

Dear parents and students,

It is an exciting time of year for the Herschel Jones Middle School Band as students are beginning to play fundamentals and learning pieces of music on their instrument! Many students have also decided that they would like to go above and beyond to audition for the Georgia Music Educators Association District 7 Honor Band and/or the Georgia Music Educators Association All-State Band! Both of these opportunities are wonderful experiences for our students at HJMS and it is my hope that you encourage your student to participate.

There are a few options that students may choose in order to participate in District Honor Band and/or All-State Band this year:

**Option 1 - District Honor Band Only**

Students will audition on December 17, 2019 at Cartersville Middle School for District Honor Band. If the student is selected as a member of District Honor Band they will perform at District Honor Band on February 13-15, 2020. There is a \$5 fee to participate in the audition for District Honor Band.

**Option 2 - District Honor Band and All-State Band (*Recommended Option*)**

Students will audition on December 17, 2019 at Cartersville Middle School for District Honor Band. If the student is selected, they will perform at District Honor Band on February 13-15, 2020. If their score at the District Honor Band audition is high enough, they will be eligible to audition for the All-State band second round auditions on January 11, 2020 at Union Grove Middle School. If the student is selected, they will perform in the GMEA All-State Band on March 5-7, 2020 at the Classic Center in Athens, GA. I recommend this option because students often become eligible for the second round that have only opted to do District Honor Band. There is a \$30 fee to audition for both District Honor Band and All-State Band under option #2.

**Round 1 - District Honor Band and First Round All-State Auditions**

December 7, 2019  
Cartersville Middle School  
825 Douthit Ferry Rd  
Cartersville, GA 30120

**Round 2 - Second Round All-State Auditions**

January 11, 2020  
Union Grove Middle School  
210 East Lake Rd  
McDonough, GA 30252

GMEA District 7 Honor Band  
February 13-15, 2020  
Heritage High School  
3960 Poplar Springs Road  
Ringgold, GA 30736

GMEA All-State Band  
March 5-7, 2020  
The Classic Center  
300 North Thomas Street  
Athens, GA 30601

**Audition Components:**

- Prepared Etude
- Scales
- Chromatic Scale
- Sight Reading
- Percussion: Scales, Rudiments, Forte Piano Roll, etc.
- Audition components are available at [gmea.org](http://gmea.org) under All-State Band

**Transportation:**

All transportation for District Honor Band and All-State Band events are provided by the parents or guardians of the student participating. Carpooling is encouraged if the parents or guardians of the students involved in the carpool are in communication. Students are NEVER permitted to drive to and from GMEA events with an instructional permit.

**Payment:**

Each student that decides to participate in either audition or sign up for both will pay a fee for the auditions. This covers the cost of the judges for the day as well as quality clinicians and music for the event itself. Students that decide to do District Honor Band only will pay \$5 by September 17, 2019. Students that decide to District Honor Band and All-State Band will pay \$30 by September 17, 2019. All payments may be turned into Mr. Dickerson and a receipt will be issued. Checks can be made out to "HJMS."

**Lessons**

It is recommended if students want to be competitive at a district and state level to take private lessons. Private lessons are not for remediation but are to help students excel musically. Private lessons are an investment in your music education that can help you be competitive at the district, state, and national levels, and prepare you for college scholarships. Students who are competitive at these levels have a better opportunity for scholarships. There are scholarships available for students even if they do not plan on studying music, but the

scholarship processes are competitive. It is best to prepare for these early. Students and parents may reach out to Mr. Dickerson if they would like to set up private lessons with an instructor.

#### After school District Band/All State Band sessions

There will be days where the HJMS bands will be having after school sessions until 5:00pm for additional instruction on their District and All State material. These will happen on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:45-5:00pm. Check the band calendar at [hjmsband.weebly.com](http://hjmsband.weebly.com) for upcoming dates. Students are required to attend at least one of these to become eligible to audition. Students that participate in all of these will be more likely to make the District and/or All-State Band.

Questions? Please do not hesitate to reach out at [cdickerson@paulding.k12.ga.us](mailto:cdickerson@paulding.k12.ga.us)

Thank you,

Chandler Dickerson

2019 GMEA /District All -State Permission Form:

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One:

*Option 1: District Honor Band Only*

*Option 2: District Honor Band and All-State Band*

I understand that all transportation, lodging (if applicable), meals, and event fees are my responsibility if my child chooses to participate in District Honor Band and/or All-State Band.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_