



Thank you for planning to join us at the 2019 PMEA Advocacy Day in Harrisburg on April 29, 2019. Your voice is valuable in our goal of making music and arts education a reality for every child in Pennsylvania. Please review the process for registering for advocacy day.

First, please visit <http://www.pmea.net/specialty-areas/advocacy/> and click on “2019 PMEA Advocacy Day Information.” On that page, you will find the most up to date information on everything involving Advocacy Day. You will want to scroll to the bottom and “Register” for Advocacy Day so we know you’re coming. If you know the name of your Pennsylvania House and Senate member, it would be helpful if you included that information on the registration page. If you don’t know their names, you can type your zip code into the “Find Your State Representative” box.

After you have registered, we encourage you to reach out by phone or email to schedule an appointment with your representatives for April 29th. You can find contact information for your member of the PA House and your member of the PA Senate when you use the search box to find your representative. If you know of other PMEA members from your area trying to visit the same representative, it’s best to coordinate your meeting time and meet together.

We encourage you to bring students with you if possible. Representatives would be happy to schedule tours and take photos with students. And visiting the Pennsylvania Capitol Building (one of the most beautiful in the nation) can always be a great learning experience for students. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Mark Despotakis, advocacy@pmea.net

Since April 29th is a session day in the state legislature, it is possible to schedule a meeting with your representative. However it is possible you will be scheduled for a meeting with a staffer. There is nothing wrong with that and in many cases can be advantageous. Please review the schedule below when you are making your appointments. Being at the 10:30 news conference is not a must, but we’d like to have as many PMEA members present as possible.

Prior to coming to Harrisburg, please review the 2019 PMEA Legislative Asks posted online. Talking points will also be posted so you have some background available.

Once you arrive in Harrisburg, you will come to the Main Rotunda of the Capitol building. Starting at 8:30 am, we will have copies of the legislative asks on site for you to take to your state representatives.

The capitol complex can be a bit confusing. There will be maps on site but you'll want to make sure to leave at least 10-15 minutes to get to your meeting from the Main Rotunda or the Irvis Office Building.

When you are in your meetings, explain who PMEA is and then discuss our legislative asks. Do not discuss other issues. You are representing PMEA and the music education profession. It's important to have a consistent and unified message from all of our members. If you are asked a question and you don't know the answer, just say that you will find out and get back to them. If you've never been in a legislative meeting, there's nothing to be nervous about. You'll find that those you meet with are genuinely interested in listening to you. Always take a card of those you are meeting with and follow up with a thank you email.

It's possible you will receive some pushback because the budget is a very hot topic in Harrisburg. Remember to stay on message with the talking points provided. Your job is to explain the issues and show representatives where issues exist. Their job is to work on a solution.

Feel free to share any questions, concerns or feedback with PMEA Advocacy Council Chair, Mark Despotakis – advocacy@pmea.net

After the press conference, please check back in at the PMEA registration table. We want our legislative ask document to make it to every office in the capitol, so we may ask you to help us deliver some to offices around the capitol.

On our website, <http://www.pmea.net/specialty-areas/advocacy/>, you'll find links for parking information as well as dining information in Harrisburg. Most parking in Harrisburg is done through meters that you can electronically add money to through texts. Parking is also available near Strawberry Square. There is a cafeteria in the Capitol complex that offers a wide variety of food. However, it can get pretty crowded on a session day. There is food available in Strawberry Square that's just a short walk from the Capitol. Other options are linked on our website.

Thank you again for taking the time to come to Harrisburg and advocating for education.

Schedule

8:30 a.m. - PMEA Registration Table Open in Main Rotunda
9:00 a.m. – Advocacy Council Meeting (108 Irvis Office Building)
10:00 a.m. - Hollidaysburg Area High School Jazz Ensemble Performance (East Wing)
10:30 am - PMEA News Conference - Main Rotunda
11:30 a.m. - Delaware Valley High School Performance (East Wing)
12:20 p.m. - Seeds of Faith Academy Performance (East Wing)

