

NYSSMA Vocal Solo Festival

Commack Road Elementary School
300 Commack Road Islip, New York 11751

Brian McCarthy, Acting Principal Telephone: (631) 650-8600

Vincent Green, Director of Fine and Performing Arts Telephone: (631) 650-8520

Michael Baur, General Music and Chorus Teacher

e-mail: mbaur@islipufsd.org, e-board: www.mrbaur.info Telephone: (631) 650-8642

January, 2017

Dear Families,

Your child has expressed an interest in participating in this year's NYSSMA Solo Festival. The NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) Solo Festival is an opportunity for your child to perform a vocal solo (to be prepared by your child with my help) in front of an adjudicator. The criteria for acceptance into this special festival are demanding, as the adjudicators can be very critical and I do not want children to have a negative experience. **Students will be permitted to participate in NYSSMA only if they are able to achieve success in all of the audition categories.**

This year's NYSSMA Solo Festival will be held at East Islip Middle School on **Thursday, May 18, 2017.**

The guidelines for the audition are listed below:

1. Students will sing the first verse of "America the Beautiful" from memory.
2. Students will be asked to echo a short melody played on the piano.
3. Students will audition on **Wednesday, January 25 or Thursday, January 26, 2017** after school. The students may be picked up at 3:55pm or be sent home on the late bus.
 - a. Students will have the opportunity to sign up for whichever day is more convenient for them. I am doing two days to accommodate students that are in either band or orchestra so that students do not need to miss their scheduled rehearsal. **Permission slips with audition day preference need to be returned to Mr. Baur by Friday, January 20, 2017.**
 - b. If the student is not present for their designated audition day without prior explanation to Mr. Baur there will not be an opportunity to reschedule their audition. Of course, if the student is sick and absent for the entire day of school, **the audition will be rescheduled.**
4. Mr. Baur is evaluating the following criteria during the audition:
 - a. Student sings "America, the Beautiful," verse 1, from memory with accurate pitches and rhythms.
 - b. Student projects their voice and sings with good posture and *confidence*.
 - c. Student demonstrates good breath support and breathes in the appropriate musical places.
 - d. Student sings with good diction (proper pronunciation and consonant sounds)
 1. especially in "beautifful" "fruited" and at the end of phrases such as "grain" and "plain"
 - e. Student is able to accurately match pitch with a melody played on piano.

"America, the Beautiful" will be taught during chorus rehearsals prior to the audition dates. **Students who earn a spot in this year's festival will be notified shortly after all auditions have taken place.** All students will have an opportunity to ask questions during choral rehearsals. I encourage ALL STUDENTS to audition. If you have any questions for me, please email me at mbaur@islipufsd.org or call 631-650-8642.

Musically,

NYSSMA Website – www.nyssma.org

Mr. Baur

Islip FPA Website – www.islipfpa.com

Permission Slip for Vocal NYSSMA Audition

****Please return to Mr. Baur by January 20, 2017****

I give my child, _____, permission to stay after school to audition for NYSSMA on: (please check *only one* date)

_____ **Wednesday, January 25, 2017**

OR

_____ **Thursday, January 26, 2017**

Students may be picked up or go home on the late bus at 3:55pm.

My child will: (please check ***one choice***)

_____ **Be picked up by me or my designee**

OR

_____ **Take the Late Bus**

Regular Bus Letter: _____

Regular Bus Stop: _____ & _____

I have read the audition guidelines and reviewed them with my student.

Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date