



UTAH MUSIC
EDUCATORS
ASSOCIATION

Dear Directors,

We're excited to announce the first annual UMEA State Junior High/Middle School Jazz Festival. This festival will give schools an opportunity to perform for and receive outstanding clinics from nationally renowned directors outside the state of Utah.

The festival will be hosted by Skyridge High School on February 23, 2017. Bands that are selected to participate will have the opportunity to perform and then receive an off-stage clinic with an out of state clinician. The festival is being modeled after the State Junior High Concert Band Festival which has proven to be a rewarding experience for bands that have participated in the past. The goal of this festival is to give directors and students new knowledge and insights to help sustain and lift their programs to an even higher level of excellence.

This year, 15 jazz bands will be selected to perform. All selected bands will perform a 20 minute or less program of grade level II literature or above and then attend a workshop with one of the out of state guest clinicians. All 15 bands will receive a participation plaque recognizing their significant achievement for their qualification and participation in their state jazz festival performance. The selected bands will be based upon a blind audition format. Bands wishing to audition will need to **submit a swing chart of their choosing**. Improv is highly encouraged, but not required. There are no restrictions in regards to doubling of parts for the audition or festival. Schools are welcome to have more than one band apply (due to the size of some schools and programs), but will only be allowed to have more than one performing group if the 15 slots are not filled. The **Audition and Application Postmark Deadline is January 13, 2017** (the same date as the State Concert Band Festival application). Invitations will be issued by January 30th, 2017.

We have some amazing junior high jazz programs in the state and hope that you will apply in this first ever State Junior High/Middle School Jazz Festival. As the festival grows, we look to expand it to possibly include sight reading, combos, guest artists, etc.

Sincerely,

Dave Faires
UMEA Vice President, Junior High

Richard Bateman
UMEA Junior High Jazz Festival Chairman