

The NHMEA Board has been having ongoing discussion about student rooming arrangements for overnight festivals. Although there are some preferences for students to be in double occupancy rooms rather than quads, this would present several problems. First, it is not feasible given the amount of rooms it would require. Secondly, it would make the cost of the festival prohibitive for some students. Lastly, there are some thoughts that students in pairs may present more behavioral problems than in a triple or quad. What the festival chairs are looking to offer for next year's festivals, is a "double" option for students to check on their registration forms. This offer would be subject to limited availability and the student would pay the additional cost. Students would then be notified if their request was able to be honored.

In the meantime, we are asking Directors to talk with your students about what to expect at the upcoming Festival. Although we do an excellent job at preparing our students with the music, we sometimes forget to cover some of the logistics of housing, what to bring, food, etc. **Please let your students know that they will be sharing a room with 3 other students.** Contrary to what some students may say, it is NOT expected that students will sleep on the floor or in a chair or bathtub and cots are not provided by the hotels. If this arrangement is uncomfortable for your student, then suggest that they bring a sleeping bag and/or an inflatable mattress. It is far better for students to find this out from you before they arrive.

Thanks for taking the time to talk with your students. If you need more information about the festival, please do not hesitate to ask. Members of the Board and the Committees are happy to help you and your students have a successful experience.

Musically yours,

Patricia McMullen
NHMEA Immediate Past-President