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Dear Student,

Susquehanna University is accepting applications for the Thirtieth Annual Honors Band Festival to be held **in-person** on **February 17-19, 2023** on our beautiful campus. 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. Last year, we enjoyed the return of an in-person Honors Band Festival and look forward to hosting you again in 2023. 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 19th in Weber Chapel Auditorium. We have invited Dr. Keith Richardson to be our guest conductor this year. Dr. Richardson is the Director of Bands at Lower Dauphin High School. He holds a DMA in Music Education from Boston University and was awarded National Board Certification in 2009 in recognition of his exemplary teaching practice by the National Board of Professional Teaching. Dr. Richardson is a wonderful conductor and music educator and you will have a blast working with him!!

We have a wonderful slate of activities planned for the Festival. There are seating auditions on Friday, February 17th, 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 evening. The gala concert on Sunday features performances by the Honors Band, Honors Wind Ensemble, and Festival Band beginning at 3:00 pm. For the seniors out there, I should also mention that Friday, February 17th has been set aside as a special audition day for any Honors Band seniors applying to attend SU in the fall 2023. This is a great way to feed two birds with one seed...take your SU audition and attend this wonderful festival all in the same weekend. To schedule your SU audition for the 2023-2024 academic year, contact Sara Adams at (570)372-4309 or adamss@susqu.edu.

The registration fee for accepted students is **\$70.00** per student, which covers all of the activities for the weekend including housing from Feb 17-19 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 welcome. The application process is outlined below.

To ensure everyone's safety while they are guests of Susquehanna University a few protocols remain in place. Every student accepted to the 2023 Susquehanna University Honors Band Festival must be fully vaccinated. Please see below for an explanation of what "fully vaccinated" means:

- If you have not reached your eligibility date for a booster, but still have had your initial vaccination doses and two weeks have passed for efficacy to build up, you are **fully vaccinated**.

- If you have reached your eligibility date for a booster, but do not have your booster, you are still **fully vaccinated**, but not up to date.
- If you have reached your eligibility date for a booster, and have had your booster, you are **up to date** without any further efficacy waiting period

This requirement is subject to change and 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:

<https://forms.office.com/r/HgbccwPvu8>


One of the questions involves making a commitment to upload their COVID-19 vaccination card on or before **February 3rd**. Your band director will be asked via another form to provide a recommendation and ranking for each student applicant from your school. These forms should be completed by **Friday, December 2nd**. Honors Band selections will be made on Friday, **December 9th** and will be notified regarding the results by **Friday, December 16th**. 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 you may be taking. At this time, students will be able to upload their vaccination cards. For those students who are not yet fully vaccinated, they have until **February 3rd** to become fully vaccinated.

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

1. Apply via our online form by Friday, December 2, 2022. <https://forms.office.com/r/HgbccwPvu8>
2. Band directors must upload recommendations and rankings by Friday, December 2nd, 2022. <https://forms.office.com/r/FJJwdcXWP0>
3. Accepted students, their parents, and their band director will be notified by Friday, December 16, 2022.
4. Accepted students can access seating audition material as of Friday, December 16, 2022.
5. Students should upload their vaccination cards by Friday, February 3, 2023 via an emergency contact information form (link to follow).

We hope you will participate in the 2023 Susquehanna University Honors Band Festival. We have missed you!!!! If you have any questions, e-mail me at hinton@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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