

- **Requirement:** All ensembles performing VBODA grades 3-6 music are required to sightread. The score will be counted separate from the adjudication score.
- **Members:** All members of the orchestra who participate on stage are required to participate in the sight reading (except for keyboard or percussionists).
- **Music Requirements:** All groups will sight read 2 grade levels below their entered rating.
- **Judging Criteria:** The orchestra will be judged on accuracy of reading, flexibility in following the director, adherence to style, interpretation, and musicianship.
- **Instruction Period:** A director of an orchestra will be given the following time limits to study the score and instruct the orchestra:

An orchestra entering in Grade III will sight read in Grade I – **7 minutes**

An orchestra entering in Grade IV will sight read in Grade II – **8 minutes**

An orchestra entering in Grade V will sight read in Grade III – **9 minutes**

An orchestra entering in Grade VI will sight read in Grade IV – **10 minutes**

- Following your performance on stage, all folders should be collected. Do not take anything into the sight reading room except instruments.
- Students should take their seats quickly and quietly. It does not matter who sits in the front or back or with whom. Just make sure students are in the correct section.
- As soon as the orchestra is seated in the sightreading room, they will quickly tune and the sightreading folders will be distributed by the judge. Do not open folders until instructed to do so.
- Once you have opened the folder, be sure you have the correct music for your part. The judge will ask “Has anyone played or rehearsed this piece before?”
- The judge will give instructions to the director and the students. The director may then use the designated amount of time (see above) to instruct the orchestra as he/she sees fit.

During the instruction period, **THE DIRECTOR MAY:**

- Point out key & time signatures; show finger patterns, verbally say rhythms, conduct and give cues etc. whatever is helpful for the students **without performing the piece.**
- Allow the students to ask questions
- Go through the piece as often as time allows

During the instruction period, **THE DIRECTOR MAY NOT:**

- Perform the music on any instrument
- Allow students to tap or clap rhythms or perform any part of the music
- Ask students questions

During the instruction period, **THE STUDENTS MAY:**

- Shadow bow rhythms (no sound)
- Finger the piece on their instrument (no sound)
- Ask questions

During the instruction period, **THE STUDENTS MAY NOT:**

- Make any sound with their instrument
  - Tap, clap rhythms or produce a sound
  - Mark music in any way
  - Talk to one another
- Once the time of instruction has expired (there will be a time keeper), the adjudicator will instruct you to begin playing the piece.
    - Director **MAY NOT** count off to start the piece. Only a full measure of a silent beat pattern is acceptable.
    - Any kind of non-verbal conducting or cueing jester is acceptable.

- Director **MAY NOT** count out loud, call out rehearsal letters/numbers or talk to students in anyway during the performance.
  - If there is a breakdown, the director may stop the group. Only a starting point (Example: Measure 25/ Letter D) can be spoken by the Director. It must be done in an area **close to and before** the break down. Can not go back to the beginning (unless it is the closest point to the break down) nor can measures be skipped. Director **MAY NOT** instruct the group as to why the break down occurred.
- After completion of the piece, put music back in the folder and close the folder. Leave it closed on the music stand. Leave the room quietly.
  - No piano or keyboard may be used during the sight reading.

### Special Hints for Students!

1. Be extremely attentive at all times. Extreme concentration is absolutely necessary.
2. When the director is talking, each person point with the bow to measures that are being discussed.
3. Shadow bowing and fingering parts are permitted at all times; however; bows should never touch the strings.
4. Making pencil or other marks on the music is not permitted
5. Always check key signatures throughout the piece. Remember they sometimes change during the composition.
6. Be aware of repeat signs. During the director's instructions, practice moving your eyes back to the repeated section.
7. Students should never tap or play rhythms or perform anytime during the sight reading instructions.
8. Be aware of every dynamic marking, bowing, etc. throughout the piece. Sight reading is judged not only on getting from the beginning to the end without stopping, but also on musical performance in all aspects.
9. If the orchestra has to be stopped during the performance, the director can give only a starting point without further instruction.