



North Jersey School Music Association

Region I of the New Jersey Music Educators Association

Band Division

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 are looking forward to a very exciting year for the band division.

NJSMA is pleased to announce the conductors for its 2012 honor bands. Dr. Thomas McCauley from Montclair State University will conduct the Wind Ensemble, and David Aulenbach from Randolph Township Schools will conduct the Symphonic Band. Veeresh Popat from Randolph Middle School will conduct the Intermediate Band, and Christopher Bernotas from Mountain Lakes High School will conduct the Junior Band. The high school concert will be hosted by Randolph High School on Sunday, January 29, 2012 at 3:00 PM and the junior high school concert will be on Sunday, March 25, 2011 at 3:00 PM at a site soon to be confirmed. We hope to see you at one or both of these fabulous concerts.

Again this year, the NJSMA will be continuing the chamber music opportunity for high school students. Please encourage your students to take advantage of this wonderful experience by checking the option on the application. The concert will be Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

The high school band festival will be take place March 27 at Verona HS, March 28 at Bergenfield HS, and March 29 at Randolph HS. Both Bergenfield and Randolph will be hosting separate day and evening times for the festival. Please check the website for details and a performance application as the festival information has changed from previous years. The junior high school band festival will take place on April 19, 2012 at two locations soon to be announced. If you are interested in helping to host or assist with the junior high festival, please let us know.

The junior high school percussion requirements have changed. The snare and traps requirements have been combined to create a battery percussion audition, similar to the high school requirements. Students may not audition for snare and traps as separate auditions. The auditions will consist of snare and traps rudiments, snare and traps solos, and snare and traps sight-reading. The required solos have been modified due to the new requirements; consult the solo list for details.

New this year, the NJSMA will be establishing an elementary honors band. Students and directors in grades five and six will have an opportunity to participate in a one-day festival to represent the high quality of instruction happening at our elementary level. The festival will be Saturday, May 5, 2012 and will feature a fifth grade honors band and a sixth grade honors band. Directors will be able to nominate their students for participation and will need to be present the day of the festival. There will be rehearsals in the morning and conclude with a concert in the afternoon at a location soon to be confirmed. We hope that you consider participating in this new venture.

The NJSMA Band Library is now online! The library is housed at Roxbury High School and over 200 pieces of music are available for schools to borrow. Please see the link under the band division on the website for details.

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 or coach one of the newly formed chamber ensembles 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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