

SOUTH JERSEY BAND AND ORCHESTRA DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION
New Jersey Music Educators Association Region III
29th Annual Elementary Honors Band Festival
April 29, 2023

The 2023 Elementary Honors Festival will take place at Absegami High School on Saturday, April 29, 2023. All the information you need to nominate your students is in this packet, and all your nominations will be completed online. The online instructions are outlined clearly below.

All questions regarding the selection process, online application, and nominations should be directed to Phil Senseney at our auditions email: sjuditions@gmail.com. This is the fastest way to get an answer to your registration questions. If you need to speak to an auditions person, please leave a phone number and we will get back to you.

Student Eligibility: All students in grades 5 and 6 are eligible for recommendation. Advanced 4th grade students may be nominated based on your judgment; however, students are selected first from grades 5 and 6, with 4th considered if the need arises for additional students.

Participation Requirements: Only students nominated by their directors will be considered for the Honors Band. Sponsoring directors must be members of NAFME and are required to attend the meeting and assist with the rehearsal and concert on April 29th. If you cannot be available or provide another director as a substitute you should not nominate students. Your NAFME information will be required when you submit your nominations. If you do not have your information or are not a member, please go to their web site (nafme.org) for assistance. If you are sending a substitute to the rehearsal, that person must be a member as well.

Selection: We will accept at least two students from each school. We will take your first nominee, but due to instrumentation constraints, we may not take additional students in the order in which you nominated them. To fill sections, we may need to take students further down the list. As there are multiple bands, your students may not all end up in the same band. We will attempt to accomplish this, but we cannot promise it will work that way. Please note any special request on your nomination form. Once selections have been completed, we cannot move students between bands.

Instrumentation:

Instrumentation will be the same as the region junior high bands where possible.

Festival Schedule: Students should arrive at Absegami HS at 8:45am. Rehearsal is from 9:00am to 12:30pm. There will be a lunch break at 12:30. Lunch will be available for purchase or students may bring their own. The concerts will begin at 2:00pm. Tickets will be available during the morning rehearsal and at the door.

Deadlines: Online registration and mailing deadlines are listed here. A payment voucher is at the end of this letter. The fee is \$20 per school. All online registration and mailing of fees must be completed by Feb. 6th. There is no provision for late registration or late mailing - Feb. 6 is the final deadline.

Please do not give your forms to your office staff and hope they mail them on time. It is best if you personally mail the forms so they are postmarked before the deadline.

On-line Registration and Recommendation Forms:

All registration MUST be completed on-line to register your school and recommend students. Online registration must be completed for you as the director and individually for *each* student you recommend. The link to the director form is at the bottom of this letter. When you submit your director form you will be redirected directly to the student form which must be completed for each student. There is also a link to the student registration form in this letter so you can easily go to the form. Recommendations are done by school, not by program or district. Thus, you as director must complete a separate director registration for each school from which you are recommending students. You must also complete an individual form for each of your students, beginning with your #1

recommendation, then #2, etc. You do not have to indicate their order as the forms are time and date stamped upon submission and we will sort them that way, with the first student submitted being your #1 choice, and additional students follow in order. This will ensure that students or schools are not missed in the selection process. Once you start a form you must complete that form before leaving the program. There is no provision to save and return to a form. You may, however, submit your forms at different times as long as you have submitted them in the order in which you want them considered. The criteria and ratings have changed, and they will appear on each form as you make your recommendations.

Once the form has been submitted, you will receive a confirming email listing everything you submitted on your form. Please check this carefully; if you find that you have made an error or need to change something, you will need to submit a replacement form. Please do not send changes in order to the audition committee as we cannot re-order your selections. If a problem occurs please notify us at sjauditions@gmail.com. The ranking order of your students is determined by the order in which you submit forms, so a replacement form may change your nomination order.

Notification of Acceptance:

Upon completion of the selection process, we will email you Dropbox links to the band assignments, information letters, acceptance letters, confirmation forms, and scanned copies of the music for each student accepted. These links will be sent to the email address provided by you on the on-line nomination form. Please be sure to enter the email at which you want to receive these materials. NOTE: This email must be able to accept several PDFs as attachments. You may need to provide an alternate email as many schools block attachments (gmail.com offers free email and will accept attachments). You will need to print the music and forms for your students. Instructions will be included regarding the completion and return of the confirmation forms. You should note that if we do not receive your confirmations by March 17th, we will replace your students to ensure complete instrumentation for the festival. NEW: You do not have to mail us the original signed forms - they may be scanned to us at the audition email by March 17th. This allows us to have tighter deadlines without allowing for mailing time.

Instructions for Student Recommendation

Instrumentation: Students may be recommended on only ONE instrument. Students may participate only on the instruments listed on the nomination form. Substitutions will NOT be permitted, nor will instruments other than those listed on the form. Please only recommend students based on the numbers indicated at the top of the nomination form. Due to the large number of students recommended, not every student will be accepted. Please recommend only those students who meet the qualifications. For percussion, please note that the only choices are *Percussion* or *Mallets*. Percussionists should be proficient on all instruments, and only *Mallets* will be considered a specialty. If a student has timpani experience, it helps if you note that in the comments.

Order of Recommendation: You should submit your strongest player first, regardless of their instrument; then continue to submit your students according to their ability. By accurately submitting students in this order, you will be helping us to determine the most qualified choices.

Scoring Changes: We are no longer using the scoring as it has not been beneficial in the selection process.

Comments: You should use the "Comment Codes" to help clarify your student's abilities. These are essential to our selection process, but please do not enter anything except the codes; all other explanations or wording cannot be used.

Number of students recommended: You may recommend up to 20 students subject to the limitations below. This does not change the number allowed per instrument but allows us to have sufficient nominees to fulfill the needs in three bands. The recorded time of your submissions will give us the order from which to select students. If you recommend a student who subsequently qualifies for SJ Junior High Band, you may submit a replacement nominee for that student. If this changes the order of your nominees, you should notify us at: sjauditions@gmail.com as soon as Junior High results are posted.

CLICK THIS LINK TO BEGIN REGISTRATION:

Director/School Registration Link:

<https://form.jotform.com/213027342847959>

Student nomination form link:

<https://form.jotform.com/213027485803959>

If you have a problem with the link, please copy and paste it into your browser.

Elementary Honors Band Festival Nomination Criteria

Submit your student forms in the order they will be listed, starting with your #1 student. The number of students you may recommend is limited to either 2 or 3 for each instrument.

2 each	2 each	3 each	3 each	3 each
Flute	Trumpet	Oboe	Bassoon	Bass Clarinet
Bb Clarinet	Percussion	Tenor Sax	Bari Sax	F Horn
Alto Sax	Mallets	Trombone	Baritone	Tuba

Student Rating Comment Codes: *Please select up to four for each student*

(These codes will also appear on each individual recommendation form for your reference)

A - Flute – fluent in upper register to D6

B - Clarinet – plays over the break with GOOD intonation

C - Trumpet – range includes E5

D - F Horn – range includes E5

E - F Horn – low range good solid sound

F – Takes private lessons

G – Auditioned for but not accepted into SJ Junior High Band

H – Good breath support and consistently strong sound and intonation

I – Consistently demonstrates accurate basic rhythms: quarter, eighth, half, and whole notes

J – Consistently demonstrates accurate dotted rhythms: dotted half, quarter, and eighth notes

K – Percussion – plays timpani

L – Percussion – can play flams, paradiddles, and rolls

M – Takes piano lessons

N – Participated in Elementary Honors Band last year

General Information

Prior to sending the application, you may find it advantageous to notify the students you are nominating, as you will have to verify their intent to participate once we make the selections.

Once the selection process is completed, you will receive a confirmation form listing the students who have been selected from your school. Please stress to your students and their parents the importance of this commitment. No-shows affect the quality of the festival. If a selected student is unable to participate, **please notify us immediately at sjauditions@gmail.com** so the seat can be filled. You cannot substitute another student for one who drops out. Parts will be assigned and music and confirmation forms will be emailed to you at the address you provided with your registration.

It is extremely important that each student comes to the festival **PREPARED**. With only one rehearsal, it is essential that parts be learned before the rehearsal day. Please be sure students are also supplied with extra reeds, oil, pencils, etc. to avoid problems during the rehearsal. Your help is essential in making this festival successful. All directors are expected to participate on the day of the festival and should report at 8:45 AM for job assignments during the festival. Remember, if you recommend students, **you must attend**.

Just a reminder...6th grade students who are accepted into the Region III Junior High Bands are NOT eligible for the elementary festival. If you are recommending students who are auditioning for Jr. High Band, please hold your submissions until Junior High Audition results are posted or notify us before the deadline if you are replacing a student.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Registration fee is \$20 per school. School checks, your personal check, or money orders should be made payable to SJBODA (NO PARENT CHECKS). Purchase orders may be submitted by the registration deadline as long as payment is received prior to the March acceptance date. The online and postmark deadline is Feb. 6th. Late registrations will not be accepted. Once your online application has been submitted, please mail your payment and payment form below to:

Rich Beckman
437 Jessup Mill Rd.
Mantua, NJ 08051

The next page contains a payment voucher to be returned with your payment.

Please return this form with your payment.

Rich Beckman
437 Jessup Mill Rd.
Mantua, NJ 08051

SJBODA 2023 ELEMENTARY HONORS BAND PAYMENT FORM

SCHOOL NAME: _____

DIRECTOR'S NAME: _____

DATE: _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Information for Students and Parents

Please distribute this to the parents of each of your participating students.

FESTIVAL DATE: Saturday, April 29, 2023

LOCATION: Absegami High School, Galloway

REPORT TIME: 8:45 AM

DRESS: All participating students must wear dress clothes to the rehearsal. No changing facilities are available. Boys should wear a white dress shirt, dark slacks, and dress shoes. Girls should wear dark dress slacks or skirt, and white blouse with dress shoes. "Please, No Miniskirts".

WHAT TO BRING: Students must bring their instrument, **their own folding music stand** LABELED WITH THEIR NAME AND SCHOOL. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT as the school does not have enough stands for the stage and three rehearsal rooms. They should also bring extra reeds, valve oil, etc; Percussion players MUST supply their own sticks and mallets. Students should bring their lunch or bring money to purchase a snack or lunch in the cafeteria.

REHEARSAL TIME: Rehearsal runs from 9:00am to 12:30pm. At 12:30 students will have a break to eat lunch and prepare for the concert.

CONCERT: The concerts will be Saturday afternoon and ticket information and performance times will be distributed with the confirmation letters.