



South Dakota Music Educators Association
www.sdmea.net



January 26, 2010

Dear Middle School Band Directors,

Many thanks to those of you who auditioned students for the 11th annual South Dakota Music Educators Association Middle School All-State Band in Pierre. We are very appreciative of your efforts in preparing students for this event and excited to hear this year's ensembles. This letter is intended to inform you about procedural changes for next year's event.


The 2011 Middle School All-State Band will be open only to those students whose director is a member of SDMEA, the sponsoring organization. The dual fee structure was intended to be introductory only, to encourage directors to audition their students for this new opportunity. SDMEA, in reviewing and standardizing the policies that govern the events we sponsor, has determined that we cannot continue this practice. All of the other events that we sponsor require membership, and in fairness to all of our members, we must bring the MSASB in line by requiring that participating directors hold a SDMEA membership in order for their students to audition and participate. SDMEA policy now states that "in the case of larger schools only one band director needs be a SDMEA member but all band director's names will be included in the program with the SDMEA member's name having an asterisk. Furthermore, all MSASB auditions received must be submitted by the Instrumental Music Director at the school the student attends."

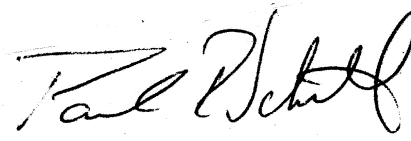
As the event has evolved, we have discovered that some directors require their students to pay for their own fees. This practice places the financial burden of the non-member fee on the student, which was not SDMEA's intention. The move to require membership will eliminate this practice, which makes the student fees equal for all participants. It is the hope of SDMEA that this new policy will add to the number of auditioned students.

MSASB is intended as an event organized by its members for their students, not an event organized and run by just a few people. It is our hope that all participating directors, as members, will share equally in the operational aspects and future direction of this event.

We thank you for your continued support of the Middle School All-State Band.

Sincerely,


Ms. Jennifer K. Hawkinson
SDMEA President


Dr. Paul R. Schilf
SDMEA President-Elect