



NORTH CAROLINA BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION

A division of the *North Carolina Music Educators Association*

August 31, 2020

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Fellow Band Directors,

Now that most of you have started teaching in some way, I hope you are all doing well! Once again, I know this is not really what we signed up for, but I commend you for the efforts you are making to give your students a quality music education. Social media is full of band directors sharing ideas and methods they are using. There are countless webinars and videos out there of music educators sharing their best practices. I am also encouraged by the positivity most of you show. Everyone knows this is tough, but our students need positive role models to give them strength and confidence to overcome. Keep up the great work, friends!

The NCBA Executive Board met via Zoom this past Thursday evening August 27, 2020 to discuss plans for the school year. We continue to give autonomy to districts knowing that each part of our state is slightly different in the way they are handling the pandemic. Please continue to trust your district chairs to guide your leadership through this process as we are all in regular communication.

We discussed three areas on Thursday and here are our conclusions:

MPA

PURPOSE: To provide students and teachers a means of receiving constructive commentary by competent judges. To stimulate and recognize growth. To provide students and teachers a means of hearing the work done by other school groups. (*Policies and Procedures of the North Carolina Bandmasters Association, May 2019*)

We stand by this purpose and hope to provide some opportunity to recognize growth this year - even if it looks very different. We decided to remove the requirement to hold Concert Band MPA before April 15. We have tabled any further discussion until November when we hope to know a little more about the Spring semester. We encourage our districts to think creatively for virtual and pre-recorded options in case districts later decide to go in that direction. (Some districts are already planning multiple Solo and Ensemble MPA events and this is encouraged by the state as well.)

All-State Honors Band

NCBA would love to still have an All-State Band this year. Knowing it could be impossible, we remain optimistic about providing this life-changing experience for our students. With that said, each district will need to have had an audition - more than likely virtual - at the district level in order to qualify. Many districts are already exploring options for these auditions and we at the state level encourage those efforts. Even though there are many changes across the state with virtual learning and virtual schools, we stand behind the Eligibility Policy that says, "B. To audition and participate in the All-State Honors Band, the band member must be regularly enrolled in a scheduled concert band class which receives one unit of credit." Students must be enrolled in a band class during the first and/or second semester of this school year.

NCBA Financial Guidelines - District Assessments

NCBA collects an annual assessment from each district to help cover some statewide costs. This has typically been \$1450 (or more if you require additional sightreading materials for MPA). Since there are some activities we know are not going to happen this year, we have reduced this amount. There are some expenses that we will still have to pay, therefore we will assess \$790 to each district for the 2020-21 school year. Beginning last year, we had Pat Hall transfer the assessment on November 1 with no need for districts to bring checks to conference.

As always, we as the NCBA Executive Board continue to put the safety of our members and our students first. We also want to provide opportunities to foster growth and motivation for young musicians across our state. Thank you all for your continued support and trust as we strive to do what is best.

Take care, my friends and stay safe!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason M. Barclift". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Jason M. Barclift, President
North Carolina Bandmasters Association