



President's Message

Jamie Stroffolino

As we kick off the new year, I am looking forward to all of the great things that will be happening in our county throughout the coming months!

Here are some important dates and reminders:

- All-County Band, Orchestra and Chorus will begin rehearsals soon.

Here are the dates, times, and location:

- **Rehearsal #1:**

Monday, February 12 from 3:30 to 6:30 at New Rochelle HS

- **Rehearsal #2:**

Tuesday, March 5 from 3:30 to 6:30 at New Rochelle HS

- Snow date for Feb. 12 will be Feb. 13, and snow date for March 5 will be March 6



- All-County Band and Orchestra **Concert** is Saturday, March 9 at New Rochelle HS

- Orchestra students will arrive at 11:30 AM and perform at 1:30 PM

- Band students will arrive at 3:00 PM and perform at 5:00 PM

- Snow date for the concert is March 16

- All-County Chorus **Concert** is Sunday, March 10 at New Rochelle HS

- Chorus students will arrive at 11:30 AM and perform at 1:30 PM

- Snow date for the concert is March 17

- All-County Jazz rehearsals will begin in February. Here are the dates, times, and location:

- Rehearsal #1: Wednesday, February 14 from 6:30 to 9:30 at Hommocks MS

- Rehearsal #2: Tuesday, March 12 from 6:30 to 9:30 at Hommocks MS

- Rehearsal #3: Wednesday, March 13 from 6:30 to 9:30 at Hommocks MS

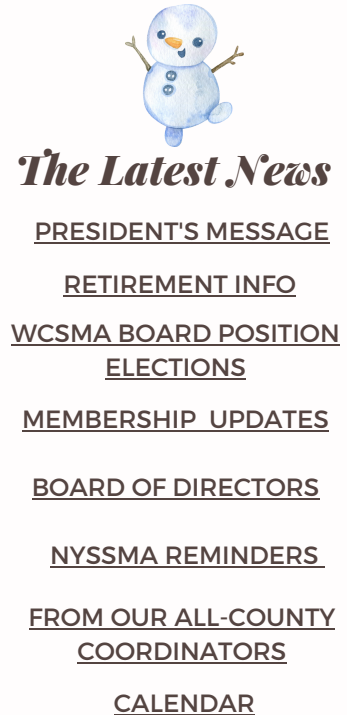
- All-County Jazz **Concert** is Friday, March 15 at 7:30 at Hommocks MS

NYSSMA Down-County, Up-County, Strings, Piano, and Major festival information can all be found here: <http://wcsma.org/new/portfolio/nyssma/>.

Please let us know if you have any questions about any of the aforementioned events. We are looking forward to a 2024 filled with music and celebration!

Sincerely,

Jamie Stroffolino
President, Westchester County School Music Association





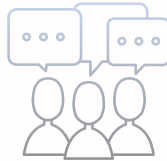
WCSMA Annual Retirement Dinner

Dear Colleagues:

Congratulations to all our retirees this year! To help us plan the annual WCSMA Retirement Dinner, please let us know if you or one of your colleagues is retiring. All retirees are the guests of honor, and if you're one of them we'd like to know which dates do not work for you so that we can pick a date that works for as many retirees as possible. We would like to establish a date before the February mid-winter break.

If you (or a colleague) have plans to retire, please drop me a note at rissj@hohschools.org. We so look forward to celebrating you at the end of the school year!

Cheers,
Jon Riss
WCSMA President-Elect



WCSMA Board Positions

Dear Colleagues:

We have positions up for election on the WCSMA Board of Directors this upcoming academic year (terms begin July 1, 2024 and end June 30, 2026). We are committed to working with the WCSMA Board to ensure that a variety of voices from a variety of backgrounds have a place at the table, and we encourage all interested in serving as a volunteer for Westchester County's music students and teachers to apply.

Positions up for election for a 2024-26 term are **President-Elect, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Area All-State Coordinator, Elementary/Intermediate All-County Band Coordinator(s), Elementary/Intermediate All-County Chorus Coordinator(s), All-County Jazz Coordinator(s), Webmaster, and Publicity & Advocacy Chairperson (or Chairpeople)**. When it comes to the Publicity & Advocacy position(s) and All-County Coordinator(s) positions for Band, Chorus, and Jazz, we very much welcome applications from teams of two individuals seeking to be co-coordinators. **Any unopposed election means that only one volunteer (or one team of two volunteers) applied for the position.**

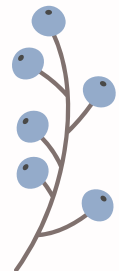
An accompanying job description for each open position is listed below:

President-Elect (2024-26 term to assume the office of President 2026-28)

- Perform the duties of the President in the absence of or at the request of the President.
- Be responsible for the coordination and revision of the Elementary and Intermediate instrumental audition lists.
- Arrange for general and special meetings, including the Open House and Retirement Dinner.
- Serve as chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Upon assuming the office of President in 2026:

- Preside at all meetings of the Members and all meetings of the Board of Directors.
- Have general supervision of the affairs of the Corporation.
- Keep the Board of Directors fully informed about the activities of the Corporation.
- Act as the representative of the Corporation to the NYSSMA County Presidents Assembly.
- Act as chairperson of the Board of Directors.
- Appoint all standing and special Committees as required.
- Call special meetings of the Corporation and the Board of Directors as the need arises.
- Act as a non-voting, ex officio member of all committees of the Corporation.
- Perform all the duties usually incident to the office of the President, and shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Board of Directors.



WCSMA Board Positions Cont.

An accompanying job description for each open position is listed below:

**Recording Secretary:**

- Keep a complete record of all proceedings of the Corporation (these records shall be open to any active Member of the Corporation).
- Keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and perform other secretarial duties at the request of the President.
- Prepare the minutes of each meeting and reproduce copies for each Board Member for the next meeting.

Treasurer:

- Keep or cause to be kept full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements of the Corporation, and deposit or cause to be deposited all moneys, evidences of indebtedness and other valuable documents of the Corporation in the name and to the credit of the Corporation in such banks or depositories as the Board of Directors may designate.
- Present a statement of account at every meeting of the Board of Directors.
- Render a full report at the annual meeting of the Corporation's accounts showing in appropriate detail:
 - i. The assets and liabilities of the Corporation as of a twelve (12) month fiscal period terminating not more than six (6) months prior to the meeting.
 - ii. The principal changes in assets and liabilities during that fiscal period.
 - iii. The revenues or receipts of the Corporation, both unrestricted and restricted to particular purposes during said fiscal period.
 - iv. The expenses or disbursements of the Corporation, for both general and restricted purposes during said fiscal period.



Such report shall be filed with the minutes of the annual meeting of the Board.

The report to the Board may consist of a verified or certified copy of any report by the Corporation to the Internal Revenue Service or the Attorney General of the State of New York which includes the information specified above.

- At all reasonable times, exhibit the Corporation's books and accounts to any Officer or Director of the Corporation.
- Render a statement of the Corporation's accounts whenever required by the Board.
- Chair a Committee that will prepare a budget for each school year (The Committee will consist of the Treasurer, President, Past-President, and President-Elect), this budget will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval at the September Board Meeting.
- Have the accounts examined by an independent auditor for presentation to the Board of Directors at its final meeting.
- When required, give such security for the faithful performance of his or her duties as the Board of Directors may determine.

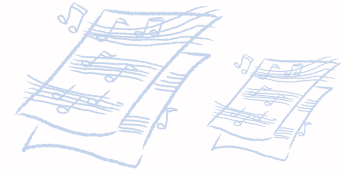
Area All-State Coordinator

- Selects chairperson(s) for each Area All-State Ensemble.
- In consultation with the chairperson(s), nominates conductors for each Area All-State ensemble for approval by the NYSSMA Zone Representative.
- In consultation with the chairperson(s), recommends the concert program for each Area All-State ensemble for approval by the NYSSMA Zone Representative.
- Communicates the AAS nomination process to the entire organization through the Membership Coordinator, and communicates with teachers of selected students throughout the course of the festival.



WCSMA Board Positions Cont.

An accompanying job description for each open position is listed below:



Elementary/Intermediate All-County Band Coordinator(s)

- Selects chairperson(s) for each All-County band.
- In consultation with chairperson(s), nominates conductors for each All-County band for approval by the WCSMA Board.
- In consultation with chairperson(s) and conductor(s), recommends the concert program for each All-County band for approval by the WCSMA Board.
- Communicates about the nomination process to the entire organization through the Membership Coordinator, and communicates as appropriate with teachers of selected students.

Elementary/Intermediate All-County Chorus Coordinator(s)

- Selects chairperson(s) for each All-County chorus.
- In consultation with chairperson(s), nominates conductors for each All-County chorus for approval by the WCSMA Board.
- In consultation with chairperson(s) and conductor(s), recommends the concert program for each All-County chorus for approval by the WCSMA Board.
- Communicates about the nomination process to the entire organization through the Membership Coordinator, and communicates as appropriate with teachers of selected students.

All-County Jazz Coordinator(s)

- In consultation with chairperson(s), nominates conductors for each All-County jazz ensemble for approval by the WCSMA Board.
- In consultation with chairperson(s) and conductor(s), recommends the concert program for each All-County jazz ensemble for approval by the WCSMA Board.
- Communicates about the nomination process to the entire organization through the Membership Coordinator, and communicates as appropriate with teachers of selected students.

Webmaster:

- Maintains and updates the WCSMA website and domain name
- Maintains the WCSMA Zoom account

Publicity & Advocacy Chairperson (or Chairpeople):

- Publicize the festivals and other activities of the organization and serve as the representative to the NYSSMA Publicity Committee.
- Cultivate the content of the WCSMA Social Media Accounts.
- Represent the WCSMA Board at Joe Sugar day, NY state's music education advocacy events.

To apply for consideration for any of these positions, please email a letter of application to Nominating Committee Chair Jon Riss at rissj@hohschools.org. In your letter, please note the position you are applying for as well as your personal and professional background.

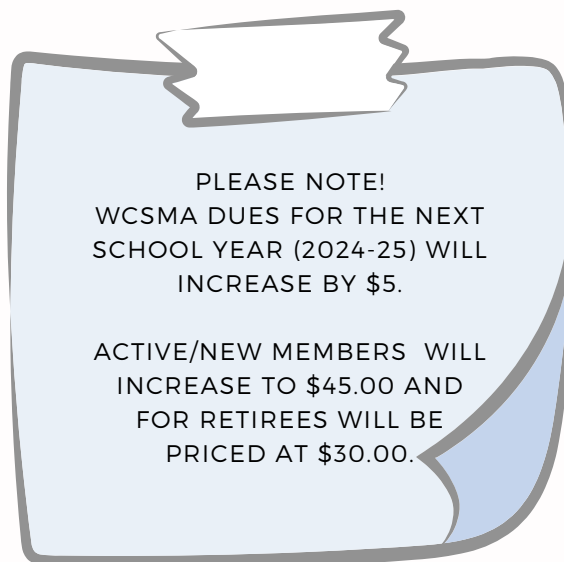
Letters of application are due by 5:00 PM on February 29, 2024. We very much hope you thoughtfully consider applying for a position on the WCSMA Board of Directors, and we look forward to hearing from you!

Best,
Jon Riss, WCSMA President-Elect
Jamie Stroppolino, WCSMA President



Membership Updates

TJ Bastone



Board of Directors



President	Jamie Stroffolino
President-Elect	Jon Riss
Past President	Sue Forman
Area All-State Coordinator	Patrick Murphy
Senior High Jazz Festival Coordinator	James Mullen
Elementary & Intermediate Band Festival Coordinator	Jenny Pyne
Elementary & Intermediate Choral Festival Coordinators	Hannah Geiling
	Emily Ilson
Elementary & Intermediate Orchestra Festival Coordinator	Shadman Mirza
NYSSMA Zone Representative	Kimberly Dunkin
Corresponding Secretary	Jessica Yeung
Recording Secretary	Dana Celestino
Treasurer	Ricky Myint
Membership	TJ Bastone
Publicity	Kimberly Dunkin
Webmaster	Marna Ellen Weiss
Special Advisor	Kathleen Coletta Feldman
Special Advisor	Janet Corvini
Special Advisor	Stephanie Merkado-Weiss



Zone 11 NYSSMA Reminders

Kimberly Dunkin



Hello all, Festival season has started! Please be sure to register students on Da Capo for the appropriate festival, and to triple check your NYSSMA manual (ed. 33 - **green tabs!**) for solo choices, scale requirements, and all the other fine print. Thank you to festival hosts Don Whitman, Kathleen Feldman, Andrew Van Bochove, Susan Lee-Chong, Lisa DeFrenza, and Jamie Stroffolino for all their incredible work they have done during these first 5 months of school to prepare!



If you are registering a student for All-State, please remember that in addition to registering on Da Capo, you must fill out an All-State application at <https://nyssmaallstate.org/> - if this is not completed 6 weeks prior to the festival, your student will be bumped down to a regular Level 6 and is no longer eligible for All-State

Please be sure to list accompanist names, when applicable. Only voice students and AS students need accompanists. Putting in this information helps the Da Capo system to ensure no accompanists are double booked, which can ultimately cause the entire festival to get behind schedule. Please do NOT list "recording" as an accompanist, as it confuses Da Capo and thinks that "recording" is a person, which will force the system to unnecessarily schedule around that. Please list only names and nothing else!

If you are interested in joining the adjudication team, the deadline to apply is March 1. The application can be found [here](#) and we're always looking for new, enthusiastic adjudicators. This year we have five sites, the closest being NYC (March 22-23) and Carmel (4/19-20). We already have a dozen or so teachers from Westchester that have signed up!



If you have any questions about festival season, please reach out!

Kim



Senior High All-County Jazz Festival

James Mullen

I am happy to report that the 2024 WCSMA Jazz Festival is off and running. We had our auditions on January 6th and we have our two big bands selected. All participants have their music and we eagerly await our first rehearsal on Wednesday February 14th (Valentines Day)



We are so excited to have two Grammy-Award-winning guest directors this year. Pianist, composer & arranger Bill Cunliffe is directing the A band and trombonist Rafi Malkiel will be directing the B band. Both artists have chosen an ambitious and varied program for their ensembles.



Please join us for our annual Jazz All County Concert on Friday March 15th 2024. The concert will take place in the auditorium at Hommocks Middle School (130 Hommocks Rd Larchmont NY 10538)

Tickets will be sold at the door and are \$15 for adults and \$5 for students. There is no need to reserve ahead of time. Seating will be first come, first serve.

Thanks so much and I hope you all enjoy the February break. 😊

James Mullen
WCSMA Jazz Coordinator

Area All-State Coordinator

Patrick Murphy



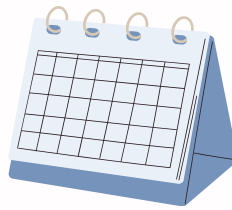
The 2023 Area All-State Festival, held on the weekend of November 4th and 5th, was a rousing success, and at this time I'd like to take a moment to recognize a few groups of people:

To all the teachers and administrators that worked tirelessly preparing their students for such an intense set of rehearsals and performances, thank you. To the ensemble chair people, your hard work is recognized and greatly appreciated, thank you. Lastly, to the teachers, staff, and administrators in New Rochelle who put in countless hours to figure out how to operate our festival for the first time, you have our eternal gratitude.

We are now starting to prepare for the 2024 AAS Festival so please encourage all of your students to participate in NYSSMA Solo festival. The more NYSSMA solo participants in our festivals, the more nominations, and therefore stronger ensembles at our festivals!



Calendar of Events



WCSMA Open House

October 3rd, 4pm

2023 NYSSMA Winter Conference

Nov. 30 - Dec. 3, 2023 Rochester, NY

AREA ALL-STATE

Area All-State Rehearsal #1

Wednesday, October 18, 2023
New Rochelle High School
4:00 - 9:00 PM

Area All-State Rehearsal #2

Wednesday, November 1, 2023
New Rochelle High School
4:00 - 9:00 PM

Area All-State Festival

Saturday, November 4, 2023

New Rochelle High School
Band Rehearsal 10:00 AM
Band Concert 1:00 PM
&
Orchestra Rehearsal 2:30 PM
Orchestra Concert 5:00 PM

Sunday, November 5, 2023

New Rochelle High School
Chorus Rehearsal 10:00 AM
Chorus Concert 1:00 PM

SR. HIGH ALL-COUNTY JAZZ FESTIVAL DATES

All-County Jazz Band Auditions
Saturday, January 6, 2024
Hommocks, MS, Mamaroneck
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

All-County Jazz Band
Rehearsal #1

Wednesday, February 14, 2024
Hommocks, MS, Mamaroneck
6:30 - 9:30 PM

All-County Jazz Band Rehearsal #2

Tuesday, March 12, 2024
Hommocks, MS, Mamaroneck
6:30 - 9:30 PM

All-County Jazz Band Rehearsal #3

Wednesday, March 13, 2024
Hommocks, MS, Mamaroneck
6:30 - 9:30 PM

All-County Jazz Band Concert

Friday, March 15, 2024
Hommocks, MS, Mamaroneck
7:30 PM Concert

ALL-COUNTY BAND & ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL DATES

All-County Instrumental & Chorus

Rehearsal #1

Monday, February 12, 2024

*Snow Date, 2/13

3:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Rehearsal #2

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

*Snow Date, 3/6

3:30 PM - 6:30 PM

All-County Band & Orchestra Concert

Saturday, March 9

Rehearsal #3, 11:30 AM

Orchestra Concert, 1:30 PM

*Snow Date 3/16

Saturday, March 9

Rehearsal #3, 3:00 PM

Band Concert, 5:00 PM

*Snow Date 3/16

All-County Chorus Concert

Sunday, March 10

Rehearsal #3, 11:30 AM

Chorus Concert, 1:30 PM

*Snow Date 3/17

NYSSMA FESTIVAL DATES

Strings Level I-IV Festival

April 12-13, 2024 (Blind Brook)
Strings I-IV, All Levels Harp, and
Classical Guitar

No Piano

No Jazz

Up-County Festival

April 26-27, 2024 (Chappaqua)

Up-County including
Instrumental/Vocal Jazz

No Piano

No Strings I-IV, Harp, Classical
Guitar

Down-County Festival

May 3-4, 2024 (Pelham)

No Piano

No Jazz

No Strings I-IV, Harp, Classical
Guitar

Piano Festival

May 31 - June 1, 2024 (Ardsley)

Majors Festival

May 28 - 31 (Panas HS, Lakeland)

May 28-29 - Instrumental

May 30-31 - Choral

