



**Texas Bandmasters Association
Convention/Clinic July 20-22, 2023**

**Implementing the New UIL Sight-
Reading Process with Middle School
Band**

CLINICIANS:

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**Demo Group: Canyon Ridge &
Leander MS Bands**

IMPLEMENTING THE NEW UIL SIGHT-READING PROCESS WITH MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

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Leander ISD

Demonstration Ensemble:
Students from
Canyon Ridge MS & Leander MS

TIPS AND TRICKS

- After you go through the official process, check in with your students.
 - How could I have helped you more throughout the explanation period?
- After the official performance of the piece, play it again, without talking about it.
 - What went better the second time after you found your mistakes? Can you fix those BEFORE the performance?
- Identify the section that reads the least well and communicate it to them - they can improve!
- If you have a REALLY weak section, look at their part first - do they have a melody? Pair them with a strong section.
- If you have a STRONG section, have them demonstrate!
- When they are playing, listen for wrong notes that happen more than once - they don't know they're wrong.
- Feel free to MOVE AROUND THE ROOM and talk over their playing if they need help.
- If you are lucky enough to work with other directors, have one of them write down everything they see kids do during the practice read, then tell the kids. They don't realize when they yawn or stop paying attention.
- Studying the score is now more important. Practice this skill!

BEFORE YOU SIGHT-READ

- Use your time as you see fit - feel free to continue using the previous system
- Set up processes before you sight-read in the official UIL format
 - Students enter the room, focused and silent
 - Teach them a fingering position and a playing position
 - Only allow group verbal responses to questions - ex: where are we starting? What is in the key signature?
 - Show ≠ talk
- Musical preparation
 - Memorize the 1 octave scales you need for YOUR level
 - Band can play the notes Concert A and Ab & Concert Eb and E in unison

SIGHT-READING FOR THE FIRST TIME

- Turn music over and read through the whole piece - find out their strengths and weaknesses
- Discuss with the students how they felt
 - What did they struggle with, what went well?

PRACTICING SIGHT-READING

- Don't waste time at the beginning of your explanation pointing out aspects of the piece unless you are having them repeat back to you (they aren't listening... :))
- You are not rehearsing your band - you will not have time
- Goals for reading a Level 1
 - Get through the piece with them at least 2 times
 - Less talking, more playing
 - When you talk to them, 10 words or less
- Goals for reading level 2 or 3
 - Focus on transitions, beginning, and end
 - Focus on big changes (meter, key, fermatas)
 - Run through, only stopping for big picture things such as repeatedly missing the key signature

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UIL Band Sight-Reading Criteria (Revised 2022)

Level I – Conference 1C Varsity; ALL MS NV/Sub NV & 1A/2A/3A NV/Sub NV

- Length: One and one-half minutes or less
- Key: Concert B-flat or E-flat with no key changes
- Meter: 4/4 with no meter changes
- Rhythm
 - Basic patterns
 - Quarter
 - Half
 - Dotted half
 - Whole
 - 2 Eighths
 - Quarter rests on count 1 & eighth rests are not permitted
 - Percussion only
 - Eighth note followed by 2 sixteenths
 - 4 Sixteenths

Level II – Conference 2C & 1A/2A Varsity; 4A NV/Sub NV

- Length: One and one-half minutes or less
- Key: Concert F, B-flat, or E-flat with no key changes
- Meter: SAME AS LEVEL I
- Rhythm: SAME AS LEVEL I

Level III – Conference 3C & 3A Varsity; 5A NV/Sub NV

- Length: Two minutes or less
- Key: Concert F, B-flat, or E-flat with no key changes
- Meter: 2/4, 3/4, or 4/4 with no meter changes
- Rhythm
 - Basic patterns
 - Quarter
 - Half
 - Dotted half
 - Whole
 - 2 Eighths
 - Dotted quarter followed by 1 eighth
 - Percussion only
 - Eighth note followed by 2 sixteenths
 - 4 Sixteenths
 - Dotted eighth followed by 1 sixteenth