

JAZZ – INSTRUMENTAL AUDITION GUIDELINES

ELIGIBILITY

Instrumental students are selected to an all-county jazz ensemble by attaining a score at a live audition at the designated date and site for that festival. Students in grades 7-12 are eligible to perform a jazz solo audition.

Students may audition on more than one instrument but must make their preference known at the audition. Students may audition on the following instruments: Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Bari Sax, Trumpet, Trombone, Bass Trombone, Percussion - Drum Set, Percussion - Mallets, String Bass, Electric Bass, Guitar, and Piano.

SELECTION

Two high school level bands and one junior high level band will be selected. The Jazz 1 & 2 Bands will be selected from students in grades 10-12 and the Jazz 3 Band will be selected from students in grades 7-9.

ALTERNATES

Alternates for the Jazz 1 Band are chosen from the Jazz 2 Band. Alternates for the Jazz 2 Band are chosen from the HS Jazz alternate list. Alternates for the Jazz 3 Band are chosen from the JH Jazz alternate list.

AUDITION DATES

Jazz auditions take place at the Elementary Solo Festival.

AUDITION FORMAT

Solos must be chosen from the NYSSMA Manual Edition #31 (XXX1) (Effective July 2015). Students in grades 7-9 are limited to a level 5 NYSSMA jazz solo.

Percussion instrument auditions are 15 minutes. All other instruments are 10 minutes – following NYSSMA guidelines.

Jazz sight reading is required. See NYSSMA Jazz Sight Reading Criteria in the NYSSMA Manual.

Students are required to improvise blues in the keys of concert Bb or F using the ECMEA Jazz Tracks available at ecmea.org under Jazz Practice Audio. It is recommended, but not required, that students play a “head” before improvising. Improvisation sound system will be provided.

A second published edition of the solo is required by ECMEA for a student to be considered for selection into an all-county ensemble. If a student performs without a second published edition of the solo, he/she will only receive a rating, and will not be eligible for selection into an all-county ensemble. Students with copied music (not a published edition) will not be allowed to perform.