

Southeast Minnesota Band Directors Association Beginning Band Festival

Dear Parent,

Congratulations! Your child has been nominated by his/her director to participate in a very special event for first year band students. **On Saturday, May 1st**, first year band students from throughout Southeastern Minnesota will gather at Ellis Middle School in Austin, Minnesota for the Southeast Minnesota Band Directors Association (SEMBDA) Beginning Band Festival. We hope your child can be a part of this exciting event!

The SEMBDA Beginning Band Festival is a morning activity, commencing with registration at 8:00 am, and ending with a concert at noon. The concert will be brief, and you should all be able to be on your way by 12:45 pm. A snack will be served to the students at mid-morning to help maintain energy in the music making. The concert music will be distributed the morning of the festival. The students will then be placed into groups according to the instrument they play and will be led in a sectional rehearsal by a band director who specializes on that instrument. These section coaches will rehearse the concert music with the students. After the sectional and a snack, the students will gather for their rehearsal with the guest conductor. These guest conductors are extremely respected, successful music teachers. They will provide your child with a positive, rewarding rehearsal and concert experience. At noon, the students will perform a free concert for parents and friends.

The fee for participation in this festival is \$15. Please return the nomination form to your child's band director, along with a **check made out to "SEMBDA"**. Your band director will need to complete a portion of the form before it can be mailed in. **DON'T DELAY!** Each site will be accepting the first 100 students who apply to participate. Your \$15 fee will be returned to you if the band is full before we receive your application. The final cut off for accepting applications is **April 9th, 2010**.

Congratulations again on your child's nomination for this program. This is just the beginning of the rewarding, educational and creative opportunities your child can experience by being a member of the school band!

Sincerely,

Beth Beebe Tradup
Beginning Band Festival Coordinator, Southeast Region
Minnesota Band Directors Association
For more information visit www.MBDA.org