

October 20, 2008

Dear Southwest Minnesota Band Directors,

Last February, the Southwest Region of the Minnesota Band Directors Association held the first annual SWMBDA 6-8 Honor Band. Approximately 75 students from 11 area schools participated. It's time to begin preparing for the 2009 SWMBDA Honor Bands, and this year, in addition to the 6-8 Honor Band we will also have a 9-10 Honor Band. We would love to have student representatives from at least 25 schools, so if your school didn't participate last year, please consider doing so this year. This one-day event (for both bands) will take place on **February 21, 2009** at Marshall High School. The honor band performances will take place at around 4:30 p.m. in the Schwan's Community Center for the Performing Arts at Marshall High School.

Unlike the state level honor bands, no audition is required. All selections will be based on the recommendations of the students' band director. Nomination forms for each band are enclosed with this letter, and I would like to encourage you to nominate as many students as you believe are ready for this opportunity. At least one student will be selected from every nomination form. **Nomination forms are due on November 14, 2008**, and you will receive a list of the selected band members by January 9, 2008. All of the selected band members will be required to pay a \$20 participation fee when they check in for the day.

You may nominate any student in grades 6 through 10. However, students must be members of your band program, and you must be a member of MBDA. If you still need to join, you can do so by going to [www.mbda.org](http://www.mbda.org). (You may now join MBDA without having to join MMEA if you wish.)

The officers of Southwest MBDA and I hope that you and your students will take advantage of this new opportunity to share your music making skills with other young musicians and directors around the region. I look forward to receiving your nomination form before the November 14<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Musically yours,

Dr. John Ginocchio,  
SWMBDA Honor Band Chair  
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