



2016 GMEA All State Orchestra Information

All State Orchestra is a large ensemble of students selected from the best musicians in Georgia conducted by nationally known clinicians. The Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA) sponsors this event. Students must go through a rigorous audition process in order to attend this highly prestigious event in Athens, GA. Approximately 33% of the students that audition are selected for All State. There are two middle school All State Orchestras and they are equal level.

There are two auditions for All State: district level and state level. The district level audition is on **October 15, 2016 at Autrey Mill Middle School**. Students who pass the district level audition will go on to the state level. The state level audition will be held in **January 7, 2017 at the Westminster Schools**. The actual All State event for those who pass will be **March 2-4, 2017 in Athens, GA**. This is an excused absence from school.

The district audition requirements are scales, an etude, and sight-reading. Scales must be memorized and played at the correct tempo. There are copies of the etude on the bulletin board in the orchestra room; however students may not play off of photocopies at the audition. The etude book should be purchased from a local music store or mail order catalog. The state level audition includes excerpts from the music that will be performed by the All State Orchestra and sight reading. For specific audition information, please visit <http://www.gmea.org/orchestra/all-state-orchestra/>.

Transportation to and from the All State events is the responsibility of the parent. Lodging at the All State event is the responsibility of the parent.

Students who are not taking private lessons may have a more limited chance of making All State, as they may need much more individual help than can be provided by the orchestra director. I am willing to help students prepare for the sight reading portion of the audition, which is heavily weighted. Students may need to practice for several hours each day to be successful at this audition.

The fee to audition at the district level is \$20.00. Please notify Mrs. Champion and pay your fee immediately if you have interest in auditioning for All State. The \$20 fee is due by September 2. Make checks payable to Northwestern Middle School.

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www.NMSPerforms.org/Orchestra