

St. Louis Suburban MMEA District 5

2023-24 Middle School Honor Jazz Band Audition Information

September 1, 2023

TO: St. Louis Suburban Middle School Band Directors and Students
FROM: Lucas Alberts – St. Louis Suburban MMEA District 5 MS Jazz Band Vice President
RE: 2023-2024 All-Suburban Middle School Jazz Band Auditions
WHEN: Monday, October 23, 2023 - 4:30-9:00 PM
WHERE: Clayton High School, 1 Mark Twain Circle, Clayton, MO 63105
CLINICIAN: Harvey Lockhart

The St. Louis All-Suburban Middle School Jazz Band is an honor band consisting of students in grades 7 and 8 from throughout the St. Louis area. Students selected to this group have the distinction of representing their schools at the All-Suburban Honors Band Concert held in January 2024. All-Suburban Jazz Band members also have the opportunity to work with and learn from an outstanding guest conductor as well as with other talented student musicians from the St. Louis area. Please note that both the All-Suburban Middle School Honor Band and the Honor Jazz Band auditions will be held on the same evening at the same time and location.

Registration for All-Suburban Middle School Honor Jazz Band is online.
Go to the St. Louis Suburban MMEA District 5 website: www.stlsuburbanmmeadistrict5.com
Locate the “Band Honor Groups” page and click on the
“Online Registration Link”

All-Suburban Middle School Jazz Band Schedule

Monday, September 25:	Registration Opens - MS Concert Band & MS Jazz Band
Friday, October 6:	Registration Deadline – MS Band & MS Jazz
Monday, October 23:	MS Honor Concert and Jazz Band Auditions – Clayton High School, 4:30-9:00 PM
Monday, November 13:	MS Honor Concert and Jazz Band Rehearsal – Rockwood South MS, 7-9:00PM
Monday, November 20:	MS Honor Concert and Jazz Band Rehearsal – Rockwood South MS, 7-9:00PM
Monday, November 27:	MS Honor Concert and Jazz Band Rehearsal – Rockwood South MS, 7-9:00PM
Friday, January 5:	MS Honor Concert and Jazz Band Rehearsal – Rockwood South MS, 7-9:00PM
Saturday, January 6:	MS Honor Concert Band Rehearsal – Kirkwood High School, 8:00AM – 1:00PM
Sunday, January 7:	MS Honor Concert Band Concert – Kirkwood High School, 2:00 PM

*****In order to participate, students accepted to the ensemble must attend all rehearsals and the performance.*****

APPLICATION/REGISTRATION

- Registration for auditions will be done by directors and/or their students by going to the St. Louis Suburban MMEA District 5 website. Click on the appropriate honor group page (band, orchestra, or choir) and click on the "On-Line Registration Link" for the group you wish to register for. Students auditioning for more than one instrument only need to register ONCE. Just make sure you answer all the questions on the page. If a student is auditioning for BOTH concert and jazz band, you only need to register that student ONCE. Just make sure you answer ALL the questions on the registration page. Once you have completed the registration page for that student, click SUBMIT. You WILL NOT receive a confirmation.
- Once registration closes for each group, directors will have a chance to verify their school's entries through the verification process. There will be a \$25.00 fee assessed to any late entry or any correction needed after the verification deadline. This fee will be assessed to each correction. It is a huge undertaking to make adjustments to this process after the deadline. All correction fees will be added to your final registration invoice.

- Audition times and room assignments will be EMAILED to directors the week of October 16. **Directors are strongly encouraged to handle the entire registration process for all of their students.**
- **REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN Monday, September 25 at 6:00 a.m. REGISTRATION will conclude Friday, October 6 at MIDNIGHT.**
- On October 23, a director or school representative will need to check-in and certify that the registered students are members of their junior high/middle school band program and meet all requirements of St. Louis Suburban MMEA District 5.
- Auditions are blind; the judges will not see the students auditioning.
- The audition fee is \$15.00 per audition and you must pay for all auditions that have registered. If you register 10 students who will be taking 15 different auditions, you owe \$225.00 even if only 9 actual auditions take place on October 23. This is consistent with the state audition process. Once students are registered, directors will receive an invoice from St. Louis Suburban MMEA District 5 with payment instructions. Upon receiving that invoice, directors will have 30 days to submit their payment for the audition fees.
- When students arrive at Clayton High School, they will go to the registration desk in the cafeteria to pick up their registration form that will be waiting for them. Students must have this form to audition.
- Students will not be permitted to audition without an application on file

AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

- Students will not be given an audition number. The audition judge will only recognize you by your audition time and instrument. You will be met at your audition room by a room monitor who will double check with you as to your audition time and confirm your name. This information will not be made available to the judge.
- Audition times and room assignments will be EMAILED to band directors by the end of the week of October 16.
- Report to your audition room 10 minutes prior to your audition. The room monitor will call you by your audition time when it is your time to audition.
- Avoid talking to the judge. If you have any questions, ask the room monitor.
- Failure to report to your audition at your assigned time may result in you not being able to audition.

AUDITION PROCEDURES

- Plan to arrive at Clayton High School 30 minutes before your assigned audition time.
- **PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE AT CLAYTON HIGH SCHOOL BEFORE 4:30pm unless you have a 4:30 audition time. 4:30 auditionees may show up at 4:10pm.**
- **Students/directors must register on-line by Friday, October 6 at midnight.**
- **Jazz Band audition etudes are from the rotating audition sets adopted in 2008. This year we will use SET #2.**

- The Jazz Band auditions will consist of Etude 1 (Swing) and Etude 2 (Bossa Nova) as well as an optional improvisation over a 12-bar Concert B-flat Blues with CD accompaniment. **Note to Rhythm Section:** Auditions will take place individually first. After the initial individual auditions callbacks will be posted. The callback auditions will take place **as a section** (piano, vibes, guitar, bass, drums). Students may be asked to play with several different players during their audition. Be prepared to play both etudes possibly more than once.
- Sight reading (4-8 measures) - Students will be asked to sight-read a very short swing excerpt at their audition. Sight reading examples will be at about the same difficulty level as the prepared etudes.
- There will be a directors' hospitality room where you will find food and soda in the choir room.
- Students will pick up their registration form in the cafeteria. The form will also be emailed to Band Directors prior to the event.
- Remember, students that are not registered on-line by October 7 will **NOT** be allowed to audition.
- **REMINDER** –In order to keep auditions flowing smoothly and quickly, students may only be asked to play sections of the etudes. Students should, however, prepare all etudes in their entirety. Sight reading examples will be at about the same difficulty level as the prepared etudes.

AUDITION RESULTS

Audition results will be emailed to directors within 24-48 hours after auditions conclude. If students are auditioning for multiple ensembles and are selected for both the concert and jazz bands, they will be asked to choose one. This also applies to students auditioning across band, choir, and orchestra. Students may only be in one Honors ensemble. Ask your students to be available at home after auditions so that they may choose which group they most prefer.

ATTENTION DIRECTORS

While the St. Louis Suburban MMEA District 5 Middle School Band is not covered under the MSHSAA rules requiring directors to be present at rehearsals, you are welcome and encouraged to attend and assist with rehearsal supervision. Directors will be needed to run sectional rehearsals on some rehearsal nights. Please consider volunteering to help with these rehearsals so that we can have smaller, more productive sectional groups. Please contact the St. Louis Suburban MMEA District 5 Middle School Band Vice President to volunteer for a sectional rehearsal or if you have any questions.