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Dear Colleagues,

Please join us for the Thirty-first Annual Susquehanna University Honors Band Festival on **February 16-18, 2024**. This unique event is designed to give talented high school woodwind, brass, and percussion students an opportunity to share their passion for music with similarly motivated students from the region and beyond. Last year's festival was very successful, and I think the students enjoyed their time on campus. We certainly enjoyed hosting them and look forward to doing so again in 2024.

We have a wonderful slate of activities planned for the festival. There are seating auditions on Friday, February 16th, which will be followed by masterclasses with SU's applied wind and percussion faculty. Also, that evening Honors Band participants will be treated to a faculty recital as well as a performance by the University Jazz Ensemble. In addition to Saturday rehearsals, we will have sectional rehearsals led by SU faculty. Following rehearsals and sectionals, there is a pizza party planned for the evening!!! There will be vegetarian and gluten free options available. Sunday's gala concert features performances by the Honors Festival Band and the University Symphonic Band at 3:00 pm.

The registration fee for accepted students is **\$70.00**, which includes all of the activities for the weekend as well as housing from Feb 16-18 and meals from Saturday breakfast through Sunday brunch. Students will be housed in University dormitories with University Symphonic Band members and other music students.

You are most welcome to attend the Honors Band rehearsals as well as the gala concert on Sunday. You can find more information about the Honors Band Festival by going to our website:

<https://www.susqu.edu/academics/majors-and-minors/departments-of-music/festivals-and-workshops/>

You may nominate as many students as you wish. Applications from students who play oboe, bassoon, horn, and trombone, euphonium and tuba are particularly encouraged. This year there are no vaccine or masking requirements. However, I would refer you and your students to the University's COVID-19 Protocols page for information on how to stay safe. Please see the link below:

<https://www.susqu.edu/coronavirus-update/covid-plan/>

Your students can submit applications to the Honors Band Festival online. Interested students should fill out the online form found at the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/r/cwPfxCjG8X>

You, the band director, will be asked to provide a recommendation and ranking for each of your students via an online form. Both the student application form and your recommendation form should be submitted by **Friday, December 1st**. Honors Band selections will be made on **Tuesday, December 5th**. The students, their parents, and you, their band director, will all be notified by **Friday, December 9th**. Accepted students will receive a link to seating audition material by **Friday, December 15th**. Sometime after the new year, accepted students will be asked to provide emergency contact information as well as information regarding dietary needs and any medication they may be taking.

Here's a snapshot of the Honors Band application process:

1. Apply via our online form by **Friday, December 1, 2023**.
<https://forms.office.com/r/cwPfXCjG8X>
2. Band directors must upload recommendations and rankings by **Friday, December 1, 2023**.
<https://forms.office.com/r/Qn4QVmZKGv>
3. Accepted students, their parents, and their band director will be notified by **Friday, December 9, 2023**.
4. Accepted students can access seating audition material as of **Friday, December 15, 2023**.
5. Fees and emergency contact forms will be due by **Friday, January 26, 2024**. A link to this form will follow.

We hope you will encourage your students to participate in the 2024 Susquehanna University Honors Band Festival. **Please post the enclosed flier in your rehearsal room!!!** If you have any questions, e-mail me at hinton@susqu.edu or call (570) 372-4296. We look forward to seeing you all on campus!

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Hinton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "H".

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