



SEAFORD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Patrick Kennedy, Coordinator for Fine and Applied Arts

New York State Schools Music Association Festival (NYSSMA Festival)

FAQ Sheet

1. What is the NYSSMA Festival?

NYSSMA sponsors approximately 145 solo & small ensemble and major ensemble festivals in New York State each spring. At solo and small ensemble festivals, students are given a performance evaluation that involves playing a graded solo from the NYSSMA Manual, playing scales and sight reading. At major ensemble festivals, school bands, choruses and orchestras are evaluated.

2. Why should my child participate in the NYSSMA Festival?

The student's written evaluation offers positive, constructive feedback on their performance, provided by an adjudicator specializing in the student's instrument. The music department will retain a copy of the adjudication sheet to assist in nominating students for potential participation in All-County and All-State Ensembles.

3. Can I register directly as an individual or through my child's private music teacher or studio?

No. Registration is only done through the music program at the school which the student attends.

4. Is this a competition?

NYSSMA festivals (other than for All-State) are evaluations, not competitions. Students may compete with themselves from year to year, but NYSSMA does not view festivals as competitive.

5. What music can be played?

Students must choose a graded solo from the NYSSMA Manual.

6. Where can I see a manual?

Your child's music teacher has a copy of the current NYSSMA Manual.

7. Do I need a 2nd copy for the adjudicator?

A second copy of the solo is highly recommended, but not required. A piano accompaniment part may be used as the second copy, although it is important to be sure the solo part in the piano copy exactly matches the solo that the student will perform.

8. What about photocopies?

Illegally photocopied music is prohibited.

9. Do I need an accompanist?

Accompanists are not required except for All-State. They are highly recommended for vocal soloists. Recorded and electronic accompaniments are permitted, but students must supply the equipment and be able to set it up and perform within the time allotment

11. Who are the adjudicators?

NYSSMA adjudicators are professional teacher/musicians who have received instruction on the NYSSMA adjudication system.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns to Dr. Patrick Kennedy at pkennedy@seaford.k12.ny.us

Sincerely,

Patrick Kennedy, Ed.D.

Coordinator for Fine and Applied Arts

Seaford UFSD