

## PMEA Events

The Pennsylvania Music Educators Association hosts numerous events each for students in grades 9-12. Most fall into one of two categories: festivals that have students selected by audition and festivals that have students chosen by a “paper application” process. For “paper application” festivals, a ranked list of students from each school is submitted to PMEA. Ensembles are then chosen through a “draft” of sorts, where each school’s enters their first ranked student into the ensemble, followed by their second, etc. Each section has a set number of openings. As sections quotas are filled, lower ranked students may be selected ahead of higher ranked students from closed sections. Thus, a higher rank does not guarantee selection; nor does a lower rank put a student out of contention for selection. Dates and locations are listed below. You must be available to attend all required rehearsals and performances in order to participate in any of the events below. See Ms. Virgin with any questions.

**Auditioned Festivals** – these festivals require the preparation of a specific piece. Audition music is available from Ms. Virgin. These festivals are available to students in grades 9-12.

Honors String Orchestra

Auditions: September 24 @ Fox Chapel HS

Festival: November 17-18 @ Fox Chapel HS

Honors Band

Auditions: October 1 @ South Fayette HS

Festival: November 10, 17, 18 @ North Hills/Bethel Park

Honors Jazz

Auditions: November 12 @ North Allegheny HS

Festival: February 1-2 @ North Allegheny HS

**“Paper” Auditioned Festival** – these festivals require you to fill out the attached application, which must be submitted to Ms. Virgin no later than September 28th. Both Senior and Junior High District Orchestra accept both strings and winds; however, wind players who wish to participate in Senior High District Orchestra are selected based on their placement at Honors Band Auditions. **When ranking students for District Groups, first priority will be given to students who audition on their instrument for Honors Band/Strings.**

District 1 West Senior High Band (grades 10-12)

Festival: January 24-26 @ Cornell HS

District 1 West Junior High Band (grade 9 only)

Festival: March 1-2 @ Carrick HS

District 1 Senior High Orchestra (grades 10-12)

Festival: January 10-11 @ North Allegheny HS

District 1 Junior High Orchestra (grade 9 only)

Festival: March 22-23 @ Upper St. Clair HS

SEE BACK→

**Note for Senior High Ensembles:** Senior High District Band and Senior District Orchestra members have the opportunity to audition for a seat in Region Band/Orchestra, which then feed the PA All-state Ensembles. The dates of these more advanced festivals are:

PMEA Region Band – March 7-9 @ New Castle HS (overnight trip)

PMEA Region Orchestra – February 21-23 @ Hollidaysburg Area HS (overnight trip)

PMEA All-State Band/Wind Ensemble/Orchestra – April 3-7 in Pittsburgh, PA (overnight trip)

It is the belief of the Baldwin High School Music Department that PMEA ensembles benefit not just the individual, but also our ensembles as a whole. In addition to the benefits gained by the individual in preparing for and participating in these elite groups, we believe that each student who participates in a PMEA Ensemble also brings back the skills and knowledge gained from their experience to share with our ensembles here at BHS, elevating our groups in a number of ways. Therefore, students are highly encouraged to enter into applying for PMEA District Festivals with the intention of continuing on to Regions and All-States, should those opportunities present themselves. Please notify Mr. Virgin of any potential conflicts with your participation in PMEA Region/All-State on the attached application sheet.

**Additional Marching-Only Events** – these ensembles, though supported by BWSD, are not sponsored school activities. Any students who wish to apply may do so with the understanding that, if selected, they will participate at their own expense.

TOB All-Star Marching Band –

<http://www.njatob.org/events/tob-all-star-band/tob-all-star-band-music-pdf-files>

US Army All-American Band –

<http://www.nafme.org/programs/u-s-army-all-american-marching-band/>

## PMEA DISTRICT FESTIVAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Please initial each line item, then sign below.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that it is a tremendous honor and privilege to be selected for a PMEA District Ensemble. I agree that, if selected, I will prepare my music to the best of my ability, including attending afterschool rehearsals in preparation for the festival.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that, if selected, I must attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances or face removal from the festival.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that, if selected, I will be attending District Orchestra/Band at the BWSD's expense. Therefore, if I choose not to attend the PMEA festival for any reason other than legitimate illness or loss of a loved one and no suitable, director-approved replacement can be found, I agree to reimburse the BWSD for any expenses related to my participation. Festival fees range from \$50 for local festivals to as much as \$150 for over-night festivals.

SENIOR HIGH FESTIVALS ONLY – please list below any potential conflicts that might keep you from participating in future festivals (Regions, All-State) if selected. Please alert Ms. Virgin immediately if any additional conflicts arise in the future.

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Student Signature

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Date

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Parent Signature

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Date