

August 2021
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SPEC Chair

Welcome back!

I do hope that this year finds you back in session and able to have in person instruction for your classes. As COVID is still present within our Commonwealth, the scope and magnitude of the festival season this year will take on different looks and a different approach. Please note that these changes are only due to COVID safety concerns and PMEA certainly hopes that we can return to the standards listed in the policy manuals for Region and State Festivals after this school year.

I ask that you **CLOSELY** review the items listed below so that you are prepared for the festival season as we will not be using the timeline that we are accustomed to for the Region and State Festivals.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to the State PMEA office. Take care and best wishes for a safe and wonderful school year!

Lisa

2021-22 PMEA Fest/Festival Updates

2022 PMEA All-State Ensembles

The PMEA Board approved the following procedures for the 2022 All-State Festival **ONLY**, which are based on the parameters that an in-person 2022 PMEA Annual In-service Conference and All-State Festival will be held at the Kalahari Resort & Conference Center in the Poconos. It is based on putting the students' safety first and foremost as we continue to move forward in a world with COVID. It also addresses the many concerns voiced by members and recognizes that our state is extremely diverse in how a school district has, and will continue to, approached the issue of COVID and guidelines for their particular school district.

Auditions to All-State for the 2022 ensembles will be held using the current policy for At-Large instruments, which is as follows:

- The portion of each section that is eligible to advance to the 2022 Region level based on their audition at the 2022 District level from each District's CONCERT BAND, ORCHESTRA, and CHORUS will have the opportunity using the Submittable Program to audition for their applicable PMEA All-State Festival.
- In districts with multiple district level ensembles, qualified players who are eligible may submit an audition.
- The potential audition excerpts for each section will be available through the PMEA Website beginning on October 1, 2021 at www.pmea.net and found under the Conference and Events menu option by selecting the All-State Information link.
- **Please note that if the student has been selected for an All-State Festival, they must participate in the Region level festival in order to participate in the All-State Festival.**

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS include:

1. Complete the application form via Submittable when the window of opportunity to apply opens. The Director must be a current PMEA member. *There is a \$15 Application Fee to apply to an All-State Ensemble (a separate application fee applies for each ensemble to which a students auditions).

2. No identifying clothing may be worn (i.e. no school t-shirts, no name identification, no PMEA, NAFME All Eastern or National shirts). Additionally, please do not include any identifying information in the video file name or in the content of the recording (i.e. your name or school name).
3. The audition excerpts must be recorded from start to finish without cuts and/or splices. Students' hands/body/face must be visible in the video. To obtain the best audio quality, a good microphone as well as high-end computers or digital recording devices for the recording equipment are suggested. ** There can be no use of any device that can be perceived to give aid to a student (i.e. no earphones, metronomes, tuners, airpods, etc.)

The dates of the 2022 PMEA festivals and auditions for the 2022 All-State groups are as follows:

- **January 13-15, 2022 - District Orchestra**
 - January 16, 2022 - Submittable window opens at 8 a.m.
 - January 20, 2022 - Submittable window closes at Noon
 - January 22, 2022 at 8 a.m. - Judging window opens
 - January 27, 2022 at Noon - Judging window closes
 - January 31, 2022 - All-State Orchestra is announced via PMEA website
- **January 27-29, 2022 - District Band**
 - January 30, 2022 - Submittable window opens at 8 a.m.
 - February 3, 2022 - Submittable window closes at Noon
 - February 5, 2022 at 8:a.m. - Judging window opens
 - February 10, 2022 at Noon - Judging window closes
 - February 14, 2022 - All State Band and All State Wind Ensemble are announced via PMEA website
- **February 10-12, 2022 - District Chorus**
 - February 13, 2022 - Submittable window opens at 8 am
 - February 17, 2022 - Submittable window closes at Noon
 - February 19, 2022 at 8 a.m. - Judging window opens
 - February 24, 2022 at Noon - Judging window closes
 - February 28, 2022 - All-State Chorus is announced via PMEA website
- February 24-26, 2022 - Region Orchestra
- March 10-12, 2022 - Region Band
- March 24-26, 2022 - Region Chorus
- April 6-9, 2022 - All-State Festivals

Festival Name & Date	All-State Submission Opens	All-State Submission Closes	Judging Opens	Judging Closes	All-State Results Announced
District Orchestra Jan 13-15	Jan 16	Jan 20	Jan 22	Jan 27	Jan 31
District Band Jan 27-29	Jan 30	Feb 3	Feb 5	Feb 10	Feb 14
District Chorus Feb 10-12	Feb 13	Feb 17	Feb 19	Feb 24	Feb 28

There will be a \$15 application fee for each All-State Submittable audition.

This one All-State audition will also determine the seating of the students, should they be selected for an All-State ensemble.

Adaptations for the first in-person Conference and All-State Festival event since 2019 will be:

1. All-State rehearsals will be staggered and require only two nights lodging. As schools may be hesitant to allow students to room with students from different school districts, schools/directors will be responsible to make housing arrangements for the 2022 All-State festival for their students. A large block of rooms will be set aside for the individual arrangements that will be made. The PMEA housing waiver must be used should schools/parents prefer to have their students commute or stay off site of the All-State event. Chaperones will be provided at the All-State festival as the student rooms will be contained to specific floors at the All-State Conference and Festival hotel site.
2. The following rehearsal schedule will be used:
 - a. All-State Chorus, Jazz & Vocal Jazz
 - i. Rehearsals begin Wednesday, April 6 around 1 p.m.; individual concerts for each performance area will take place on Friday afternoon, April 8
 - b. All-State Band, Orchestra and Wind Ensembles
 - i. Rehearsals begin Thursday, April 7 around 1 p.m.; individual concerts will take place late morning/early afternoon on Saturday, April 9

*If for lodging purposes, all students from one school district need to arrive on Wednesday, students in the Thursday ensemble will be able to register earlier, have access to the water park (provided they have a room reservation at the hotel) and will have access to PMEA chaperones based on their room assignment. PMEA will NOT provide meals to All-State students who arrive early on Wednesday, prior to their ensemble rehearsals (Band, Orchestra & Wind Ensemble) starting on Thursday at 1 p.m., however there are ample meal options throughout the property (each hotel room also includes a refrigerator and microwave).

*Allowing directors and their school districts to make hotel arrangements for the schools affords them the opportunity to keep their students together, regardless of ensemble. The room rate is \$149 per night, plus tax (rate includes resort fee) for 1 - 4 people per room and includes waterpark admission for up to 4 people.

*As per PMEA's contract with Kalahari, the current cut-off date for guests to make overnight room reservations is March 14 to receive the rate of \$149 plus applicable taxes. Room reservations can be cancelled up until 72 hours prior to arrival but will be subject to a \$25 cancellation fee.

Possible Formats for Fests & Festivals During the 2021-22 PMEA Member Year

As the area of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is large, how festivals are held in 2022 will be at the discretion of each individual District and Region. Suggestions include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. In-person festival
 - a. Potentially shorten hotel stay to one night
 - b. Commuter only
2. Virtual festival
3. Hybrid festival
 - a. Virtual rehearsals with an in-person concert on the last day of the event.

State Virtual Fees for Festivals and Fests

In the event a virtual fest or festival is held, the PMEA State Participation Fee will be \$2 per student.

Rehearsal hours of a festival

The PMEA Policy of mandatory 14-22 hours of rehearsal time is **suspended** for all festivals for the 2022 festival season only due to potential pandemic safety requirements. Hosts are encouraged to schedule as much rehearsal time as possible for a quality educational experience.

Other Information:

Hosts should be in contact with their guest conductors to ensure that COVID precautionary plans are in place for each festival. An example would be if the need arises to go virtual, are they willing to do this for the rehearsal and potentially the performance after all rights are secured.

All current PMEA contracts, guest conductor, festival vendor/independent contractor etc, will be updated to reflect legal advice for COVID concerns.

A COVID consent form will be developed by the PMEA office for all participants of a festival or fest. This form will need to be completed by students, directors, festival nurse, chaperones, guest conductor, etc.