



## 2017-2018 GMEA All State/Honor Orchestra Information

The Middle School 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, and both are mixed grade levels.

The GMEA District 5 Middle School Honor Orchestra will be selected through the same audition process. This is a new event opportunity that will be held concurrently with the Honor Clinic on March 24, 2018 at Sutton Middle School. This orchestra will also be mixed grade levels from all schools in GMEA District 5.

There are two auditions to be selected for All State or District Honor Orchestra: district level and state level. The district level audition is on **October 14, 2017 at Centennial High School**. Students who pass the district level audition will go on to the state level audition. The state level audition will be held in **January 6, 2018 at the Westminster Schools**. The next weekend, January 13, is the inclement weather make up date. It is a good idea to keep this date free as well in case a snow or ice event causes the auditions to be postponed. The actual All State event for those who pass will be **March 1-3, 2018 in Athens, GA**. These dates will be excused absences from school. The Honor Orchestra event is **Saturday, March 24, 2018** at Sutton Middle School.

The fee to audition at the district level is \$25.00. Please make payment online through OSP if your child will participate. The \$25 fee is due by September 1. All State and Honor Orchestra will each have a participation fee, if students are selected.

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 <https://www.gmea.org/aso-audition-information>.

Transportation to and from the audition, All State event and Honor Clinic event is the responsibility of the parent. Lodging and student supervision at the All State event are the responsibility of the parent.

Students who are not taking private lessons will have a more limited chance of being selected for All State or Honor Orchestra, as they may need much more individual help than can be provided at school. 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.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding these events or the audition.

Thank you,  
Mrs. Champion