

January 9, 2023

Dear Rye Neck Families,

School Music Programs

What is NYSSMA? First of all, we actually do pronounce it-- and it's easy. It's *NISS-muh*. That's important because we usually talk about it more than we write about it.

Second, it's the New York State School Music Association. It's an organization whose mission is to advance music education across New York State for its membership and students who participate in member school music programs.

I write about NYSSMA this week for two reasons:

- Rye Neck is hosting a NYSSMA festival this spring, the first time since 2014. Districts that participate in NYSSMA are expected to share hosting responsibilities and it is our turn based on their rotating schedule. Specifically, the Spring Festival for Strings Levels I-IV, Harp & Guitar will take place on April 14th and 15th on our MS/HS campus.
- [Registration](#) material is available on our website. The first deadline for band instruments and levels 5 through 6 strings is coming up on January 13th. Our music staff is always available to answer any questions.

Somewhere, Over the UFSD

Prior to when our HS Varsity Indoor Track & Field team gathered for its senior award ceremony on Friday afternoon, it was gray and raining. Then, minutes before the ceremony, the sky cleared and our campus was crowned by a brilliant, perfect arc of color. As I moved from the administration building to the track, I saw people stopping and getting out of their cars to take photographs of the rainbow. That's how unusual and breathtaking it was and it provided a beautiful backdrop for the track ceremony. I can't promise that every afternoon, but the Varsity Boys Indoor Track & Field Team went on to capture the League Championship on Sunday in the Armory in NYC, and our girls team came in a very close second place as well!

If you missed it, here's a [view](#) from just outside our Collaborative Science Center (thanks to Coach Ianello), [another](#) from outside our District Office (thanks to Dr. Barker), and a [third](#) from the track (thanks to Ms. Lanza).

Best regards,
Dr. Eric Lutinski
Superintendent of Schools