

JUNIOR HIGH SOLO & ENSEMBLE 2025

This festival is optional, but it is a valuable experience for student musicians provided to us by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association. Since this festival is an extra commitment, you will want to sit down with your student to talk about participation in the festival!

What is Solo Ensemble Festival?

7th and 8th grade instrumentalists from all over the W. Michigan area prepare and perform a solo or small group piece. They perform this piece in a classroom for a qualified judge who provides them with feedback, suggestions, and a rating. This gives the kids an opportunity to work on musical independence while improving their skills at the individual level.

Where is it at?

The festival will be held at Northpointe Christian Schools. Maps will be provided. Transportation is not provided.

When is Solo Ensemble Festival?

The spring festival will be on Saturday, April 26, 2025. Please check your calendars now for availability, so as to avoid ensembles depending on students who will be out of town. Students will perform some time between 8 am and 5 pm. A specific time slot will be given to students a couple weeks before the festival. If doing one event, you are usually there for about one hour with the time it takes to warm-up, perform, wait for ratings, etc.

How do we find music to play?

The band directors may help students find appropriate music. If your child takes private lessons, they should have their private instructor select music. **The piece must be a minimum of 1 minute and 30 seconds long and must be an original purchased piece of music** (no photocopies). If students do not take private lessons, they will need to do a couple of after school rehearsals with Mrs. Gembis or Mr. Palma, but the great majority of practicing will have to be done outside of class on their own.

Will my student need a piano accompanist?

All soloists (with the exception of some percussion music) will need a piano accompanist. This is required in the rules of S&E Festival, and this person plays along with your student as they play through their solo. They provide all of the harmony to make a solo sound great! Deb Alley will be the accompanist that works with our kids at school. If you have a strong preference to provide your own accompanist, please have your child talk to Mrs. Gembis.

What is the cost?

Yes, there is a fee. Solos cost \$15, and all ensembles are \$10 per student (duets \$20 or \$10 per student; trios \$30 or \$10 per student, etc). Therefore, a student playing a solo and a quintet would pay \$25. A student doing just a solo will pay \$15. Solos will require an additional fee for the piano accompanist which you will pay the accompanist directly, approximately \$30. This covers the cost of time spent during rehearsals and the performance. If finances are preventing your child from participating, please let us know and we can work to find a solution!

If you have questions, please email Mrs. Gembis at agembis@jpsonline.org or Mr. Palma at mpalma@jpsonline.org

Detach and return this slip (with payment) to Mrs. Gembis by **Wednesday, January 29**.

Checks made payable to JPS. Please circle payment form below:

Festival Total: \$_____ cash check student credits

Circle Preferred Time of Day: Early Mid-Day Late

My student, _____, has my permission to participate in the Solo & Ensemble Festival on Saturday, April 26, 2025. I realize that this obligates me to provide transportation for my student to Northpointe Christian for this event. I have enclosed the proper fee for my student's event(s).

Parent Signature

Date

Event Type (solo, duet, etc)

Other Participants _____

1.

2.

3.

Please mark this box if you would like to do a duet, trio, quartet, etc, but are not sure who you should do this with!