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Maryland State Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association

DATE: September 1, 2017

TO: High School Principals of Maryland Students

FROM: Deborah White-Bondhus, Chair, The MSMTA Gail F. McDonald High School Piano Examinations for Recognition/Credit of Private Music Study (reply to debbondhus@gmail.com)

SUBJECT: Students Who Wish to Apply for Credit for the 2018 MSMTA Gail F. McDonald High School Piano Examination.

Your student has presented you with a permission form to apply for transcript credit while participating in the Maryland State Music Teachers Association's High School Piano Examination. This exam, which takes place each spring, can be taken for either recognition or credit. Most of the 150 students from 100 different high schools who apply to take the examination each year apply to take recognition, but a smaller percentage choose to take it for credit.

The High School Piano Examination Program was developed in 1979 by MSMTA with the cooperation of the Maryland State Department of Education. For 39 years, many principals have given students permission to apply to take the Piano Examination for credit. Some students took this elective through independent studies, while others received it under fine arts and work-study programs. Students must study piano privately on a regular basis throughout the school year, keep a record of their practice time (a minimum of one hour per day), keep records of lesson time, repertoire classes, recitals, keyboard and theory tests, etc. They must demonstrate technical exercises over and above the ten minutes of memorized repertoire required of students applying for recognition only. A committee of nationally certified piano teachers approves the student's repertoire. In April/May 2018, the student will perform his/her program for nationally certified adjudicators who will give the student a grade. The piano teacher of the student also gives the student a grade for the entire year. These two grades are averaged to the final grade for the year. Copies of the examination critiques, the student's grade, and record of the practice hours are sent to the school. Some principals oversee this program directly; others appoint a staff member to oversee it.

This is a unique way for schools and professionals in the community to work together to enhance students' educational options. Thank you for your consideration.