

# MIDDLE COUNTRY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AT CENTEREACH



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, FINE ARTS &  
COMMUNITY MEDIA RELATIONS  
DISTRICT ARTS SUITE @ NEWFIELD HIGH SCHOOL  
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January 2024

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Congratulations! Your child has indicated his/her desire to participate in the **NYSSMA Jazz Solo Festival, including All-State Jazz, Vocal Jazz, Classical and Jazz Guitar, Jazz Piano and Drum Set** to be held as follows:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Type of Festival</u>	<u>Location</u>
<b>Friday-Saturday March 22 &amp; 23, 2024</b>	<b>NYSSMA Jazz Festival</b>  DEADLINE Wednesday, <b>February 7, 2024</b>	Walt Whitman High School 301 West Hills Road Huntington Station, NY 11746

*Session will run from approximately 4:00 p.m. – 9:30 pm on Friday  
and 9am-4:30pm on Saturday.*

In order to register, please complete the attached application form and return it to your child's Music teacher no later than **Wednesday, February 7, 2024.**

Prior to registering your child, you should know the following information:

NYSSMA stands for New York State School Music Association, which annually sponsors Solo & Ensemble Festivals throughout the State.

Participation in the Solo & Ensemble Festival is a pre-requisite for selection to participate in All-County Festivals, All State Festivals, All Eastern Festivals and All National Festivals. The purpose of the Solo & Ensemble Festival is to allow the student to perform in front of a certified Music Teacher/Adjudicator so they may receive an objective evaluation of their performance capabilities and skills.

This evaluation not only reinforces the positive aspects of a student's performance, but also offers helpful suggestions for improvement and validates the instruction students receive in school or from private music lessons addressing those musical concepts inherent in quality playing.

Audition fees for the NYSSMA Solo & Ensemble Festival are listed below. Please make your check or money order payable to the ***MCCSD Friends of Music***. Cash is acceptable.

**Jazz All-State Soloists – Grades 10 & 11 Only = \$30.00 each**

**Level 1-4 = \$16**

**Level 1-4 Jazz Piano = \$22**

**Level 5-6 = \$24**

**Level 5-6 Jazz Piano = \$30**

***PLEASE NOTE: ONCE STUDENTS ARE REGISTERED,  
THERE CAN BE NO REFUNDS.***

The mission of the MCCSD is to empower and inspire all students to apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to be creative problem solvers, to achieve personal success, and to contribute responsibly in a diverse and dynamic world.

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Please plan to have your child scheduled to perform at any time during the festivals – Requests for specific times may not be honored due to the quantity of students participating in the festivals. If you absolutely must request a specific day for your child's adjudication, a note of explanation must be attached to your child's application.

Please also note that the District will not provide transportation to and from the Festivals.

Please be aware that all NYSSMA participants should:

1. Prepare the required solo piece. Be certain that the solo piece and required movements are listed in the **NYSSMA Manual Edition 33 (July 2022)**. A manual is available at each school.
2. Be knowledgeable of Improv Requirements.
3. Provide original copies of the music – one for the adjudicator, one for the piano accompanist if piano accompaniment is used, and one for the student (if not performing from memory.) **PHOTOCOPIES ARE NOT ALLOWED** in the adjudication room.
4. Make certain that one's instrument is in good working condition.
5. Be prepared to sight read two lines of music for the adjudicator.
6. Plan to arrive 45 minutes before the scheduled time to allow for paperwork and warm-up. You will receive your appointment time from your school music teacher several days before the festival.
7. Perform at your assigned time and room – switching is not permissible.
8. Maintain a regular practice regimen of at least 30 minutes per day in preparation for the festival.
9. Please note the following information specifically for Jazz:
  - Students must bring a cd/tape player as per NYSSMA manual requirements. (No cd or tape players will be available.) If using an online accompaniment track, you must **DOWNLOAD** it to your device. **NO GUEST WI-FI ACCESS WILL BE AVAILABLE.**
  - Students must bring guitar amps & bass guitar amps. (No amps will be available.)
  - Students must bring their own drum set. (No drum sets will be available.)
  - \*For all guitar students: **It is imperative that you specify classical or jazz guitar when you sign up or you may be scheduled in the wrong room.**
  - Please note the new jazz improvisation requirements and new instrumental jazz lead trumpet audition process that were put into place by NYSSMA. You can find the specifics for these new procedures in the NYSSMA Manual page 9-2 (Required Selections List for Lead Trumpet Skills Proficiency - All-State Only) and page 9-3 (Graded Improvisation Requirements For All Instrumental Jazz Soloists - except drum set).
  - Check, double-check and recheck the NYSSMA manual requirements for Jazz.

If you have any further questions regarding the Jazz NYSSMA Solo & Ensemble Festival, please feel free to contact your child's Music teacher or my office. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. I hope the NYSSMA evaluation experience will be positive for your child in his or her development as a musician!

Sincerely,

*Dr. Diana Cook*

Dr. Diana Cook

Director of Music and Fine Arts

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