

Currently in the 5th/6th grade band program, I have the students play performance quizzes for me each quarter on various skills from exercises in their First Band Clinic warm-ups to excerpts from their Spring concert music. I would like to move to a two sided card that will have check offs for these skills as well as others. This will help in two ways: 1) I will be able to pass this on to the HS director so that she knows what level each student she is getting is at. 2) I will be able to organize and add more skills onto this card and I think this will motivate the students to get more checked off their card or get theirs done quicker. Things being assessed on the card will include:

- Posture
- Finger Position
- Embouchure
- Rhythmic exercises (quarter, eighth, dotted quarter eighth, sixteenth variations)
- Scales (F, Bb, Eb, Ab)
- Excerpts from Spring Concert

Currently at the Jr/Sr High level, students have to play performance quizzes for the HS director each quarter on a major scale and excerpt from a piece they are working on in band. I think the HS director would benefit greatly from using a benchmark portfolio assessment similar to what we were exposed to this week. This is something that we could develop over the next year or two and introduce it when the kids who have gone through my program for two years with the benchmark card reach her. Things being assessed in this portfolio should include, but not limited to:

- Major Scales, Arpeggios & Intervals
- Minor Scales (pure, harmonic, melodic)
- Rhythmic exercises
- Solos
- Etudes
- Additional band methods

I think that having the portfolios at the HS level will work well, particularly with the type of students that we have in our program. I also think this is a great way to monitor progress and show administrators exactly how the kids are progressing and gives us data to show. I also love the component about putting the accountability on to the students.