

SOUTH JERSEY BAND AND ORCHESTRA DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION
New Jersey Music Educators Association Region III
32nd Annual Elementary Honors Band Festival
May 2, 2026

The 2026 Elementary Honors Band Festival will take place at Absegami High School on Saturday, May 2, 2026. 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.

The Elementary Band Coordinator is LeeAnn Hewitt – email: leeannahewitt721@gmail.com

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.

Participation Requirements: Students must be sponsored by a participating director who must be a member of NAFME and is required to attend the meeting and assist with the rehearsal and concert on May 2nd. If you cannot be available or provide another director as a substitute you should not nominate students. Your NAFME information and current membership will be required when you submit your nominations. If you are sending a substitute to the rehearsal, both you and your substitute must be members. Due to the new background checking required by NJMEA, you must have current membership to nominate students and your membership must remain current through the festival date. If your district is paying through a PO and payment is not completed before registration you may send a copy of the PO to expedite approval.

Selection: We will accept at least three 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 with four ensembles we cannot promise it will work that way.

Instrumentation:

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

Festival Schedule: Yellow and Blue bands report to Absegami HS at 8:45am; Green and Red bands report at 9:45am. Rehearsals run for 3 ½ hours and there is a lunch break. The concerts will begin at 1:30pm. Tickets will be available during the morning rehearsal and at the door.

Deadlines: A payment voucher is at the end of this letter and the fee is \$20 per school. Separate registrations and payments are required for Elementary and Intermediate participation. All online registration and mailing of fees must be completed by Feb. 10th. There is no provision for late registration or late mailing.

Please do not assume your office will complete the mailing on time. It is your responsibility to meet the mailing deadline.

On-line Registration and Recommendation Form:

All registration must be completed on-line for you to register your school and recommend students. *An individual online registration form must be completed for you as the director and one for each student you recommend.* The links to the director forms are at the bottom of this letter. When you submit your director form you will be redirected directly to the student form which you must complete. There is also a link to the student registration form in this letter so you can easily go back to the student form. You as director must complete a director registration for each school from which you are recommending students. You must also complete a form for each of your students, beginning with your #1 recommendation, then #2, etc. You do not have to indicate their number as the forms are time and date stamped upon submission and we will sort them that way. Once you start a form you must complete that form

before leaving the program. 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. Comments will appear on each form as you make your recommendations.

Upon form submission, you will receive a confirming email listing everything you submitted on your form. If you find that you have made an error or need to change something, you will need to submit a new recommendation form. We cannot make changes to your submissions once you complete the form. If you decide to change your submission order you must resubmit your forms in the correct order as we cannot change the order.

Notification of Acceptance:

We will email you links to the ensemble 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. You will need to print the music and forms for your students.

With only one rehearsal it is imperative that students arrive the morning of the concert already being able to play through the music. It is the directors' responsibility to ensure that is the case. Instructions will be included regarding the completion and return of the confirmation forms. REMINDER: **DO NOT mail the original signed forms – forms must be sorted by school and scanned and emailed to us at sjuditions@gmail.com by March 16th.**

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. Only instruments listed on the form may be selected – substitutions are not permitted. 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.

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 will be excluded.

Number of students recommended: You may recommend up to 20 students subject to the limitations listed below. This does not change the number allowed per instrument but allows us to have sufficient nominees to fulfill the needs in four bands. NOTE: you may only submit one student on percussion (this does not include mallets). 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: sjuditions@gmail.com as soon as Junior High results are posted so we can adjust your list.

CLICK THIS LINK TO BEGIN REGISTRATION:

Director/School Registration Link:

<https://form.jotform.com/253594677129976>

Student nomination form link:

<https://form.jotform.com/253594380095969>

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, except for battery percussion, which is limited to one submission per school.

2 each	3 each	3 each	1 each
Flute	Oboe	Bassoon	Percussion
Bb Clarinet	Tenor Sax	Bari Sax	
Alto Sax	Trombone	Bass Clarinet	
Trumpet	Baritone	F Horn	
Mallets	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 a music stand, 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 provided payment is received prior to the March acceptance date. **The online and postmark deadline is Feb. 10th**. 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 by Feb. 10th with your payment to the address below:

Rich Beckman
437 Jessup Mill Rd.
Mantua, NJ 08051

SJBODA 2026 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, May 2, 2026

LOCATION: Absegami High School, Galloway

REPORT TIME: 8:45/9:45 AM Depending on your band schedule

DRESS: All participating students must wear dress clothes to the rehearsal. No changing facilities are available. Dress is white top, black bottom, and dressy shoes.

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 four 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 for 3 ½ hours and students will have a break to eat lunch and prepare for the concert. Specific report times and performance times will be provided once students are assigned to a specific ensemble.

CONCERT: The concerts will be Saturday afternoon beginning at 1:30 and ticket information and performance times will be distributed with the confirmation letters.