

District XII All-District Choir High School Audition Information

Audition Registration - Costs and Procedures

- The cost varies between \$8 and \$11 per student based upon the total number of students auditioning
- Students are registered by their teacher on a link that is sent out about a month prior to the audition. Students can use the form to choose the voice part and preferred audition time block
- Teachers are sent a spreadsheet to confirm all names, spellings voice parts, and time requests
- Teachers can update and make corrections- usually until about 2 weeks before and then official times are sent out for teachers to post

Audition Location

- The location rotates (usually on a 4-year rotation) of schools who are not large enough to host Assessment or District Chorus

Audition Piece

- The All-VA audition piece is used

Sight-Reading Procedures

- Students have 30 seconds to study the sight-reading example before they perform it for a score
- The sight-reading is a 4-measure excerpt written by an independent contractor
- The example has the following limits:
 - stepwise motion and tonic triad skips, diatonic, in 4/4
 - may contain whole notes, dotted half notes/rest, half notes/rests, dotted quarter note followed by eighth note, quarter notes/rests, paired eighth notes, no syncopation
 - basses sing in C, tenors in F, altos in D and sopranos in G
- Students may practice aloud in the practice period.
- Students may use any sight-reading text they prefer- solfege, numbers, neutral syllable.
- Students are not marked down for inaccuracies in solfege, numbers, etc.- they are only judges on pitches and rhythms

Judges (who and how they are funded)

- Audition chair selects and two judges per room with recommendations from the district
- Judges are not voice teachers of the auditioning students
- Judges are not current HS choral directors in the district
- The judges' fees are paid for through the student audition fees that are charged per student

Who Staffs the Auditions?

- The audition chair/host staff the auditions, teachers do all registrations throughout the day, students who are not auditioning or parent volunteers serve as room proctors,

Scoring Practices and Rubrics

- A rubric evaluates vocal quality (20 points), intonation (20 points), Rhythmic Accuracy (20 points), Diction (15 points), Interpretation (10 point), Sight Reading (15 points) for a total of 100 points per judge.
- After 5-10 auditions, adult room runners collect score sheets and take them to the tabulation room so

- Tabulators check the judges' scores for accuracy and enter the scores into a scoring spreadsheet. Once all scores are entered, the spreadsheet is sorted by voice part, then by highest to lowest score. Tabulators are only teachers and names are blocked on the spreadsheet until all results are finalized.
- If the technology allows, the judges scores on a live document that records scores and notes for the students. This removes the tabulation room and instead is a living document that is constantly updated.

Results and How They are Announced

- There is an SSAA group and an SATB group
- Upon the completion of auditions, scores are sorted from highest to lowest.
- The cutoff scores are decided by the directors based upon the size of the stage which will house the District Event. Teachers look at the smallest groups of auditioning students and look for a natural cut off in the scores to find the total number of the first section. The remaining sections are then balanced accordingly.
- In the event of a tie, the students with the higher sight reading is selected. If there is a secondary tie, intonation is the tie breaker.
- Two to three alternates are selected per voice part.
- Freshmen and sophomore sopranos and altos are in the SSAA choir, junior and seniors sopranos and altos are in the SATB choir. All tenors and basses are in the SATB choir.
- In order to be All-State audition eligible, students must place in the top 50% of the selected students in their voice part. This is to make the district audition more competitive and to make the number of students eligible for All-State auditions more manageable. (We were to a point where we would have almost 200 students auditioning for All-State)

Description of Hospitality for Judges

- Light breakfast is provided for judges along with a full lunch during their break
- Snacks and lunch are provided for volunteers as well.

Concessions/Meals Available for Auditionees

- No meals are available for auditioning students, but concessions are sold by the host school if they choose to do so