Updated 5/21/2025

JAZZ AUDITIONS

Only students whose names are submitted through the online program will receive an audition date and time. You will receive an email when audition times are available for your students. **THERE ARE NO AUTOMATICS FOR ANY JAZZ GROUP**. No walk-ins will be permitted to audition. All Jazz candidates MUST audition. Students may participate in only one All-County performing group. Auditioning for jazz assumes that this is the student's first choice and that, if accepted, their name would be withdrawn from consideration for any other All County group.

INSTRUMENTAL JAZZ REQUIREMENTS:

1. DIVISION 1-2 applicants are permitted to audition with an **excerpt of a jazz NYSSMA solo or an excerpt of music that demonstrates that the student can play in the swing style**. Students are **not** permitted to play along with a recording for this portion of the audition. Students will sight-read as well.
2. DIVISION 3-5 applicants are required to perform a solo selected from the Jazz solo section of the current NYSSMA manual and sight-read in the Jazz idiom. Students are **not** permitted to play along with a recording for this portion of the audition.
3. Improvisation is not graded, therefore not required, but is strongly recommended. Students may improvise on the Concert Bb Blues (CD track #7) or concert F Blues (CD track #8) from Volume 1 of Jamey Aebersold's "Jazz: How to Play and Improvise". Students are not required to bring this to the audition. The judges will have this CD selection at the audition. Students also have the option to solo on a selection from the Jazz section of the NYSSMA manual that is level appropriate. If they choose that option, they must bring the audio track, as well as a device on which to play it. (ie. CD and CD player, MP3 device and speakers)
4. Students recommended for Jazz may also be placed on any other All County application.If accepted to a Jazz group, his/her name will be removed from any other group he/she was nominated for.
5. A drum set, amplifier, and patch cords will be provided at the audition site. Drummers must bring their own sticks.

VOCAL JAZZ REQUIREMENTS:

1. Students in grades 9-12 are eligible to be in the DIVISION 4-5 group.
2. Students will choose an audition song from the Jazz section of the NYSSMA manual. The song should be sung through twice, with embellishment on the repeat. The embellishment could be a scat style or singing the words again with stylistic interpretation.
3. Students will be asked to sight-read a short diatonic example.
   - Swinging of eighth notes is encouraged, as per the NYSSMA All-State Vocal Jazz guidelines.
4. Students should provide their own accompaniment CD and an original copy of the music for the judge.
5. Optional blues improvisation may be performed to Jamey Aebersold's "Nothin' But Blues" Vol. 2 (CD track #5 or CD track #9).

JAZZ DRUM SET REQUIREMENTS:

1. Demonstrate several measures of groove (time) in each of the following styles:
   Jazz - Swing time (several tempos selected by the adjudicator)
   Rock Time (one tempo selected by the adjudicator, may play a funk beat or rock beat)
   Latin Time (one tempo selected by the adjudicator, may play a samba, bossa nova, mambo, etc.)
   Ballad Time with brushes (swing tempo selected by the adjudicator)

   This demonstration will assess the student's minimum level of competency with the requirements of typical Jazz Ensemble literature. **

   ***Note, sometimes not all of the audition grooves listed above are used in any one All County Jazz Concert, however this is still the best way of ascertaining the players' level of competency with the basic requirements of the drummers function. The students, particularly Division I, may not show great competence with all of the required styles - however the student that shows the **most** competency with **most** of the styles will be **most** likely to serve the group well.*
2. Time and Fill -- The adjudicator sets a tempo and calls a style (one style): Jazz (Swing), Rock, or Latin ---the student performs four (4) measures time and two (2) measures fill in that style. The Time and Fill process repeats a number of times to be determined by the adjudicator (at least two times). This demonstrates the players' ability to count time during both the four-measure groove phrase, and the two measure solo phrase, and to switch from groove to solo accurately, as well as ability to "fill" *appropriately* in the style of the piece.
3. (Except Division 1-2, please see above regarding the excerpt). Demonstrate performance of a current **manual listed Jazz NYSSMA Solo** for drum set. The higher the NYSSMA level, the more competency displayed.
4. Demonstrate the ability to **sight read**, material and tempo to be provided by the adjudicator.