



Zone 1 June Newsletter

Festival Season Thank Yous!

At the conclusion of the 2026 Festival Season, I want to send a special thank you to all of our festival hosts:

Solo Festivals

Amanda Burdick-Lew - Port

Jill Neuhaus - Kenmore East

Gina Wakefield - Jamestown

Lauren Kirchner, Alex Scalise, Kathy Weller - Cattaraugus Solo Fest at
Allegany Limestone

Charlene Brooks - West Seneca East

Majors Festivals

Rich Riederer and Daryl Warren - Frontier HS

Joseph Gervase - Springville - Griffith Institute

Robert Pacillo - Lockport HS

Andrew Bennett - Fredonia HS

Allison Costanzo - Metcalfe - Lancaster HS

Sarah Roberts - North Tonawanda HS

Thomas Mudd - Frederick Law Olmstead School #64

All of these festival hosts took extra time beyond their regular teaching duties to insure a positive festival experience for students and educators alike! We are so appreciative of all their hard work! Also, special shout out to all those who tirelessly assisted with these festivals without necessarily holding the official "chairperson" title!



Speical Thanks to former Zone Representatives Paige Hardison and Rick Lunquist for providing coverage at several festivals this season and allowing me to be a teacher!



Zone 1 June Newsletter

NYSSMA News

Here are some details from the most recent June Executive Council Meeting:

- 1) **Winter Conference**- Another one of the student hotels in Rochester (Wyndham) has closed. The Executive director asked Zone Reps to pass on this info as they are working rigorously and exploring many possible solutions.
- 2) **Electronic Voting**- A motion to accept voting ballots of any kind (paper, electronic, etc.) passed the Executive Council unanimously. It will be put to a full membership vote by paper ballot this Fall.
- 3) **Sight-Reading**: Sight-Reading Sets Years A, B, and C are now retired and will be replaced by brand new sight-reading for the 2027 Festival Season.

Personnel Updates

Please send any of the following personnel updates to **zone1@nyssma.org**:

- 1) County Leadership Changes
- 2) Retirements within your department
- 3) Departures within your department
- 4) New Hires to your department


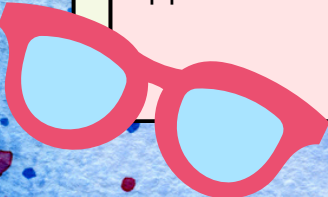
This will help me keep the most accurate contact lists as we enter the new school year. Thank you for your assistance!

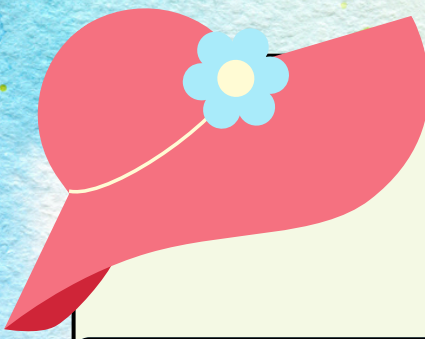
NYSSMA Awards

Nominate and celebrate your deserving colleagues with a NYSSMA Award (presented at the 2026 Winter Conference). **Click here for more information on NYSSMA awards.**

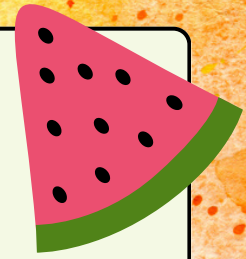
Student All-State Piano Showcase

The Piano showcase is the only remaining student showcase still open. Applications close on July 11. See [Zone 1 website](#) for links to applications and information.





Zone 1 June Newsletter



Professional Development at Zone 1 Area All-State Festivals

This year, we are planning to offer professional development workshops at both of our Area All-State Festivals. NYSSMA will be able to offer CTLE credits for participation in this sessions. Our goal is to offer 3-4 sessions per festival: 50-60 minutes in length

All Zone 1 active and retired educators (all levels, all performance mediums) are encouraged to submit a session proposal!

AAS Professional Development Proposal Form

Proposal Submission Deadline: September 1, 2026

Please e-mail zone1@nyssma.org with any questions.

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NYSSMA Summer Conference Jazz @ Lincoln Center

Consider joining in the fun at the NYSSMA Summer Conference in New York City with Jazz @ Lincoln Center!

Registration Info at the Link below!

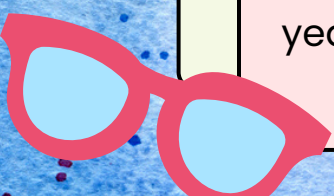
NYSSMA Summer Conference

School Participation Fees 26-27

School Participation Fees will remain the same as the 25-26 school year. See [Zone 1 website](#) for specific details.

Happy Summer Everyone!

Congratulations to everyone on another successful school year! Please take some time to enjoy your summer break with family and friends! **Let's get it started!**



Zone 1

26-27 Festival Calendar

Area All-State and Solo

Event	Date	Location	Chairperson
Area All-State Application Deadline	Sep 18, 2026	-----	-----
JH Area All-State	November 6-7, 2026	Akron Central School	Brendon Bardo
SH Area All-State	November 20-21, 2026	SUNY Fredonia	Kevin Duncan
Solo Festival (ASE, no jazz, no piano)	Apr 17, 2027	Lewiston-Porter MS	Amanda Burdick
Solo Festival (ASE, AS IJ and VJ, Piano)	April 23-24, 2027	Kenmore East HS	Jill Neuhaus
Solo Festival (ASE, Piano, no jazz)	May 7-8, 2027	Salamanca HS	Lauren Kirchner
Solo Festival (ASE, Piano, no jazz)	May 21-22, 2027	Jefferson MS (Jamestown)	Gina Wakefield
Solo Festival (No All State SE,)	June 4-5, 2027	Orchard Park MS	Brad Carson
Piano ONLY Solo Festival	Jun 5, 2027	West Seneca CSD	Charlene Brooks

This schedule is also available on the [Zone 1 website](#)




Zone 1 26-27 Festival Calendar Majors

Event	Date	Location	Chairperson
Instrumental Majors	April 21-22, 2027	Springville-Griffith Institute	Joe Gervase
Instrumental Majors	May 26, 2027	Fredonia HS	Andrew Bennett
Instrumental Majors	June 2-3, 2027	North Tonawanda HS	Sarah Roberts
Instrumental Majors	TBD	Frederick Law Olmstead	Thomas Mudd
Choral Majors	May 19, 2027	Lockport HS	Robert Pacillo
Choral Majors	TBD	Lancaster HS	Allison Costanzo-Metcalfe

This schedule is also available on the **Zone 1 website**
If anyone else is willing to host a majors festival, especially Choral, please let me know ASAP!

