



October 11, 2021

Dear PMEA Band Directors,

The Yough School District is pleased to host PMEA Jr. High District 1 East Honors Band on Friday, March 4, 2022, and Saturday, March 5, 2022. The festival will be held at Yough Intermediate/Middle School in Ruffs Dale, PA. Although a detailed schedule is forthcoming, the festival will begin on Friday with check-in starting at 8:30AM, and rehearsal beginning at 9:00AM both days. The concert will be on Saturday at 3:00PM.

Our guest conductor will be Dr. Kate Ferguson, Director of Athletic Bands at Youngstown State University. Currently in her twenty-fourth year as an educator, Ferguson previously taught in the Akron Public, Crestwood Local and Cuyahoga Falls City School Districts. Additionally, she has served as a faculty member at The College of Wooster, Southeast Missouri State University, Kent State University. She holds a Bachelors in Music Education degree from Kent State University, a Masters in Music Education Degree from the University of Akron, and a Ph.D. in Music Education from Kent State University. Under her direction, Ferguson's ensembles consistently earn superior ratings at both district and state Ohio Music Education Association Events. Her ensembles have been invited to perform at the International Music Festival at the Kennedy Center for the performing arts, the Northeast Ohio Band Invitational at Severance Hall, and the Ohio Music Education Association Professional Conference. Additionally, her performing groups are highly involved in community performances and events within the Northeast Ohio area. We are very excited to have Dr. Ferguson guest conduct this festival!

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the ensemble may be a bit smaller than in past years. All included in the festival will also be required to follow mitigation efforts put in place such as masking when not playing, socially distant rehearsals and breaks, a masked and possibly limited audience, and all student participants will sign a Covid waiver once selected for the ensemble.

Attached to the email are copies of the student application and director form. The forms can also be found on the PMEA website. Please make sure all forms are completed in full.

All applications are due by November 5th, 2021. Due to the turnaround time, I would appreciate all forms be scanned and digitally sent to hartnettj@youghsd.net (with the paper copies of the forms being brought to the festival). If you prefer to mail your forms, they can be sent to:

Yough Intermediate Middle School
Attn: Julia Hartnett
171 Rt. 31
Ruffs Dale, PA 15679

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via email or cell phone. We are excited to see you all in March!

Musically yours,
Julia Hartnett
YIMS Band Director
hartnettj@youghsd.net

724-872-5164 Ext. 3320