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Dear Student,

I am extremely happy to announce that the Twenty-Ninth Annual Susquehanna University Honors Band Festival will be held in-person on **February 18-20, 2022**. This is a unique event designed to give talented high school woodwind, brass and percussion players an opportunity to share their passion for music with similarly motivated students. We have missed working with you and your students during these difficult times. We plan offer two honors ensembles, the Honors Wind Ensemble and the Honors Band. These ensembles will come together to form the Honors Festival Band, which will close the gala concert at 3:00 pm on Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup> in Weber Chapel Auditorium. We have invited Mr. Aaron Himes to be our guest conductor this year. Mr. Himes is a Susquehanna University graduate (Music Education, 2011), has a Master's degree in tuba performance from the University of North Texas and is currently finishing a PhD at Northwestern University. He has taught in the Juniata and Wyalusing Area School Districts here in Pennsylvania. Mr. Himes is a wonderful musician and educator and I know you will enjoy working with him.

We have a wonderful slate of activities planned for the Festival. There are seating auditions on Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, which will be followed by masterclasses by the applied wind and percussion faculty of Susquehanna University. In addition, Honors Band participants will be treated to a performance by the University Symphonic Band and the University Jazz Ensemble that evening. There are rehearsals planned for all day Saturday followed by a pizza party that night. The gala concert on Sunday features performances by the Honors Band, Honors Wind Ensemble, and Festival Band beginning at 3:00 pm.

The registration fee for accepted students is **\$70.00** per student, which covers all of the activities for the weekend including housing from Feb 18-20 as well as meals from Saturday breakfast through Sunday brunch. Students will be housed in University dormitories with University Symphonic Band members and other music students.

Your band directors are encouraged to attend all 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: **<<http://www.susqu.edu/honorsband>>**. Applications from students who play oboe, bassoon, horn, and trombone, euphonium and tuba are particularly encouraged. The application process is outlined below.

We have put a few protocols in place to ensure everyone's safety while they are guests of Susquehanna University. Every student accepted to the 2022 Susquehanna University Honors Band Festival must be fully vaccinated by February 4, 2022. In addition, each student must take a COVID-19 test (antigen or PCR) 72 hours prior to the start of the festival (i.e., between February 15, 2022 and February 18, 2022). A negative result must be uploaded **before** your arrival on campus on Friday, February 18, 2022. We

will also be following University protocols, which currently includes a mask mandate for all indoor activities. This requirement may be lifted depending on state and local protocols regarding the pandemic. While I understand that some of these protocols may seem cumbersome, they will ensure the safety of all those who participate and will allow us the great privilege of assembling together to make music!

To expedite the application process, we've moved the Honors Band application online. Interested students should fill out the online form found [here](#). One of the questions involves making a commitment to upload their COVID-19 vaccination card on or before February 4<sup>th</sup> as well as a negative result of an antigen or PCR test between February 15<sup>th</sup> and February 18<sup>th</sup>. Your band director will be asked via another form to provide a recommendation and ranking for you as we've done in the past via the paper application. These forms should be completed by **Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**. Once the Honors Band selections have been made on **December 9, 2021**, the students, their parents, and you, their band director, will all be notified by **Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**. Seating audition material will be made available via an internet link where you can download and print music specific to your instrument. Sometime after the new year, accepted students will be asked to provide emergency contact information as well as info regarding dietary needs and any medication they may be taking. At this time, you will be able to upload your vaccination card. For those of you who are not yet fully vaccinated, you have until **February 4<sup>th</sup>** to become fully vaccinated. You can begin to upload your negative antigen or PCR test results beginning on Tuesday, **February 15<sup>th</sup>**. All test results must be uploaded **before** you come to campus.

Here's a snap shot of the Honors Band audition process:

1. Apply via our [online form](#) by Monday, December 6, 2021.
2. Band directors must upload recommendations and rankings by Monday, December 6, 2021.
3. Accepted students, your parents, and your band director will be notified by Monday, December 13, 2021.
4. Accepted students can access seating audition material as of Friday, December 17, 2021.
5. Students should upload their vaccination cards by Friday, February 4, 2022 via an emergency contact information form (link to follow).
6. Students should upload their negative antigen or PCR test results (link to follow) between Tuesday, February 15, 2022 and Friday, February 18, 2022.

We hope you will participate in the 2022 Susquehanna University Honors Band Festival. We have missed you!!!! If you have any questions, e-mail us at [bands@susqu.edu](mailto:bands@susqu.edu) or call (570) 372-4296. Our fax number is (570) 372-2789. We look forward to seeing you here!

All the best,



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