

2008 Middle School District Festival Information

Saturday, May 10 – North, South central, and Southwest Festivals

Saturday, May 17 – Southeast Festival with Stings

General Information

1. Participating schools must have paid the NHMEA School District Participation Fee.
2. Any 6th, 7th, or 8th grade student presently participating in the local middle school music program, if one exists, may be recommended by his or her director. 6th graders may only participate if they are part of a school containing Grades 7 and 8, and are performing at the level of the 7th and 8th graders. *6th graders attending an elementary school only going up to Grade 6 are not eligible for this festival.*
3. Each eligible school sending applications postmarked by the January 11 deadline will receive representation of at least two students in each performing group, unless only two are nominated and they play the same instrument. In this case, schools are not guaranteed to have both students selected.
4. Instrumental students should not be moved to a secondary instrument (bass clarinet, horn, viola, etc.) on which they are inexperienced, with the thought that they will have a better chance of “making it.”
5. Students will be chosen for the festival on the basis of directors’ recommendations. Please make sure that the students recommended meet the guidelines. Since acceptance and seating will be determined by the applications, please be as specific as possible when completing them. You may modify the form for this, as long as the required information is still included. The success of the festival and your students’ experience will depend to a great extent on the care taken in considering students.
6. Notification of students selected will be mailed to directors by mid-February, and music will be sent upon receipt of registration forms, medical forms and registration fees. If selected, students should commit to practice music and attend rehearsals conducted by the school director. It is the director’s responsibility to make sure that students are adequately prepared.
7. School directors have the authority to refuse to send any of their selected students who they feel are not prepared or for disciplinary reasons. The District Coordinator of the school’s district should be notified immediately when this occurs. A reasonable effort will be made to replace that student if time permits.
8. The student registration fee for the festival is **\$15.00** per student. This will cover conductors’ fees, a registered nurse, and other expenses of the festival, as well as a meal for students. Fees will be due in February when directors receive notification of students selected. Note: if the school pays for your students, you may wish to estimate the total and encumber that money now so that receipt of your music will not be held up in March. **A purchase order cannot be accepted at that time in lieu of payment.**
9. Nominated students should plan on having the whole festival day open. Specific schedules will be sent with acceptance notification. Students will not be able to be released for part of the day for sports or other obligations.
10. Please be sure that your students and parents understand your transportation arrangements, the obligation to learn music, and festival attendance requirements before you complete application forms. It is strongly suggested that directors secure written permission from a parent or guardian before nominating students. **Please also note that NHMEA policy requires that at least one director from your school be in attendance throughout the whole festival day.**

In completing Middle School Festival application forms, please observe the following:

1. List instrumental students in **order of ability**, regardless of instrument or grade level. Vocalists should be listed **by ability within the vocal part** (all sopranos together in rank order, etc.). Please include information that will be helpful in selection. (Examples: Put player on low part due to braces; student is strong on bass drum, timpani, and bells, but does not play snare.)
2. Applications are in this issue of *Quarter Notes* only and the NHMEA website. Please pass pertinent forms along to anyone else concerned.
3. All applications must be postmarked by **Friday, January 11, 2008**. Applications received after that date may be returned unopened. Early applications are welcome.
4. All applications should be sent to: Eric Kobb, The Cooperative Middle School, 100 Academic Way, Stratham, NH 03885.

Middle School District Festival Band Nomination Guidelines

Students nominated by directors should be able to:

- ◆ play major scales from C to 4 flats and 3 sharps, 1 octave or more within the reasonable range of their instrument
- ◆ independently read and count in simple and compound meters

Middle School District Festival Chorus Nomination Guidelines

Students nominated by directors should be able to:

- ◆ sing within the range of their listed voice

Soprano = c' – f'

Alto = a – b'

Baritone = d – f' (lower range okay)

Note: males who cannot sing in the Baritone range should be nominated as Alto or Soprano, as appropriate.

- ◆ identify and sing the pitches on the staff notated for their voice part
- ◆ have a basic grasp of rhythmic notation for Level 2-3 music
- ◆ be capable of memorizing music

Middle School District Festival String Orchestra Guidelines

Students nominated by directors should be able to:

- ◆ play major scales up to 3 sharps and 2 flats, one octave or more
- ◆ play whole, half, dotted half, quarter, dotted quarter, eighth, dotted eighth, and sixteenth notes and rests
- ◆ 1st violins must be able to play up to 3rd position
- ◆ 2nd violins must be able to play 1st position
- ◆ Violas must be able to play 1st position
- ◆ Cellos must be able to play up to 4th position
- ◆ Basses must be able to play up to 4th position

Please contact the Middle School Festival Chairman if you have questions or would like to be more involved:

Eric Kobb
The Cooperative Middle School
100 Academic Way
Stratham, NH 03885
775-8998 ext. 8849
ekobb@sau16.org