



September 21, 2019

Dear PMEA District 1 East Band Director,

The Yough School District is pleased to host the 2019 PMEA District 1 East Junior High Band Festival on Friday, February 15 and Saturday February 16, 2019. The festival will be held at Yough Intermediate Middle School in Ruffs Dale, PA. Although a more detailed schedule of the event will follow, the festival will begin on Friday morning with check in beginning at 8:15 AM, and rehearsal both days beginning at 9:00AM. The concert will be on Saturday the 16th at 3:00PM.

Our guest conductor will be Mr. Chris Marra. Chris Marra is currently the Director of Instrumental Activities at Seton Hill University. As a part of his duties, Chris is the conductor of the Westmoreland Symphonic Winds, the Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra, and teaches courses in music education and conducting. He is also currently completing a Ph.D in Music Education with an emphasis in wind band conducting from the University of Michigan. Prior to doctoral studies, Chris taught high school band and orchestra for 10 years in San Jose, CA where he held board positions with the CMEA Bay Section and the California Band Directors Association. Chris holds a B.S. in Music Education from Duquesne University and an MM in Music Education with an emphasis in wind band conducting from Northwestern University. Chris is also an active clinician and adjudicator within several state organizations as well as Drum Corps International.

Enclosed with this letter are two copies of the student application and director form. Please make copies as needed for the student application. The PMEA festival policies located on the back of the student application should be read to the students applying for the festival. **It is assumed that directors, parents, students and administrators agree to abide by all festival policies in order to be considered for participation.** Also, please make sure that any students applying have verified their availability for the festival dates. Students must attend all rehearsals and the concert in order to participate in the festival. In addition, in order for students to participate, teachers must be current members of PMEA.

Please include a copy of your PMEA/NAfME membership card along with the applications. **All applications must be postmarked by October 26, 2018.** Please mail the applications to:

Yough Intermediate Middle School
Attn: Julia Aughenbaugh
171 State Route 31
Ruffs Dale, PA 15679

Please be sure to include your school email on the director's form. All further communication will be through e-mail from this point forward. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via email or phone. We are excited to see you all in February!

Musically Yours,
Julia Aughenbaugh
YIMS Band Director
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724-872-5164 ext. 73320