

Just What Is A Contest

- I. Volunteering to play a solo or ensemble. Preparing the music, working very hard alone or in a small group, and playing in public for an adjudicator's comments.
- II. A contest is an event where everyone wins — no one loses.
 - A. Where the only competition is the performer vs. the music not the performer vs. another performer.
 - B. Everyone could receive a Superior rating ("I") or no one could.
 - C. This is not a competition against other schools, only against a piece of music and perfection — no one is number "1", nor is anyone "last."
 - D. A learning experience from the first "I'm going!" until "I'm sure glad it's over!"
 - E. Self-discipline to prepare — comments and ratings an understanding of others in a group — responsibility to know your part.
 - F. Listening to others play — hearing your instrument being played, both good and bad, by others in your own group, and learning what to do as well as what not to do.
 - G. Being alone without a band to hide in.
 - H. A long, long, long day and a loud, noisy bus ride.
 - I. Being scared to death — and still playing in a room crowded with your friends, parents, and the adjudicator.
 - J. Being able to learn from the adjudicator's comment sheet.
- III. And when the contest is over, happiness is knowing that you have done your best no matter what the rating.

By: James D. Kirk, Director of Bands
Nordia Junior High School