

**2018 THE MSMTA GAIL F. McDONALD HIGH SCHOOL PIANO EXAMINATION
MARYLAND STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

Date: September 1, 2017

From: Deborah White-Bondhus, Chair 10637 Green Mountain Circle, Columbia, MD 21044-2336

To: Teachers whose students want to apply for Credit

Online (at msmta.org/calendar.php, click on Credit Forms) you will find six forms:

1. **Permission Form** which the school principal must sign in order to take the piano examination for credit. This form must be sent to me along with your filled out application form and the check, by November 15, 2017. Keep in mind that some counties are not granting credit at this time. However, many are. Even though credit may be refused one year, it could be given another. Any student who would like to request credit should ask for it. If the school does not give credit, your student's application will automatically be put in for recognition.
2. **A Letter of Explanation** which can be presented to the principal with the Permission form explaining the program. Principals are very busy, and although they do receive letters from me about the program, they may find this added information helpful when making their decision as to granting permission for credit.
3. **The Practice Hours Form** must be filled in each week, and returned at the end of the year. This should be dated starting in September. You may estimate practice time for September if practice records were not kept.
4. **The Application Form** (MSTMA members will find this form in the Student Activities Booklet) which must be sent to me with a check and with the Permission form. Please indicate the repertoire and the technique to be prepared (See the Technique Addendum). We realize it is sometimes difficult to know in October exactly what will be played in April, but fill it out with what is projected to be played. Indicate appropriate timings for the finished work. **ANY CHANGES IN THE PROGRAM MUST BE APPROVED BY THE CHAIR AND THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE.** Changes must adhere to the requirements of level, three periods of literature and the 10 minutes minimum for repertoire. **MAKE SURE THAT AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF PIECES ARE ENTERED TO AMPLY COVER 10 MINUTES** so if the student speeds up when performing, they will still have enough time! No program changes will be allowed after April 1, 2018.
5. **The Student Data Sheet** should provide you with the details you will need to know. **If you do have questions please feel free to contact me.**
6. **The Technique Addendum** will give you the requirements for students at the different levels. The technique level should correspond to the repertoire level the student is playing. The curriculum committee has tried to make these standards uniform. If you feel your student has unique problems which warrant review of the Technique they will play, please call **Deborah White-Bondhus 410-730-8295, about this IMMEDIATELY.** The curriculum committee will review requests for changes of technique only for very special cases, and the changes would need to be made now as part of the overall application, not at the last minute. When filling in the technique in the application form, please spell out exactly the keys of the scales to be played, as F, B-flat, E-flat, A-flat Major, and d, g, c and f minor etc. If all scales are required, just write All Majors and minors so that we know that you know exactly what is required. There will be an additional 5 minutes allowed to hear the technical part of the examination.

You can also find **The Curriculum Repertoire Guidelines** in the High School Exam section, which will help you to determine the level of your student's repertoire. Please use it as a guide when comparing repertoire.

The examination judges' grade is one-half of the total grade. The other half is your grade. You will fill out the Student Data form grading your student for the year. The committee then averages the two grades together for the final grade to be turned in to the school. You should discuss this fully with your student so that you both have a good understanding of the procedure.

Thank you for the extra work entailed by you in this very special effort.

**Deborah White-Bondhus, chair
THE MSMTA GAIL F. McDONALD HIGH SCHOOL PIANO EXAMINATION**

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