

## Welcome to the GMB Spring Celebration!

### Everything you should know about the GMB Arts in Education Spring Celebration

If you have never had the chance to participate in the GMB Arts in Education Spring Celebration, you are in for a fun day of performing and sharing of art displays with your students next to the Peoria County Courthouse. What we do in Peoria is unique, and as far as we know the only one of its kind in the U.S. We welcome all kinds of art performances and displays, and we welcome Pre-School through College Groups. We even have special days just for Junior High Jazz and International Jazz Day for High School and College.

#### **Types of Performances:**

Singing

Dancing

Show Choirs

Orchestra

Band

Drum Line

Speech

Drama Scenes

Short Theatrical Productions

#### **Types of art:**

Pencil and Ink Drawings

Watercolor, Acrylic, and Oil Paintings

Photography

Ceramics

3D Artwork and Sculpture

#### **Equipment and Sound:**

We provide most of what you need to have successful displays and performances. We have two performance/display locations. The Circle Fountain Stage is located closest to Hamilton Street. If you are scheduled to perform at this stage, all vocal groups use the steps for their performance. You do not need to bring risers. Large vocal groups can easily fit on the steps. We provide risers for performances scheduled at the Monument Stage located near the corner of Adams St. and Main St. We will provide one music stand at each stage for directors, who may not use music stands in their programs. If it's hot, warn kids not to lock their knees and sit down on their riser if dizzy. The concrete really reflects the heat of the sun and it can get warm.

We provide chairs for your band and orchestra. You must bring your own music stands. We do recommend bringing your own spring-loaded clothes pins in order to hold down music. There is always wind ready to flip your pages and send them flying.

In extreme need we will add an additional stage at the corner of Jefferson St. and Main by the Lincoln statue. Usually, this only occurs on days when a whole school district brings their students for the day. Please, be aware that to set up an extra stage that we have to hire an additional sound technician and our set-up crew has to set up risers, chairs, and audience seating.

We have professional sound technicians, who will set up sound equipment depending on your needs including microphones on stands for groups and soloists, monitors, and special cords for connecting your CD player or iPod, if needed. The sound technicians will adjust mic height and move them from the risers/steps to the band/orchestra. We will provide a full-size keyboard with pedals and weighted keys, or you may choose to bring your own. Some vocal groups bring their own sound equipment, which is

acceptable. When you schedule your group, please plan the order of your performances carefully to consider that moving the mics takes time.

For art displays we provide 6'Lx2'W white plastic tables and 3'W x 5'H free-standing display panels. Each display panel is wire mesh, with exhibit areas on both sides. We also provide a sign to identify your school. The tables are used to display ceramics, and 3D artwork and sculpture. If you wish to use table covers, you will need to bring your own and clips to hold them down against any wind. The mesh panels can be set up in a zig-zag fashion with displays on both sides, or even in triangles or squares with displays on just one side. To hand picture art you will need to bring large binder clips and large paper clips to hang artwork. You attach the binder clips to the artwork and then bend paper clips to hook through the loops of the binder clips and then hook the other end of the paper clip through over the wire of the panels.

Many of the art teachers will put the artwork in their car and drive separately in order to keep artwork from being damaged during transport. It may be more convenient for you to do so and you are welcome to arrive early to do your set-up for art. The only drawback is finding a parking spot around the square and then feeding the meter for the time you are there.

**Lunch:**

There are several food cart businesses around the courthouse that sell food, snacks, and drinks. If buying lunch at the food carts, we recommend students have \$5-10 each. The vendors also must charge tax. You may choose to let your students buy lunches at the food carts or bring sack lunches. There is a lovely area right along Hamilton Street close to the bus drop-off area. The trees are more mature and provide nice shade and students can sit in the grass to eat their lunches. It's also far enough from the Circle Fountain Stage, that moderate talking will not disturb performances.

**Restrooms and Safety:**

The only restrooms available are located in the Peoria County Courthouse, which are accessible through the main entrance on the corner of Main Street and Jefferson Street. Primary students should always be accompanied by an adult. Middle school students should always have an assigned buddy with them.

For the safety of all students they should remain within the courthouse vendor and performing areas. Allowing students to cross the street to the other side of Main Street is not recommended as students cannot be properly supervised and they may also miss their performance.

**Cleanup:**

There are well-placed garbage bins around the performing areas, as well as recycle bins. We ask that you discuss the proper disposal of trash before you arrive. It is also the responsibility of the directors and teachers to review your performance area especially the flower beds before leaving to have students pick up and dispose of any trash left behind.

**Monuments and Flower Beds:**

We have a prominent Civil War Monument at the Monument Stage and a 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century War Monument along Adams Street dedicated to men and women from Central Illinois, who gave their lives in service of their country. Please, ask your students to be mindful of respecting these monuments by keeping off of them.

The grounds around the Peoria County Courthouse are planted with lovely flowers and trees. Please, ask your students to keep out of the flower beds and not to hang on the branches of the trees.

**Language:**

Please, ask your students to be mindful of their language. The words “please” and “thank you” are always appreciated by our vendors and our stage crew. Directors and teachers should be mindful of how you speak to your students as someone is always watching and listening.

**Complaints:**

Once in a great while we will get complaints about foul language, disrespect, and trash left behind. If we receive any complaints about students from your group, we will share them with you so that students can work to do better in the future.

**Layout:**

A suggestion: use the Map App on your cell phone to type in the Peoria County Courthouse and then choose a satellite image. Enlarge the image so you can see the layout behind the courthouse. You can't miss the Circle Fountain and the trees to the right along Hamilton Street where you can eat lunches.

**Bus Drop-Off and Parking:**

Please arrive at least 15 minutes before your performance time to do your set up and check the sound equipment. All buses and equipment vehicles are to arrive and depart from the Courthouse side of Hamilton Street. Parking meters will be hooded prohibiting regular parking, but is available for unloading and loading only. This is not a parking area. Overflow parking is available in the city owned parking lot on Romeo B Garret Ave. Maps will be provided on site. We recommend getting your bus driver's name, bus number, and cell phone number, so you can contact them when you are ready for pickup.

**Inclement Weather:**

Northwoods Mall has been very generous to provide a warm space free of charge to the Spring Celebration as an alternative destination. The following equipment will still be available for your use at the mall: tables for art display, chairs for band and orchestra, sound equipment, and limited audience seating. **No risers or art panels will be available.** For safety reasons and due to lack of storage space instrument cases should be left on buses when entering the Mall. Otherwise, you will need to have someone supervising your equipment. The Mall and Spring Celebration personnel will not be held liable for missing equipment.

We will make every effort to reschedule or go to this alternate venue, if available. Cancellations will be announced the day of the event only. Schools wishing to cancel the day prior have a right to do so. GMB Spring Celebration Project Director will announce any cancellations or venue change ASAP or by 9AM the day of the event via social media [www.springcelebration.org](http://www.springcelebration.org) or [www.facebook.com/ArtsSpringCelebration](https://www.facebook.com/ArtsSpringCelebration). We will also make every effort to call the contact person to alert them to the change or cancellation.

Northwoods Mall has a food court on the upper level in the center of the building. The performance space is center court on the lower level.