

Levittown Public Schools

**2021 NYSSMA Information & Registration Form: PIANO ONLY**

Dates	Location	Classification	Registration	Due Date
Feb 5-12 Upload period for student performance videos	Nassau Community College  <b>(VIRTUAL)</b>	PIANO ONLY  <b>(no jazz)</b>	MySchoolBucks on LevittownSchools.com	<b>January 4, 2021</b>

• **NYSSMA Overview:**

- *Participating in the NYSSMA Festival is an extracurricular activity designed to supplement and enhance the student's music education, not act as a substitute for it.*
- NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) hosts festivals each year to provide students with an opportunity to prepare a solo and/or ensemble composition for an evaluation by a professional adjudicator.
- Participating in the NYSSMA Festival gives students a chance to challenge themselves as players and receive an objective critique of their performance.
- The festival offers students the invaluable experience of having to present themselves in a safe "virtual" type environment.

• **Commitment:**

- *While participating in the NYSSMA Festival can be a rewarding experience, students and their parents/guardians should carefully consider the commitment involved in preparing a solo before registering.*
- A substantial amount of time must be devoted to practicing over the course of the months preceding the festival.
- Depending on the level of the music selected and the ability of the student, private instruction may be a helpful resource in order to successfully prepare for the evaluation.

• **Music Selection:**

- It is strongly recommended that students who wish to participate in the NYSSMA Festival select their music as soon as possible so they have sufficient time to find a vendor from which to purchase their sheet music.
- Music may have to be ordered from a vendor and could take a considerable amount of time before it is received.
- Make sure your prepared solo appears in the **current NYSSMA Manual (XXXII)** by checking with your school music teacher or private teacher.

**Fees (Non-Refundable):**

- The Levittown School District does not pay NYSSMA registration fees.
- Payment **MUST** be made online at [www.LevittownSchools.com](http://www.LevittownSchools.com) through MySchoolBucks.com. All payments are **non-refundable**. PLEASE NOTE THAT TEACHERS WILL INPUT DATA ONTO REGISTRATION SITES.
- **If your child is planning on participating in this NYSSMA Festival, he/she must hand in the completed information form and payment by January 4, 2021. No registrations will be accepted after this date.**
- **PRINT your Payschools receipt and attach a copy to your registration form.**
- NYSSMA Solo and Ensemble Fees:
  - Levels 1-4 Piano: \$16.00
  - Levels 5-6 Piano: \$24.00

- **Preparation:**
  - Solos are graded by difficulty from Level 1 (easiest) to Level 6 (most difficult). Choose your solo carefully with the help of your music teacher.
  - Students are responsible for preparing solos outside of school time. Most soloists find that a private music teacher is the best way to prepare. Teachers will be available as time permits during the school day for extra help.
  - Practice must be regular and consistent.

- **Audition/Evaluation:**

**This festival is virtual. Students will UPLOAD (Feb 5-12, 2021) four “tasks.”**

**Task #1: student will complete filed prompts for general registration and upload a scanned copy of their solo or ensemble score.**

**Task #2: scales, check with your music teacher:**

**Task#3: solo, one restart permitted**

**Task #4: sight reading (Sight-Reading Factory), two attempts permitted**

- **The Platform will allow students their work samples in one of two ways:**

- 1. Work Samples may be submitted in real time. The platform offers the student the ability to select the “record” button when they are ready to perform.**
- 2. Work samples may be pre-recorded and may be submitted in MP4, MOV and WMV video formats. Students may upload their pre-recorded work samples.**

**\*\*\*Information regarding the uploading platform will be provided by the music teacher once the festival host provides this information.**

**Additional Criteria:**

- Each instrumental student will be required to learn scales based on NYSSMA level. Check with your teacher. **All scales must be memorized.**
- A short sight-reading example (unfamiliar music on **Sight-Reading Factory-task #4**) will be performed. Students should use this time to look at the time signature, the key signature, rhythms, dynamics, tempo and phrasing.
- Solos are evaluated with several categories.
  - Tone - the quality of the sound produced
  - Intonation - playing in tune
  - Technique - the physical skill to accurately perform the music
  - Accuracy - accuracy of notes and fingerings, bowings, rhythms, etc.
  - Interpretation - musical qualities of dynamics, style, tempo, phrasing & expression
  - Scales (Instrumentalists) - playing the prepared scales
  - Sight Reading - playing music you have never seen before with correct notes, rhythms, articulation and dynamics.
- You will receive your graded evaluation from your music teacher after the festival.

**NYSSMA Spring  
Virtual Piano Festival  
Registration Form**

**Due: Monday, January 4, 2021**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

NYSSMA Level of Solo/Ensemble: \_\_\_\_\_

School Music Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name of Composition: \_\_\_\_\_ NYSSMA Manual 32 Page #: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are performing with an ensemble, list the student(s) that are in your ensemble: \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you take private lessons:      Yes \_\_\_\_\_      No \_\_\_\_\_

Private Instructor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this form I am stating that I have read and understand the NYSSMA guidelines and will attach a MySchoolBucks receipt. I permit my child to participate in the 2021 NYSSMA Virtual Piano Festival.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

THIS FORM **AND** ONLINE PAYMENT RECEIPT MUST BE SUBMITTED  
TO YOUR MUSIC TEACHER NO LATER THAN **Monday, January 4, 2021.**

A separate form is needed for each solo or ensemble.  
All Payments must be made online at **www.LevittownSchools.com**