

Selection of students for middle school district band shall be as follows:

1. At the beginning of the school year, the host shall provide each middle school director with the following:
 - a. Student application form
 - b. Director information form
 - c. Student ranking form
 - d. Audition exercises and instructions
2. Each student applicant shall complete the required application.
3. The student application shall include the signature of the student's band director and the school's principal, attesting that the student shall, if selected, fully prepare for participation in the festival.
4. Students shall submit and audition recording for each instrument for which he or she wishes to be considered.
5. Percussion students may separately apply for placement on battery, timpani, and/or mallets, submitting a separate recording for each.
6. Participating directors shall submit, prior to a deadline set by the host:
 - a. Student application form
 - b. Director information form
 - c. Student ranking form
 - d. One or more audition recordings for each student
7. Students who do not submit an audition recording shall not be considered for membership, except as necessary to satisfy a school's two-student quota (*see below*).
8. Audition recordings shall be evaluated and ranked within each section.
9. Students who submit multiple recordings and who rank high enough for placement in multiple sections shall be placed in the section indicated by the higher choice on his or her student application form.
10. The audition results notwithstanding, the host shall ensure that not less than two students are selected from each school. Students added to make a school's two-student quota shall be from the top of the school's student ranking form and from the student's first choice as much as possible. Such students shall be placed at the end of their respective sections based on their audition placements.
11. The host shall produce a list of selected students in chair order for distribution to all directors as soon as possible.

RATIONALE: Unlike at the high school level, middle school students have no opportunity to competitively vie for the available seats in any ensemble. This leaves the only selection criterion for PMEA ensembles that of quota-based selection. This process has the inherent potential of depriving outstanding student-musicians in relatively small schools the opportunity to play in this ensemble. As a result, the excellence level of this ensemble, and the level of repertoire available to it, is restrained by performance ability of its median student-musician, a median that can be raised by making a greater effort to identify and reward the most outstanding students.

A smaller issue related to the selection process is that of the taped audition. It has been a regular occurrence that several students, for whatever reason, have chosen not to submit audition tapes. These

students are not penalized beyond their placement at the ends of their respective sections while students who are willing to fully participate in the placement process are not selected. Making the taped audition a prerequisite to selection would focus the selection process on those students who are willing to prepare for the audition and therefore have a greater likelihood of preparing for the festival itself.

The above proposal acts as a hybrid between the selection systems for High School District Band and the Honors Band, while requiring accountability from each student through a mandatory audition.

IMPACT: As the number of students selected will not change, the cost of conducting the festival should remain unchanged. The largest impact would be in the creation, delivery, receipt, and evaluation of an increased number of student recordings.