OMEA All-State Middle School Information Packet

OMEA: Oregon Music Education Association

The Oregon Music Education Association is the state affiliate of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME). We are a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote excellence in music education and serve the professional needs of its members. All-State has been an annual event in Oregon for more than 60 years. Providing thousands of students an opportunity to gain confidence with their instrument, meet other musicians their age from around the state, and make lifelong memories.

What is All-State?

All-State is an honor music ensemble program run by OMEA. This is an extremely rewarding experience for students to gather with fellow motivated student musicians from around Oregon and have the privilege to rehearse and perform with renowned guest conductors.

In order to apply for a spot, each ensemble, excluding our All-State Elementary Choir, requires an audition. All OMEA members must submit an application on behalf of their students through OpusEvent.com along with their audition. If selected, families and the students' teacher will be notified via email, and families or schools can complete the registration and payment process online by the November deadline.

After the registration process is complete, folders with sheet music and more information regarding the hotel, rehearsals, and the performance are shared with the students' music teacher before winter break. Students are expected to learn their music on their own in advance of the event. Families are invited to come watch them perform. Students are required to stay in a hotel in Eugene and share a room with three other All-State students of their age level.

2026 ALL-STATE ENSEMBLE INFORMATION

OMEA All-State Choirs, Bands, Orchestras, and Jazz Band

- The All-State High School ensembles are open to students in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12.
- Middle School ensembles are open to students in grades 6, 7, and 8.
- Elementary Choir is open to 5th grade students and students apply via teacher nomination, no audition required.

Elementary School (5th Grade)	Middle School (6th - 8th)	High School (9th - 12th)
Choir	Band	Jazz Band
	Treble Choir	Choir for 9th/10th Grade
	Tenor/Bass Choir	Choir for 11th/12th Grade
	Orchestra	Symphony Orchestra
		Symphonic Band
		Wind Ensemble

When and where is All-State held?

OMEA All-State is held over Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend in Eugene, Oregon. Rehearsal and performance locations vary depending on the year and which ensembles students participate in.

Parents/Guardians must supply or arrange transportation to and from Eugene. Some schools might provide transportation to the event. Please note this is not an OSAA or school-sanctioned event. Our event is not rescheduled if there is inclement weather, and no refunds are given.

Does it cost money to participate in All-State?

Yes, All-State does cost money. There is a fee to submit the All-State application and audition in September. This covers the cost of running the event website to manage auditions and applications.

If a student is selected for an ensemble after auditions have been screened in October, there is a separate event registration and participation fee. This fee covers the cost of running the event: hotel rooms, meals, transportation, rehearsal space rental, performance space rental, equipment rental, travel and hotel for the guest conductor, etc.

The All-State fees varies depending on grade level:

Audition and Application Fee	Registration and Participation Fee
Elementary School: $7	Elementary School: $125
Middle School: $17	Middle School: $275
High School: $22	High School: $368

Do All-State Concerts cost money for families?

Yes, concert ticket sales are factored into the budget of running the event weekend. Tickets are sold online at SeatYourself.com. OMEA members with students in All-State must also register for the state conference, which coincides with the All-State event. Included in teachers' conference registration are concert tickets.

Parents and guardians must purchase tickets for each concert online through SeatYourself.com. Ticket prices are:

Elementary School concert:	$8 for adults, $2 for students 17 and under
Middle School concerts:	$12 for adults, $4 for students 17 and under
High School concerts:	$19 for adults, $5 for students 17 and under

All-State Dates & Deadlines

September 1
Audition and application window opens on OpusEvent.com

October 5
Audition and application window closes at 11:59:59pm on OpusEvent.com.
Applications and nominations may only be submitted by current OMEA teachers.

October 6 – 17
Audition screening.

October 18 – 20
Ensemble placement.

October 21
All-State results and placement will be sent to teachers and families via Opus

October 21 - November 1
All-State registration open.
Payment window closes at 11:59:59pm on November 1.
If a student decides to decline their spot, please let us know as soon as possible.

November 2 - November 15
Add/drop/alternates notified and registration and payment completed by all participants.

November 20
Student music and information folders sent to schools/teachers via email or mail.

January 15-16, 2026
Middle Level All-State event is held in Eugene, Oregon.

AUDITION and PLACEMENT INFORMATION

How to Audition for All-State

Your student must work with their music teacher to complete the required recordings (separate files for each required excerpt). The cost to submit an audition for high school students is $22,, middle school students are $17, and $7 for elementary nominations (no audition required for elementary).

- Students and parents/guardians fill out and sign the All-State application at the end of this document and turn it in to their teacher.
- Teachers must be OMEA members and complete the application and audition process online through OpusEvent.com.
- The application and audition fee must be paid via credit card by the teacher/school through OpusEvent.com by the audition deadline.
    - *The fee must be paid first before audition files can be uploaded.*

Teachers must be current members of NAfME/OMEA to submit applications and/or nominations and auditions through OpusEvent.com, along with also attending the conference.

Audition Recording Instructions

Record the student performing by themselves without a metronome. Please see exceptions for Choir and High School Jazz Band recordings in the audition material. Do not speak the name of the student, teacher or school. The student must perform each exercise with the correct pitch, rhythms, quality tone, articulations, steady tempo (see tempo markings on each exercise). Each audition track should be a separate audio file (mp3, wav, aac, ac3, aif, amr, au, caf, flac, m4a, m4b, oga, ogg, sf2, sfark, voc, weba, wam). Teachers and students may not electronically or otherwise enhance any recordings. By submitting the audition materials online via OpusEvent.com, the director attests that these conditions were met and agrees to adhere to all deadlines set by OMEA and understands that all deadlines are final.

Audition Screening and Placement Process

Audition screening is “blind.” Judges do not know the students’ name or school information. Screeners will listen to each track and assign a score from 1 – 100. After all the auditions are scored, each student will have an overall score and then they are ranked and placed.

Screeners will consider the following: Note/pitch accuracy, Rhythmic accuracy, Tone quality, Articulation, Dynamics, Style, and Phrasing

Middle School Eligibility and Representation

Each school is guaranteed at least one student in the ensemble **as long as that student is in the top 50% of auditionees on their instrument and not from one of these six categories: oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, and percussion.**

OMEA can only guarantee that a maximum of eight students from a single school can be placed. More could be placed depending on the applicant pool on any given year, but in order to serve other students from around the state we must put an initial cap on each school.

When do we find out which students are selected?

Teachers and families are notified of the results on October 21st via the email addresses entered into OpusEvent.com. Teachers, be sure to carefully type in parent/guardian emails, if there is anything incorrect about the email address, it will not be sent. Examples: extra space in front of or at the end of an email address, missing periods, etc.

ALL-STATE MIDDLE SCHOOL ENSEMBLES 2026

Middle School Treble and Tenor/Bass Choir

Thursday - Friday, January 15th and 16th
Treble Choir Conductor: Conductor & Bio page
Tenor/Bass Choir Conductor: Conductor & Bio page
Rehearsals: First Christian Church
Performance: Tenor/Bass - 6 pm, Treble - 7 pm
Hotel: The Graduate Hotel
Meals: Thursday dinner through Friday dinner

Middle School Band and Orchestra

Thursday - Friday, January 15th and 16th
Band Conductor: Conductor & Bio page
Orchestra Conductor: Robert Gillespie, *The Ohio State University*
Rehearsals: TBA
Performance: Band - 5 pm, Orchestra - 6 pm
Hotel: The Graduate Hotel
Meals: Thursday dinner through Friday lunch

Partnering Hotel

The Graduate Hotel

Info for Teachers

OpusEvent.com Troubleshooting

I don't see a "Submit" button - How do I know my students' application/audition is submitted and complete?

- Once all student information has been entered and their recording files uploaded, you will see "Complete" in green next to their name. (if your browser window is small/not full screen, you may need to enlarge your window to see the "Complete" on the far right of the screen)

I just renewed my NAfME/OMEA membership, how soon will it connect with OpusEvent?

- Opus and NAfME can "speak" in real time - but - you need to tell Opus to "talk" with the NAfME site to refresh your membership renewal in OpusEvent.
- Go to your account profile in Opus (top right corner of the site) Scroll down to the "Membership Information" portion of your account profile and click on the Edit Pencil to update your membership expiration date.

When I log into OpusEvent.com, I don't see the Oregon All-State event option.

- Go to your account profile in Opus (top right corner of the site) and check that your NAfME membership is current. (Opus does not automatically update your NAfME renewal - you must do this yearly/manually)
- Scroll down to the "Membership Information portion of your account profile and click on the “Edit Pencil” to update your membership expiration date.

All State Policies & Procedures

SECTION (12) A. TEACHER MEMBERSHIP AND CONFERENCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED (5/22/04)

Teachers of students of all ages in OMEA honor groups shall be required to register for the full conference, pay in full, and be current NAfME/OMEA members. Teachers' conference registration must be completed in conjunction with their All-State students' registration. (4/2020). If found to be in violation, that school's specific discipline (i.e., band, orchestra, choir) will be sanctioned from participating in honor groups until the bill is paid in full.

The OMEA Policies and Procedures document is available at oregonmea.org

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OMEA All-State Policies

January 15 – 18, 2026 in Eugene, Oregon

Required Signatures on next page

We, the undersigned, acknowledge the following OMEA policies and procedures:

12.C ALL-STATE STUDENTS

1. To be eligible for an All-State honor group, the music student shall be enrolled in the class for the appropriate performing ensemble for the instrument/voice on which they are performing.
    a. If there is no corresponding music ensemble available at the school for the student's instrument, the student may participate through an OMEA member teacher at their school, at the OMEA member teacher's discretion.
    b. If there IS a corresponding music ensemble available at the school and the student does not participate in the school program, the student may not participate.
2. We welcome home school students as long as they are regularly participating in a school music class, offered for credit, and taught by a current OMEA member.
3. If there is an appropriate performing ensemble available at the school and the student does not participate in the school program, the student may not participate in All-State.
4. The OMEA member teacher submitting the student audition must attend the conference and accept all the responsibilities of a teacher with an All-State student, if the student is selected.
5. If there are no music classes offered in the school the student attends, students may be recommended by an OMEA member who teaches/taught the student. The OMEA member must attend the conference and accept all the responsibilities of a teacher with an All-State student.
6. If there is a corresponding ensemble offered at the school, students must be regularly participating in a school music program from the time of application through the time of the event.
7. It is recommended that students meet OSAA's academic requirements and personal conduct rules to participate in All-State. We advise checking the OSAA website to see if there are changes to the following guidelines.
8. Students are required to stay in the hotel that their performing group is assigned with other All-State students. Students with extenuating circumstances may stay in the All-State hotel with their parents upon the approval of the Executive Board. The decision of the Executive Board is final. Emails concerning special needs requests must be sent no later than 2 months prior to the event. Email requests to the Executive Director.
9. All-State participants must be registered (with all forms completed and signed by all appropriate parties) and paid prior to the posted deadline.
10. Students will not be admitted unless forms are complete and payment made.
11. Unless otherwise stated, All-State participants shall wear performance attire appropriate to their individual school music program policies.
12. No refunds shall be made except for medical or family emergencies within 10 days of the event. A letter from a physician for medical excuses, or parent/guardian for family emergencies, must accompany the request for refund. Each case will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Executive Board. In either case, 50% of the fee will be retained.

12.D AUDITIONS

1. Teachers and students may not electronically or otherwise enhance any recordings. By submitting the audition materials online, the director attests that these conditions were met. (5/30/2015)
2. If the screening committee agrees that a recording has likely been electronically altered or enhanced, that recording will be disqualified. The decision of the screening committee will be final.
3. By submitting the audition materials online, the director agrees to adhere to all deadlines set by OMEA and understands that all deadlines are final.
4. Audition screening fees are non-refundable.

OMEA All-State Student Application Information Form

To be used only for collecting student information. Please provide this form to your teacher so they can enter the correct information when creating your online application. The primary mode of communication from OMEA to students/parents is through email. Please print legibly (and teachers, be sure to type carefully when entering information into Opus) so that families receive important notifications from OMEA on time.

Please print both this page and the next page, fill out, collect signatures, and return to your teacher.

Student First Name: _____

Student Last Name: _____

Student Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian First and Last Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Addresses: _____

_____

One student from each OMEA district will be selected through a lottery to receive a 50% scholarship on their All-State fee should they be selected to All-State. The lottery pool will be drawn from students who demonstrate financial need by qualifying for school fee waivers..

- Do you qualify for school fee waivers? Yes No
- If YES, would you like to be considered for the scholarship lottery? Yes No

Please continue on to the 2nd page of the application

OMEA All-State Policies

We, the undersigned, acknowledge the following OMEA policies and procedures:

1. Students must apply/register through the school OMEA member music teacher.
2. We have read and understand the All-State eligibility requirements.
3. We have read and followed the Audition Recording Instructions.
4. We have reviewed the audition materials for accuracy and understand incomplete or altered recordings will be DISQUALIFIED.
5. We understand that all audition and participation fees are non-refundable.

_____ _____

Parent/Guardian Signature **Principal Signature**

_____ _____

Music Teacher Signature **Student Signature**