



# HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**Education Today  
Knowledge Forever**

**Department of  
Music and Performing Arts**

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Dear NYSSMA Participant and Family,

Congratulations on your participation in the **VIRTUAL NYSSMA Solo Music Festival 2021**. Although this year things are “a little bit different” and we are utilizing a virtual format, I am so glad our students have the opportunity to share his/her musical talent through the NYSSMA experience. NYSSMA provides an opportunity to prepare and perform a piece of music and receive feedback from an adjudicator. All instrumentalists, pianists and vocalists are eligible to participate. Students wishing to audition for All State must be in tenth or eleventh grade. Students will have the opportunity to perform a prepared piece and receive a written evaluation and score from an adjudicator. Scores will also be considered criteria for participation in All County and All State groups.

## NYSSMA FAQ

1. **How do I select a piece to perform?** Music must be chosen from the NYSSMA Manual (Edition XXXI- Effective July 2018). Manuals are located in every Herricks school music department. Your child should be enrolled in private instruction and he/she should consult the private teacher regarding the choice of a piece. School music teachers should not be expected to prepare students on solos.
2. **How does the Virtual format work?** After the registration window has closed, each student will receive a unique link to log in and upload the scales, the piece and to perform sight reading. More specific details of the process are mentioned on the registration form. More detailed information will be shared at a live informational workshop scheduled through Google Meet (date TBD) and other material after the registration deadline has closed.
3. **Do I need to purchase the sheet music or may I use a photocopy?** Yes, you will need to purchase an original copy of your solo which will need to be uploaded through your unique link. This process is the same for all virtual festivals. (if you are preparing more than one solo)
4. **What do I wear to my audition?** There is no dress code for NYSSMA. However, please keep in mind that this is a performance, so dress appropriately..

Please complete the attached form and return it to your music teacher with a check for the proper amount made payable to HERRICKS UFSD no later than Friday, January 22, 2021. (Please include student’s full name in the memo line of the check) If you have any questions, please contact your child’s School Music Teacher.

Sincerely,

Anissa Arnold  
Director of Music and Performing Arts