

LETTER TO PARENTS

ASTA CERTIFICATE ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM Performance Examinations

I would like to acquaint you with the Certificate Advancement Program, a program offered by the American String Teachers Association (ASTA) that is available “in person” in many regions as well as “online.”

The Certificate Advancement Program is a graded examination program in eleven levels for string students, which measures technical progress and musical development. Upon successful completion of the annual exam, a student is awarded a Certificate of Achievement by ASTA, the nation's largest organization for string teachers.

An “in-person” state evaluation is an event that is organized, advertised, and coordinated by an individual state chapter. All information will be collected by the state chapter organizer and record of the student’s participation will be sent to the National Office along with a fee. An attending certified, professional evaluator will listen, write comments, and award certificates on the day of the exam.

In the “online” version of the ASTACAP, students will record and submit their performance to be evaluated by a certified, professional evaluator via DecisionDesk™. Written comments and awards will be mailed to each student’s teacher within 30 days of the end of the examination period. The online exam periods are: January 1–31, April 1–30, and June 1–30

Over the last several months, your child and I have been preparing one or more pieces, scales, an etude to perform for the June Online examinations. The national examiner will review the video performance and reward a score with reinforcing and constructive comments and a certificate if the student passes the performance level. The examiners are musicians who are knowledgeable and highly experienced and certified adjudicators.

I like my students to participate because I feel that the work that goes into preparation and the feedback from the examiner are invaluable to each player. Opportunities such as these examinations provide a goal to strive for and an occasion for every student to shine in a non-competitive environment. They also lead to more success at youth orchestra auditions, festivals and recitals.

The completed application form and the application fee for each student is due by _____, a week prior to the recording session for the examinations. I will submit the videos on the Decision Desk software and pay the submission fees for you.

Only ASTA members can use this program, and as such I am pleased to offer this opportunity to my students, as we work towards higher levels of achievement in making beautiful music. Please call if you have any questions.

Best Wishes,

ASTACAP Examinations

Online Application Form Official use only:

Student Name	
Instrument	
Grade	
Age	
Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Email Address	
Phone number	
Teachers Name	
Teachers Phone/ Email	
Teacher's ASTA Number	

State: _____ Year: _____ Exam Date: _____

Deadline Application Postmark: _____

Online Examination Fees By Level:

Foundation -Level 3: \$50

Level 4–6: \$65

Level 7–8: \$80

Level 9–10 \$95

(These one-time fees are set by the national ASTA board and include all costs)

Parents: Please remit the application fee in cash or by check payable to your child's private teacher (_____). The teacher collects all the students' fees and applications, records the videos, then submits both to DecisionDesk™. You will receive your results via email and teacher will send you the judges comments and certificate if it is earned. If you cannot send the fees and application with your child to a lesson, please send it directly to:

_____ (teacher's address)

Anticipated program: (teachers help students fill out this part)

Instrument _____ Level: _____

Scales/arpeggios/d'stops _____

Etude _____ Composer/Collection _____

Title Piece #1 _____ Composer/Collection _____

Title Piece #2 _____ Composer/Collection _____

Title Piece #3 _____ Composer/Collection _____

Check if applicable: A Level _____ Comments Only _____ Honors _____

Any notes: