

North Salem Middle/High School Music Department

January 7, 20189

Dear Parents,

Below is information for the 2019 New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Festival. For the NYSSMA Solo Festival students select and perform a solo or small ensemble piece from the NYSSMA Manual Volume 31 (July 2015) and are evaluated by state adjudicators. See your teacher for the list of solos for each instrument. They are listed by level of difficulty. Students are also required to perform memorized scales or rudiments, as well as sight-read. The results from these evaluations assist students in improving their musical skills, and depending on the level of solo and score, **some students are invited to participate in All-State, Area All-State or All-County bands.**

****It is highly recommended that students take private lessons in order to prepare properly. Preparation does not occur during school music classes, and preparing for NYSSMA is a yearround process. As solo levels increase, a higher level of technical and musical skill is required to be successful. Studying and practicing an instrument only a few months before NYSSMA will not provide the consistency in improvement for students to continually progress through NYSSMA levels. If you are interested in private lessons, contact us for a list of area professionals.**

Auditions for **voice, brass, woodwind, and Level 5-6 strings** will be held on May 10th and 11th at Hendrick Hudson High School in Montrose, NY. Auditions for **piano** will be held on May 3rd and 4th at Lakeland High School in Shrub Oak, NY. Auditions for **jazz, harp, and classical guitar** will be held on April 26th and 27th at Ardsley Middle School. There is a new festival this year for students performing solos **level 1-4 String solos**. That festival is March 22nd and 23rd at Yorktown High School. Students auditioning for All-State (level 6 only) must perform with accompaniment, live or recorded. **You may indicate your preference for a Friday or Saturday audition time, but there is no guarantee that your preference will be scheduled. Please keep both days open in your calendar.**

Students must provide for their own transportation to the Festival site. Fees for the audition are as follows:

Fees for Piano Only	Fees for all other Instruments
Levels 1-4: \$22	Levels 1-4: \$16
Levels 5 & 6: \$30	Levels 5 & 6 (non All-State): \$24
	Level 6 All-State: \$30

Please read the attached information and complete and return the Student Information Form along with a check for the proper amount by **Wednesday, January 29, 2019**. Make checks payable to NS Music Club.

If you have any questions about the NYSSMA festival please email Mr. Austin at saustin@northsalemsschools.org.

Sincerely,

Stephen Austin
Instrumental Music

STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

Name: _____

Grade in School: _____

Instrument/Voice part that Solo will be performed on: _____

Level of NYSSMA solo: _____

Name of NYSSMA solo: _____

Composer or Arranger: _____

Page number from NYSSMA Manual: _____

Are you performing more than one solo? _____

If yes, what instrument is your other solo being performed on? _____

Circle your preferred day and time block for the audition. (Please note that this serves only as a request and there is no guarantee that all requests can be fulfilled.)

FRIDAY: 4:00pm - 6:00 7:00pm - 9:00pm

SATURDAY: 9:00am - 10:30am 10:30am-12noon

 1:00pm-2:30pm 2:30pm - 4:00pm

Parent Signature: _____