



November 25th, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

My name is Wade Howles and I have the privilege of serving as the Jazz Chair for the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association. I am writing to let you know that we are excited to host the NSBA State Jazz Festival on **Thursday, April 9th and Friday, April 10th, 2026**. Middle school and high school 2nd bands will perform on **Thursday, April 9th at Westside High School**. Varsity high school groups will perform on **Friday, April 10th at Elkhorn South High School**. Please be aware that, depending on registration numbers, non-competitive varsity groups may be asked to perform on Thursday. Bands may register for comments only, for comments and a rating, or for the full competition portion. All performances are limited to 25-minutes followed by a 25-minute clinic (clinic will not be on stage).

The entry fee to participate is \$200. Only directors that are current members of NSBA are eligible to participate in the State Jazz Festival so please ensure that your membership is up-to-date. Please complete one entry form for each ensemble you plan to register. If you are submitting multiple groups, please be very clear about which is your varsity group as this impacts scheduling.

Entries will be accepted in the order that they are received. Your school will be placed on a wait list if your registration is submitted after the maximum number of schools has been reached. Registration often fills within the first few hours of being open so please do not put off registering if you are considering attending! Our judging panel is shaping up to be another outstanding group of jazz educators and includes:

- Dr. Alex Annan, University of Wyoming
- Rob Babel, Ft. Zumwalt High School, St. Louis (Retired)
- Dr. Matthew Storie, University of Nebraska-Omaha
- Ken Janak, Papillon Middle School (Retired)
- Dr. Greg Simon, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

I sincerely hope that you are able to join us for this fun and educational event. To register your band, please follow this link: <https://forms.gle/kAHMYTPE3jTThQjG8>

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions, concerns, recommendations or requests.

Sincerely,

Wade Howles
NSBA Jazz Chair / jazz@nsbma.org / 816-261-1420