

Good morning

11-2-2020

We sincerely hope you are all navigating the tricky waters of this school year as successfully as possible. Thank you to those of you who took the small amount of time to respond to our 1 question survey asking what you and your students are comfortable and capable of doing regarding the NHBDA Middle Level Honors Festival.

Based on data from our survey and other data made available to us, along with the ever developing world of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be making the following changes for the 2020-2021 NHBDA Middle Level Honors Festival

- This will be an AUDITION ONLY experience
  - students will prepare and submit an audition as in the past
  - audition recordings will be adjudicated and scored by a professional musician
  - there will be NO in-person, or virtual, festival experience
- **AUDITION RECORDINGS ARE DUE BY 11:59 PM DECEMBER 18, 2020** (This deadline has been extended from the original due date of November 20)
- **AUDITION FEE IS \$8 PER AUDITION** (as it was last year)
- Audition recordings will be adjudicated during the first 2 weeks of January
- Adjudicator comments and scores will be shared with schools upon completion of adjudication as has been done in the past.
- Exceptional auditions will be acknowledged (student name and school) in print via the news media and NHBDA media (website, social media)
- All students submitting an audition will receive a certificate of participation or excellence.

These changes are in effect solely for the 2020-2021 school year and 2021 Middle Level Honors Festival and, in no way, set precedent for future festival experiences.

If your school is submitting audition recordings for adjudication, please send an email to this address with a request for a shared Google Drive folder in which you will submit recordings. The few schools who have requested folders already have had their folders established and have been contacted.

Attached to this email, you will find PDF copies of the audition requirements as well as the audition registration form. These documents will also be updated on the NHBDA website shortly. As a reminder, students submitting an audition must be active members, in good standing, of their school band program.

Audition material (scaled and etudes) can be downloaded from - <http://www.nhbda.org/ms-honors-band.html>

As always, please share this information with any other band directors who may be interested in offering this opportunity to their students and inadvertently left off of this mailing. They may contact us at this email to be added to our distribution list.

Please also consider paying active NHBDA membership dues to help the organization continue to be able to offer experiences like the Middle Level Honors Festival in the future. Current active member dues are \$15. Payment can be coordinated by contacting Bunny Saranita at James Masticola Upper Elementary School in Merrimack ([bunny.saranita@sau26.org](mailto:bunny.saranita@sau26.org)).

Thank you for your support of your students and providing them with this extended experience during these challenging times.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely  
Jim Robins  
Kurt Schweiss  
NHBDA MLHF Coordinators