

DRAKE UNIVERSITY
HIGH SCHOOL HONOR BAND FESTIVAL
December 5-6, 2025

INFORMATION BULLETIN

PURPOSE

To provide an exceptional ensemble experience for high school students to perform under the baton of our nation's finest band conductors.

FESTIVAL LOCATION

All activities of the High School Honor Band will be conducted in the Harmon Fine Arts Center, located on the Drake University campus.

ENSEMBLES

The festival features two distinct honors ensembles. Membership in the Honors Wind Ensemble is reserved for high school seniors and students who have been members of an All-State Band or Orchestra, or All-State alternates. Membership in the Honors Concert Band is open to students grade 9-12, of all ability levels.

ELIGIBILITY/ SELECTION PROCESS

High school students may, with the recommendation of their instrumental director, apply for membership in the Honor Band. **Deadline for application is Monday, November 3, 2025.** Applications will be accepted at a later date if openings exist in specific sections. Applications will be **reviewed on November 4th** and parts will be assigned following the recommendation of directors, wherever possible. Music will then be sent to each accepted member, via email to their band director for practice prior to the festival.

REGISTRATION AND FEE

Payment for Participants

Drake University will employ the use of Eventbrite to confirm all registrations and choose a payment option for student participants of the festival. Directors will be sent a link to Eventbrite, upon notification of student acceptances to the festival. Payment is due on or before December 5, 2025. A registration fee of **\$25.00 per student** is due by the day of the event.

A registration desk will be located in the lobby of the Performing Arts Hall of the Fine Arts Center. Students are asked to register upon arrival between 8:00-10:00 a.m.

CHAIR PLACEMENT AUDITIONS

Chair auditions will consist of performance of the Honor Band music sent to students. Passages utilized are left to the discretion of the auditioner. **Students must bring their music with them to their chair placement auditions.**

REHEARSALS

All rehearsals are open to parents, directors, and friends.

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS

High School Seniors who are interested in auditioning for Drake Music Scholarships are invited to participate in the Drake Music Scholarship Auditions to be held in February 2026. Plan now to attend one of these two in-person dates for scholarship auditions: February 6th and February 13th, 2026. There is also an option for virtual audition with details outlined on the Drake Music website. Please share this information with your seniors. Music scholarships are available for music majors, minors and program participants. For more information about auditions, please go to:

<http://www.drake.edu/music/prospectivestudentinformation/auditioninformation>