

Dear Colleagues,

We hope your first days back to school have been rewarding and successful and that you feel renewed for the upcoming year! We would like to take a moment to welcome a new Band Division co-chair to NJSMA, Diana May from Randolph Township Schools - welcome aboard!

NJSMA is pleased to announce the conductors for its 2018 honor bands. For High School, Dr. Justin Sedatole, Director of Bands, Professor of Music, and Chair of the conducting area at the Michigan State University College of Music, will conduct the Wind Ensemble, and Mr. Jeffrey Bittner, Director of Bands at Mahwah High School, will conduct the Symphonic Band. For Junior High, Dr. Joel Craig Davis, Director of Bands at William Paterson University, will conduct the Symphonic Winds and Mr. David Walsh, Band Director at Leonia Middle School, will conduct the Concert Band.

The high school rehearsals and concert will be hosted at Parsippany Hills High School on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 3:00 PM. The junior high school rehearsals and concert will be hosted at Nutley Middle School on Sunday, March 4, 2018, at 3:00 PM at Nutley Middle School.

As in the past, students choose which ensembles they are selected to on the check boxes on the application. By signing the application the student elects to participate in the ensemble(s) selected and they should reserve the dates on their calendars. Once a student is placed in that ensemble there should be no reason for a student to drop out. Once the ensembles are selected, the day of auditions, and a student declines participation that student will not be eligible to audition for all state and/or for an NJSMA ensemble the following year. Students may change their ensemble selection prior to their audition through the audition chair. Once a student leaves the audition site the day of auditions there is no chance to change their ensemble selections. Directors are asked to help in stressing to students the importance of accepting commitments that they elect to participate within.

The junior high school scale and solo requirements have been updated from past years. Please download a new copy from the website for your records. **Please note that the junior high flute solo was originally listed incorrectly.** The correct solo is the Pepusch Sonata that is now on the website. **The audition requirements for grades seven/eight and nine will be the same for all students.** Students will be placed in either Symphonic Winds or Concert Band based on their overall audition score. The junior high school percussion requirements will continue to combine the snare and traps requirements to create a battery percussion audition. Students may not audition for snare and traps as separate auditions.

It with great excitement that we can announce that the 1st Annual NJSMA North Jersey Regional Marching Band Competition will be held at Verona High School on October 14th, 2017! We are thrilled to say that this inaugural event has been met with great excitement among the band directors of North Jersey, and there are not many spots left! Our judges will include: Professor Darryl Bott - Music Performance; Professor Todd Nichols - Music Individual; Mr. Dennis Delucia - Overall Effect; Mr. Jeff Neiman - Visual Effect; Mr. Mickey Kelly - Visual Performance. Competition Classifications will be based on school size, will be open to Festival Class classifications and awards will be designated via group size (minus Festival bands), with Overall Captions awards and a Best Overall Band Award given at the end of the night. A big thank you to our Festival Coordinator Erik Lynch, band director from Verona High School.

The high school concert band festival will be held on March 20, 21 and 22, 2018. There will again be day and evening times for participation. The junior high school band festival will take place on March 28 at two locations. Please check the website for details and performance application.

NJSMA will be continuing the elementary band festival for those students in sixth grade. Students and directors will have an opportunity to participate in this one-day festival to represent the high quality of instruction. The festival will be Saturday, May 5, 2018 at South Orange Middle School and will feature two sixth grade bands. Directors will be able to nominate their students for participation online and will need to

be present the day of the festival. Mrs. Jenna Hanratty, band director from Eric S. Smith Middle School in Ramsey, NJ and Mr. Brian Michalowski, band director from H.B. Whitehorne Middle School in Verona, NJ will conduct the honor bands.

All audition, festival and concert information can be found online at the region website, www.njsma.com. If you would like to get more involved with the organization, there are many opportunities available. We are always looking for schools to host rehearsals, concerts and festivals in addition to individuals to conduct, manage, and volunteer for the many different jobs that need to be accomplished on a yearly basis. Anyone interested in conducting one of the region bands should complete the application found on the website. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have. We look forward to working with you this year.

Sincerely,

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