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
    Nordonia Junior High School