

Students First/ Last Name and Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sonoran Foothills bands 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Beginning-of-Year Survey**

***Please answer each question as thoroughly as possible. Be as honest as possible. This survey will be returned to you at the end during the first week of May.***

1. How long (years) have you played the instrument you are currently playing in this class?
2. Do you take private lessons on this instrument? If yes, from whom? If not, is it something that you would consider if Mrs. T helped find you an AWESOME teacher?
3. Rate your skill level on your instrument from 1 – 10, where 1 would be an absolute beginner and 10 would be “1<sup>st</sup> chair” in the Honor Band status player. (Don’t compare yourself to a professional, only to your grade level.)
4. What level (1 – 10) would you like to be at the end of the year? (Be honest-this tells me how much you want me to “push” you.)
5. List 3 strengths that you have as a musician. Be as specific as possible. Some things to choose from might be: tone, counting rhythms, fingerings/technique, range, tuning, tonguing/articulation, or anything else that you feel is relevant.
6. List the top 3 skills that you feel you need to improve upon as a musician. They may be the same as above.
7. What do you expect to “get out of” this music class this year? How do you expect to do at festivals (Pageant of Band, ABODA, Disneyland, etc.)? How much do you think that your skill level will improve this year?
8. To get a “superior” or “1<sup>st</sup> place” rating at festivals, what are you willing to do as an individual to make this happen? Develop a brief plan of how you are going to get yourself ready for concerts, performances, and festivals. (Please don’t just say “I’m going to learn my music”!)
9. Is there anything else that you feel that I should know (musically or otherwise) that will help me to allow you to have success in my class?

## Beginning-of-Year Survey-Mrs. Terrell's (example answers)

*Please answer each question as thoroughly as possible. Be as honest as possible. This survey will be returned to you at the end of the year in late May.*

1. How long (years) have you played the instrument you are currently playing in this class?

*Well, I've played clarinet for 25 years, saxophone for 20 years, and flute for 9 years. I've been teaching for 10 years, but am starting my 11<sup>th</sup> years teaching at Sonoran Foothills in the DVUSD.*

2. Do you take private lessons on this instrument? If yes, from whom? If not, is it something that you would consider?

*No lessons currently, but I took clarinets lessons during High School and College. I've never taken private conducting lessons. Maybe in the future when I have more time I would like to improve my conducting.*

3. Rate your skill level on your instrument from 1 – 10, where 1 would be an absolute beginner and 10 would be “1<sup>st</sup> chair” in the Jr. High All-State Honor Band. (Don't compare yourself to a professional, only to your grade level.)

*Clarinet: Classical = 7 (would have been an 8.5 when I was in college); Jazz Saxophone = 6, compared to other professional sax players. Conducting: 8 (compared to a professional conductor(s))*

4. What level (1 – 10) would you like to be at the end of the year? (Be honest-this tells me how much you want me to “push” you.)

*Clarinet and Saxophone: I would love to maintain the skill I have now. Conducting: Move up to an 9 (small steps...)*

5. List 3 strengths that you have as a musician. Be as specific as possible. Some things to choose from might be: tone, counting rhythms, fingerings/technique, range, tuning, tonguing/articulation, or anything else that you feel is relevant.

*1. Good sense of time/tempo; 2. Good feel for style/interpretation of music; 3. Good ear for tuning*

6. List the top 3 skills that you feel you need to improve upon as a musician. They may be the same as above and may not copy the answers I've indicated below

*1. Counting rhythms (you have no idea...); 2. Expressive conducting; 3. Tuning (always)*

7. What do you expect to “get out of” this music class this year? How do you expect to do at festivals (Pageant of Band, ABODA, Disneyland, etc.)? How much do you think that your skill level will improve this year?

*I am anticipating that all of my groups will do very well at festivals. I hope that my skill as a teacher/director/conductor continues to improve as it has over the past few years.*

8. To get a “superior” or “1<sup>st</sup> place” rating at festivals, what are you willing to do as an individual to make this happen? Develop a very brief plan of how you are going to get yourself ready for concerts, performances, and festivals. (Please don't just say “I'm going to learn my music”!)

*My job is to do the following: Pick high-quality music appropriate for each ensemble, study each piece thoroughly before attempting to teach it to students, design rehearsals to teach student in a logical & sequential manner (long term & short term planning), do my absolute best to be available to help all students perform their music well, be familiar with all techniques on all instruments needed to perform the music, reevaluate the progress of each group after each rehearsal and adjust planning as necessary, provide constant feedback to the group and to individuals so that they can evaluate their progress, arrange all festival logistics so that there are no equipment or scheduling “issues”, teach my students to play “beyond the page” so that they are actually making music with emotion and feeling, teach my students how to “have fun” while doing all of the above.*

9. Is there anything else that you feel that I should know (musically or otherwise) that will help me to allow you to have success in my class?

*No matter what I say or how frustrated I may get (which will definitely happen at some point this year with all the groups), know that this is true: **My number one goal is for you to be successful!** I will do everything in my power to achieve this goal. I want each of you to be successful in my class, outside of school (they actually all go together), and I will do as much as I can to help each of you with this.*