

# ***PMEA District 12***

## ***Instrumental Audition Policies***

*Revised: January 2007*

1. Students must participate in their own school band in order to audition for District Band, their own school orchestra in order to audition for District Orchestra. If one of those organizations is not offered at the student's school, another PMEA music director from his high school may sponsor him to audition for Districts, with the understanding that the sponsoring director will attend and take part in all required auditions.
2. Directors must be current members of PMEA. A copy of the membership card will be sent with each director's list of auditioning students.
3. Directors must accompany their students to the December auditions and to the district festival, and serve on audition committees. If the director is not in attendance, his/her students will not be permitted to participate. A director can be excused from the original auditions, or the festival re-auditions, for the following reasons: a) a school event that conflicts with auditions; or b) a death in the family. The District President must receive a letter from the director's administration no later than two weeks prior to the auditions requesting that the director be excused. It is then the director's responsibility to secure a qualified substitute who is also a current PMEA member.
4. An audition fee of \$4 will be assessed for each student auditioning for District Band or Orchestra, payable when the director submits his list of students to the audition host. A check written to **District 12 PMEA**, and only one check per school, please, will cover auditorium expenses, janitorial expenses, refreshments, and honoraria. This financial obligation must be met by participating school districts, students, and their directors, by the date of auditions or students will not be allowed to audition.
5. It is each director's responsibility to post the audition solo list and apprise students of all aspects of the auditions, as well as hearing students and assessing whether they are prepared for the audition.
6. Signups for auditions will end on the day named by the audition host, giving him/her time to process the information from each school and organize the auditions. No 'late' signups will be permitted on the day of auditions.

7. All auditioning students must be in grades 10, 11, or 12.
8. Auditions will be "blind", in that judges will have no visual of oral contact between judges and students. Student problems or questions should be communicated through a third party: a director or student who is not judging.
9. At the beginning of the audition period, at district festival re-auditions, students' folders of music will be collected and placed in the audition room. When the student enters the room, he will pick up his folder, and take direction from the audition committee on what to perform.
10. Adjudication will be made on the student's playing of the audition passages once through. In case of emergency, such as the ringing of a school bell or other strong distraction, adjudicators may direct the student to stop and begin again.
11. A weighted system of scoring will be used for re-auditions at the district festival, with 60% of the score being determined by the December audition and 40% from the festival re-audition.
12. Students come into the re-audition in an unranked, random order.
13. Final ranking in festival re-auditions will be based on score results, regardless of part. Folders will not be switched for the concert, but the higher scoring students will go on to Regions. Therefore, judges must try to choose musical passages that will equally judge the ability of every student on every part.
14. At the District Festival, any student judged to be unprepared may be sent home. A consultation among the host director, the student's director, and the district president may result in the student being asked to play passages again before these three, in order to determine whether the student is prepared at all to take part in the festival. Following that, a grace period may be stipulated within which the student may use any break time to prepare for another final hearing, at which time it would be determined whether or not the student is prepared enough to participate.
15. Student conduct at auditions and the festival should be exemplary. Students disciplined at a District festival shall be subject to punishment deemed appropriate by the district president including, but not limited to: exclusion from the concert, dismissal from the festival, ineligibility to participate in future festivals, withholding of awards, and a letter of reprimand/concern to parents, school administrator, and PMEA

sponsoring member. Consultation among the host, the student's director and the district president will precede disciplinary action.

16. If three or more students from a school audition, but none of them are selected, the school may send one musician as its representative to the District Band festival. If three or more string players from a school audition, but no students from that school are selected, the school may send one string player as its representative to the District Orchestra festival. Which musician is chosen to represent the school will be determined by students' score placement and balance considerations for the ensemble, and will be discussed by the host and the school's director. Students placed in the festival in this way must re-audition for placement at the festival, but are not eligible to progress to Region Band or Orchestra. Note - if each of the students who audition from a school are adjudicated "not recommended for festival" on judges' sheets, representation will not take place.
17. The host director has the prerogative to place into the festival a few of his/her own students who auditioned but were not selected, for the musical enrichment of those students and the director's program. The host director will make certain that any such students are prepared on the music. These students will re-audition at the festival for the experience of bettering their audition skills, but are not eligible to go on to Region Band or Orchestra.
18. The host of December district instrumental auditions will receive an honorarium of \$100, and the host of each district festival will receive an honorarium of \$200.
19. To participate in a festival all financial obligations for students and directors must be completed.
20. Careful monitoring of each host's budget will be made by district officers, with the intent of keeping costs down. The point of hosting a festival is to make the musical experiences available to young people, not to make thousands of dollars profit. Excessive profits will be either turned over to District 12 to allay next year's festival expenses or rebated to each school's music department, that choice to be determined from consultation by the host, the district president, and the district secretary-treasurer.
21. The host will send careful instruction to students concerning appropriate dress for the festival concert, band uniforms for District Band, black and white for District Orchestra.

22. If a student cannot attend the festival, the host and district president must be contacted immediately. The director of the next eligible student on that instrument will be contacted, so that a substitution can be made. Substitutions will be made up until 10 days before the festival, and are made with the agreement that the director make every effort to prepare the substitute student, who must participate in the festival re-auditions.
23. Festival housing arrangements will be made with a minimum of two students per home.
24. All students participating in the district festival will take part in the re-audition or be dropped from the festival.
25. Students must attend the entire festival. They may not leave for SAT's, mid-terms, sports contests, or any other personal, religious, or school activities. The host director may not excuse any student from any part of the festival. Any extremely extenuating circumstances must be handled according to PMEA's state manual directly through District 12's president. Students must be in attendance for the entire festival in order to be considered for Region Band or Orchestra. Students must rehearse and perform ALL musical compositions selected for the concert.
26. It is recommended that the host and the guest conductor collaborate closely on program choices, so that neither too long a program, nor oft-repeated selections, are chosen.
27. If a school is unable to fulfill its scheduled hosting commitment as indicated on the Festival Host Rotation List, it is that school's responsibility to find a replacement for the festival. In the event the scheduled host is unable to arrange for an exchange with another school, the students from that school will be ineligible to participate in any PMEA-sponsored event until the host obligation has been satisfied. If the scheduled host school has been able to arrange for an exchange with another school, then a Letter of Intent to host in exchange with the replacement school from the school's administration will allow those students to participate in the interim.