence – Fine Arts Department

Instrumental Music - Orchestra

Student name _____

Date _____

CRITERIA FOR SEAL OF EXCELLENCE

Subject area goal: Through the various styles of instrumental music, the student will be aware that music is not only a form of communication but also a source of reward and enjoyment for life. The student will be able to communicate these various styles of music through such skills as tone production, phrasing, articulation, interpretation, and dynamics.

Students must acquire at least 45 points from the following criteria as a prerequisite for a Seal of Excellence:

Essential Skills (Required)			Points
a	Demonstrate an excellent knowledge of his/her main instrument being familiar with the basics of tone production, complete chromatic fingerings and the general construction characteristics of that instrument		5
b	Demonstrate a complete knowledge of all the basic fundamentals of instrumental music that compose its foundation. Such skills as breath support, phrasing, articulation, dynamics, intonation, and interpretation will be included		5
c	Demonstrate the ability to perform the above mentioned skills through a composed piece of music in a large group or competitive atmosphere and as a soloist.		5
Total Points			15

Standards of Excellence			Points
a	Be a member of the Amphitheater Music program for at least three years, including the senior year.		5
b	Audition for an ensemble in the ABODA Regional Festival for at least one year. Participate if selected.		5
c	Receive at least six semesters of A in the music program.		5
d	Demonstrate acquisition of the essential skills described above by passing a comprehensive examination.		5
e	Participate in all the required concerts, festivals, and workshops affiliated with being a member of the Amphitheater Music Program. (Indicator A).		5
f	Write five critiques in more than one area of fine arts: gallery showing, art museums, drama/musical productions, or concerts (both AHS and community). Critiques must be a minimum of one page typed (see reverse side for Writing Critiques) *REQUIRED*		5
g	Participate in an extracurricular ensemble for 2 plus years		5
Total Points			35

Student Signature _____ Total Points _____

Verified by _____ Date _____
 Fine Arts Department Chair

Instructions for Writing Critiques

Specific requirements for the five (5) critiques written for Visual Arts, Art History, Photography, Vocal Music, Instrumental Music (Band and Orchestra), or Drama can be found with the content area instructor.

The five (5) critiques should be accumulated during the four years of high school, but each critique must be turned into the instructor within two weeks after the event being critiqued. The instructor shall require student revisions on each critique until all of the communication skills - format, grammar, spelling and critical thinking are exemplified and are indicative of what a student striving for a Seal of Excellence should produce. **EACH CRITIQUE MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PROGRAM OR VERIFICATION OF THE EVENT AND BE ATTACHED TO THE FINAL DRAFT.** Critiques should not be a listing of the music played or paintings viewed. A critique is a critical analysis of the content of the program or exhibit. Students should apply appropriate academic vocabulary when critiquing the event.

The final draft of the critique must be type-written and turned in to the Fine Arts Chairperson for final approval. All five (5) final critiques, a completed Seal of Excellence form and a transcript must be submitted to the Department Chairperson **NO LATER THAN MAY 1st OF THE SENIOR YEAR** for approval in order to be awarded a Seal of Excellence at the convocation and graduation ceremonies.