



FERNBROOK COMPOSITION PACKET

Due Monday, 2/25 (Richards/Schutte) & Tuesday, 2/26 (Johnston/Klein)

The objective reads: *Perform original composition; and know basic conventions of the creative process*



How do I write it down?

You will use the computer program, Finale Notepad, to assist you in writing your piece. Your notation should reflect exactly what you perform. You will need to provide **3 copies** of your piece on the day of performance. One copy will be for you, one will be for me, and the third will be placed on the document camera for the class to view.



Do I get practice time at school?

You are to write/edit your piece at school and home, and **practice your piece entirely at home.**



Program Notes

You need to have a *typed, double spaced paragraph* or two describing your piece of music. You will read your paper to the class prior to your performance. Please **have 3 copies** of your report.

Practice reading your report a few times before your presentation.

Optional: Make a cover page for your report and composition. Also, feel free to purchase or make a report cover for your work. It's a way of showing you take extra pride your work, and it adds that "special touch."



Performance

You will be assigned a day to perform your piece. You will know that date well in advance. With the exceptions of illness or family emergency, failure to perform your piece on your assigned day will result in the lowering of your effort grade.

You will need **3 copies of your piece and 3 copies of your program notes**. I will follow your written notation as you perform. You will know the grade you earned immediately after your performance. Your classmates will also fill out an evaluation form about your work. You will get all evaluations.



When will we begin performing our compositions?

We will begin hearing the compositions on **Monday, 2/25 and Tuesday, 2/26**. We typically listen to approximately 4-5 compositions per class period. Consider the project completion dates February 8. By assuming you're playing on an early date, your assignment will be completed (no matter what the day you're actually assigned.) I will publish the schedule on February 21. The performance order will be created randomly.



What is the evaluation criterion?

You will be graded by the following standards:

- 1=Emerging Attempts the assignment (8-16 measures), attempts paragraph or creates composition and plays it with 0 to 50% accuracy.
- 2=Grade Level Composition follows assignment parameters, composes 24 measures, clear ABA form, Analysis paper completed satisfactorily, performs piece with 80% accuracy
- 3=Above
Grade Level Composition follows assignment parameters; demonstrates extra effort in analysis paper; Clear ABACA form (32 measures minimum), performs piece with 95% or above accuracy
- 4=Well Above
Grade Level Composition follows assignment parameters; demonstrates extra effort in analysis paper; Performs composition with 95% or above accuracy, Clear form. Demonstrates a unique approach to composition, (32 measures minimum).



What if I need more help?

Don't forget about your band, orchestra and piano teachers. I'm certain they would be more than happy to listen to your work and assist you in editing your piece.

If you are making corrections at home or have questions, feel free to e-mail your piece to me. I would be more than happy to take a look at your work and give you feedback. (WilliamsAnn@district279.org). You may also e-mail me via Gaggle. Attach your Finale 06 composition on to an e-mail.



Don't forget to practice your piece!

That may seem to be an obvious piece of advice; however history has shown that the computer enables students to compose musical works that are way above their playing ability. The result being that students sometimes create pieces that are so difficult, they cannot play them. Please remember to keep your work *simple, clean and straightforward*. Half of the project is writing the music, the other half is *playing* the music. Memorizing your piece is a way to really make the piece "your own." I've found that students feel most comfortable performing in front of their peers if their piece is memorized.

A final note :

The students in previous years have found this to be a really fun and rewarding project. Like anything, you get out of it what you put into it. Always do your best work. We're very excited to hear YOUR music.

January 7 & 8, 2008

Dear Parents,

Beginning on January 2 & 3, your 6th grader has begun working on their music composition assignment. Each student was given a copy of the "Fernbrook Composition Packet." Inside of this packet are the directions for this project. (This packet is also available on the Fernbrook Website: go to Classroom Pages, Vocal Music, 6th Grade Composition Packet.)

After reviewing the packet with your child, please fill in the information below and return it to school by Friday, January 11.

If after reading the packet, you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Ann Williams, 763-420-8888, or e-mail, williamsann@district279.org.

Thank you for your support in this project.

Ann Williams
Vocal Music Teacher

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Student's Name: _____

Home Room Teacher: _____

I am composing my piece for one of the following: (please choose)

1. My band instrument
2. My orchestra instrument
3. Piano
4. Recorder
5. Virtual Piano (on the web) http://www.bgfl.org/bgfl/custom/resources_fbp/client_fbp/ks2/music/piano/index.htm
6. Other: _____

It is understood that the piece will be written at home and school. All practicing needs to *take place at home*.

I understand that compositions will begin being performed on February 25 & 26, and have these dates written in my student planner.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Website for downloading FREE *Finale Software* off of the Internet:

- <http://www.district279.org/elem/fb/>
- Go to Classroom Pages
- Then Vocal Music
- This will give you specific downloading instructions.

