

ZONE 1 NYSSMA NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER
2026

NYSSMA News

Zone 1 Website and Communications

The **Zone 1 Website** has been updated for the 26-27 school year with the most current information available! Anything in this newsletter can also be found on the website! Be sure to bookmark the site!

Communications: Please make sure have any **new teachers** to your district complete the: **Zone 1 Mailing List Form** to be included on future communications.

NYSSMA Elections

NYSSMA Ballots were sent out at the beginning of September!

Postmark deadline is November 2!

Be sure to vote for the following:

2nd Vice President

3rd Vice President

Ballot Measure to Allow for Electronic Voting in the Future

Please read the candidate statements carefully and review the experiences of the candidates. Feel free to reach out with any questions or guidance!

Area All-State Info

Thank you to everyone who had students apply for Area All-State and congratulations to all students accepted!

Teachers with students accepted to Area All-State were notified on the following dates:

Senior High- **September 25**

Junior High- **September 29**

Please be sure to contact ensemble chairs ASAP if you have a student that cannot participate, so that an alternate can be contacted!

SH Teacher Information Packet

JH Teacher Information Packet

Contact information for general and group chairs can be found in the information packets. Please reach out with any questions.

Pay careful to any and all deadlines indicated in the Teacher Information Packets.

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Conference All-State Remaining Dates

10/14- Music sent to Students

Winter Conference Registration Link

[Click HERE!](#)

Ableton Educator's Day @ Eastman

The Eastman Music Technology Department is hosting an Ableton Educator's Day Professional Development Conference Day on Friday, October 9. Free, but registration is required.

[Click here for more information and to register for this event.](#)

Area All-State PD

Thank you to everyone who reached out about presenting a professional development session at the 2026 Area All-State Festivals!

Here is a schedule for Teacher Sessions at both Area All-State Festivals:

Junior High Area All-State

Friday, November 6

5:00pm- Mastering the Art of the Multi-Level Concert (Laura Jay and Amanda McCormick)

Saturday, November 7

9:30am- NYSSMA Zone 1 Meeting

10:00am- How to Register Your Students for NYSSMA Solo Festival/NYSSMA Manual

10:45am- Lauren Kirchner and Kathleen O'Mara (Topic TBA)

Senior High Area All-State

Friday, November 20

3:30pm- Taking the Mystery Out of the Vocal Jazz Audition (Jill Neuhaus and others)

Saturday, November 21

9:30am- NYSSMA Zone 1 Meeting

10:00am- How to Register Your Students for NYSSMA Solo Festival/NYSSMA Manual

10:45am- Student-Directed Musical Theatre Productions! (Heather Lovelace and Mason Battle)

• FOR PLANNING PURPOSES

2027 Solo Festivals

Event	Date	Location	Chairperson
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

2027 MAJOR ORGANIZATION FESTIVAL CALENDAR

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
Choral Majors	May 19, 2027	Lockport HS	Robert Pacillo

SALUTE TO SPOOKY SEASON!

ENJOY!