



All-State Audition Tips for Success

2019 FMEA Professional Development Conference

- **Don't wait until the last minute** to record and upload auditions. The FMEA server gets quite busy the last 24 hours before the deadline.
- **Spring** - Begin identifying potential students and talk to them about All-State. Send home a letter to parents with all of the details, including time and financial obligations.
- **Late spring (after May 15)** – Download and read (cover to cover) the All-State packet!!!! Print the audition music for the potential students. If possible, check out and send home an alto xylophone and a soprano recorder for the student(s) to use to practice over the summer. Meet with them once or twice before school is out to get them started on the audition pieces.
- **Late Spring** - Create a video for students to use at home for summertime practicing. Recording the pieces at a slow “practice” tempo, and also at the target metronome marking, is a good idea. This way, as students’ proficiency improves they can begin getting accustomed to the tempi needed for maximum credit with the rubrics. I use my school Google Drive to create a folder for all of the videos, and then I create a link to share with them, emailing the link to the parents.
- **Summer** – Read the All-State packet again! Keep in touch with the students, via parent email, to see how they’re progressing on the audition pieces. Arrange a day (or days) to meet at school for practice sessions. I have not done this, but know several teachers who have used this with great success.
- **Pre-planning week** - Talk to the principal, bookkeeper, and or PTA treasurer about procedures for collecting/paying All-State audition fees.
- **First week of school** – Touch base, in person, with your potential All-State students. Schedule at least one (or two) days per week before/after school to help them practice the audition music. Be sure to check for correct metronome markings, fingerings, mallet & sticking technique, and breathing/phrasing.
- **Late August/early September** – Begin “practicing” the audition the way you will record it, including reading the script and practicing the camera work.
- **Early September** – Read the All-State packet, again, and follow the instructions for registering your auditioning students online. Discuss the dates & locations for the FMEA Regional Honors Festival closest to you with students and parents to see if they’re interested in participating in this event, if not selected for All-State.
- **September 1** - Check the timeline in the All-State packet to be sure your FMEA/FMEA dues are current.
- **Two weeks before the deadline** – Send home all of the paperwork to be signed by parents and your principal! You will need to register students online before uploading their auditions. Check to see what information you’ll need to gather about each student. This will save you time when registering them.
- **Two weeks before the deadline** - Record the auditions. You can record each student a few times. Set aside time for you and the student(s) to score their recordings, using the rubric. This is a useful tool to help students identify any weak areas, while giving them time to practice before the final week.
- **One week before the deadline** – Record the auditions “for real” unless the recordings done the prior week were good enough to submit.
- **Three to five days before the deadline** – Upload the videos and pat yourself on the back for beating the deadline!
- **Mail all required payments and paperwork before the postmark deadline.**
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Best wishes to you and your students!

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