

NSBA

BETTER BANDS FOR NEBRASKA

Jazz Band Directors,

The Nebraska State Bandmasters Association is inviting you and your students to take part in the 2nd annual NSBA Jazz Band Festival. This festival will be held **Monday, April 10th, 2017 at Millard West High School**. This year's judges include: **Dan Gailey** from Lawrence, Kansas; **Paul Haar** from Lincoln, Nebraska; **Jason Pentico** from Pella, Iowa.

It is our intent for both directors and students to receive input from the judges that will be beneficial in helping to improve individual jazz musicianship and ensemble performance levels throughout the remainder of the year.

FESTIVAL ENTRY FEE:

The entry fee is \$150 for each performing ensemble.

THE ENTRY FEE MUST ACCOMPANY THE ENTRY FORM

TIME LIMIT:

All performing ensembles will be limited to 25 minutes. Please plan your program accordingly, as this time limit also includes "on and off" time needed to enter/exit the performance area.

PROVIDED EQUIPMENT INCLUDES:

sound system & three (3) microphones

2 – 8"X4'X8' platforms

2 – 16"X4'X8' platforms

1 – acoustic piano

1 – vibraphone

chairs, music stands, electrical outlets

EQUIPMENT TO BE PROVIDED BY EACH ENSEMBLE:

amps and patch cords

ENSEMBLE CLASSIFICATIONS:

Middle School Jazz Bands (A)	Students in grade 7 and/or 8
Middle School Jazz Bands (A2)	2 nd , 3 rd ensembles – (6 th , 7 th and 8 th graders)
High School Class B	1 – 300 student enrollment – grades 9 – 12
High School Class A	301 – 800 student enrollment – grades 9 – 12
High School Class AA	800 or more students enrolled – grades 9 – 12
High School Class AA2	2 nd , 3 rd bands
High School Combo	open class

Ensembles may perform for **EXHIBITION ONLY**, or for **RATING AND PLACEMENT**.

Ensembles performing in **EXHIBITION ONLY** will receive participation certificates. No ratings will be given. Bands will receive 'comments only' from the judges.

Ensembles competing for **RATING/PLACEMENT** will receive Roman numeral ratings. These ratings will be: Superior (I), Excellent (II), Good (III). Raw scores will determine the overall rating of the performing ensemble, but will not be averaged to determine the final Roman numeral rating. (i.e. 85 (I), 85 (I), and 69 (III) would result in a final rating of Superior (I). This is the same rating system that NSAA uses for District Music Contest.

PLACEMENT AWARDS will be presented to the top three (3) ensembles in each classification. Placement awards will be determined by utilizing the raw scores of the performing ensembles.

All designated soloists from all classifications will be considered for the following awards. Recipients of these awards will be determined by the judging panel.

CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT will be presented to soloists who were deemed to have exemplary performances throughout the day. To receive this achievement certificate, a soloist must have been recommended by two of the three judges.

One **OUTSTANDING SOLOIST AWARD** will be presented to the top soloist in each of the four jazz ensemble sections (saxophone, trumpet, trombone, rhythm).

One **OVER-ALL OUTSTANDING SOLOIST AWARD** will be presented to the best overall soloist of the festival.

One award for the **BEST WIND SECTION** and one for the **BEST RHYTHM SECTION** will be awarded by the panel of judges. Ensembles from all classifications will be considered for these two awards.

One **SWEEPSTAKES TROPHY** will be presented to the ensemble that receives the highest **PLACEMENT** score of the day. This will be a 'traveling trophy'. The winning ensemble will have their name engraved on the trophy that will be kept in their school throughout the year. This same trophy will be presented to the top ensemble each year. It will be the responsibility of the winning ensemble's director to have the Sweepstakes Trophy at the next year's festival site.

We will schedule ensembles during the school day. The number of bands/ensembles entered will determine how early the festival will begin.

THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING ENTRY FORMS IS FRIDAY, MARCH 3rd, 2017!

THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL WILL BE LIMITED TO THE FIRST 22 REGISTERED ENSEMBLES AS DETERMINED BY ENTRY FORM POSTMARK DATE!!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have. I can be reached at (402)-758-7012 (H); (402)-350-5713 (Cel), or via email at larryathbun68@yahoo.com.

We hope that you and your students will be able to join us on April 10th!

Sincerely,

Larry Rathbun
NSBA Jazz Chair