

GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Joseph Rutkowski, NYSSMA Coordinator

January 4, 2012

Dear Parent:

This letter contains all the information pertaining to the NYSSMA Evaluation Festival. The Application (page 3) and check are due **NO LATER THAN Wednesday, January 25th**. (Piano NYSSMA applications are due Wednesday, February 29th.)

The 2012 Festival Dates are as follows:

___ 1. Non All-State Levels 1-4 (including Non All State Jazz levels 1-4)	Wed-Thur, March 28-29	at Port Washington
___ 2. Non All-State Levels 5-6 (including Non All State Jazz levels 5-6)	Fri-Sat, April 27-28	at Herricks
___ 3. All State	Fri-Sat, April 20-21	at Freeport
___ 4. Piano Levels 1-6	Tue-Wed-Thur, May 8-10	at C. W. Post College
___ 5. All State Jazz	Fri-Sat, May 11-12	at Massapequa
___ 6. Classical Guitar	Wed-Thur, April 25-26	at Island Trees
___ 7. Harp	Fri-Sat, May 4-5	at Syosset

Fees for the 2012 Spring Solo & Ensemble Evaluation Festivals are as follows:

Levels 1-4--\$14.00; Levels 5-6--\$21.00; All-State (grades 10 or 11)--\$26.00

PIANO FEES: Levels 1-4--\$19.00; Levels 5-6--\$26.00

Please remember that all NYSSMA participants should:

1. With the help of your music teacher, select a solo piece from the NYSSMA Manual Edition XXIX (July 2009). (The Manual is available for perusal at school and at the Great Neck Music Center.) Make certain that the solo piece and required movements are listed in the manual.

2. Prepare the required solo piece.

3. Memorize the required scales. Notice that string students will be required to play two octaves for advanced levels. See page 1-1 in the Manual.

4. Provide an original copy of the music for the adjudicator---**PHOTOSTAT OR XEROX COPIES ARE ILLEGAL!!!!** All-State students **MUST** provide their own piano accompanists. All-State students, piano students, students with a piano accompanist, and students preparing a work with no piano part **MUST** bring 2 original copies of music to the festival. Music may be ordered at Great Neck Music Conservatory (466-3994) or Catalano's Music (488-2522) or Wright Music (883-0043).

5. All-State Jazz students must examine what the NYSSMA Manual (edition XXIX) lists on pages 9-1 -- 9-46 in the Manual, prepare one of the listed jazz etudes, purchase the J. Aebersold cassette with the blues in B flat, practice improvising a slow blues and a fast blues with the cassette, and bring the cassette to the NYSSMA Festival.

6. Percussionists should examine pages 6-1—6-18.

SPECIAL NOTE TO PARENTS OF PERCUSSION STUDENTS:

Please remember to specify what instrument your percussion student is auditioning on: snare drum, timpani, mallets or multiple percussion. PLEASE DO NOT USE THE INSTRUMENT “PERCUSSION.” PLEASE SPECIFY SNARE DRUM, TIMPANI, MALLETS OR MULTIPLE PERCUSSION.

7. Make certain your instrument is in good working condition.

8. Be prepared to sight read a line or two of music for the evaluation.

9. You will receive the appointment time a few days prior to the Festival. Plan to arrive 45-50 minutes BEFORE the scheduled time to allow for paperwork and warm-up.

10. If you wish to apply for an NMEA scholarship or you require a “student with disabilities” form, please see your Music Teacher.

11. PLEASE DO NOT REQUEST TO PAIR SIBLING TIMES. PLEASE LIMIT THESE REQUESTS TO TRUE HARDSHIP SITUATIONS. THANK YOU!

Once your child is assigned an adjudication time, NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO SWITCH ASSIGNED ADJUDICATION TIMES/ROOMS WITH ANYONE ELSE.

12. A student may audition on more than one instrument, but may NOT apply for more than one adjudication on the same instrument.

13. Unless your child is auditioning for All State, do NOT expect the adjudication room to have a piano for accompaniment. Voice students should bring a tape recorder or CD player with good batteries.

It is recommended that only students who maintain a regular practice regimen of 30 minutes a day (minimum) should consider participating in NYSSMA. Please submit your completed Student Form(s) and check(s) (made out to your school building) to your child’s GNPS Music Teacher before the stated deadlines.

Adjudication days and times are limited and we CANNOT accept changes once the schedule is made up. The adjudication schedule is at the discretion of the Festival Managers. The Festival Site Managers at **Port Washington, Herricks, Freeport, Massapequa, Island Trees, Syosset and C. W. Post** cannot guarantee a specific time of adjudication for any student. Plan on keeping the week-night (including Friday) open from 3:30pm-10:00pm and Saturday open from 8:30am-5:00pm. Please DO NOT attempt to contact anyone at the Festival Site. Also, I would greatly appreciate it if you do not attempt to contact me. Have your child’s music teacher contact me with questions you have that she/he cannot answer.

REMEMBER: PIANO STUDENTS who receive a Level VI A+ 100 are invited to apply for the NYSSMA All-State Piano showcase, a new division created last year to showcase the most talented pianists in New York State. Go to: <http://nyssma.org/index.cfm>

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. I sincerely hope that the NYSSMA Evaluation experience will be positive for your child in his/her development as a student musician. Feel free to visit the NYSSMA web site for parents and students at: <http://nyssma.org/students.cfm>

Sincerely

Joseph Rutkowski