

District 2 All-District Chorus Audition Procedures

- Auditions are held on the first Saturday in November
- High School (9, 10, 11, and 12) and Middle Schoolers (7 and 8) enrolled in Chorus may audition
- High School and Middle School auditions are held on the same day
- Audition committee consists of two chairs that split the duties of scheduling, finances, and logistics, and an audition site host

1. Audition registration - costs and procedures

Teachers register students via excel spreadsheet in late September/ early October. Committee sends a verification sheet to teachers to check spelling and voice part Auditions cost \$5.25 per student.

2. Location

Based on the District Audition Committee. A large school is needed to host all students auditioning and hallways and classrooms to accommodate the audition rooms

3. Audition piece - how it's selected, performed, rotated

Middle school - committee arranged two art songs in 4 different keys for the voicing of Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Baritone. In a two year rotation between "Simple Gifts" and "How Can I Keep From Singing."

High school - auditions using the All-VA audition piece of that year.

4. Sight-reading procedures

Middle school - no sight reading for middle school as of 2017.

High school - Students have 30 seconds to study the sight-reading example before they perform it for a score.

1. **4 measures in 4/4**
2. **Range within a fifth**
3. **Include DO, RE, MI, FA, SOL**
4. **Start and End on DO**
5. **Only leaps from DO-MI, MI-SOL (Either direction: DO to MI or MI to DO, etc.)**
6. **Only use: Half Notes, Quarter Notes, and Beamed Eighth Notes.**
7. **Rests: Only Quarter Rests**
8. **Soprano and Alto in Treble Clef**
9. **Tenor in Treble and Bass Clefs**
10. **Bass in Bass Clef**
11. **Soprano and Tenor in Eb**
12. **Alto and Bass in C.**
13. ****Sight-Singing exercise will be composed by someone who is not associated with students.**

5. Judges (who and how they are funded)

The audition chairs selects and asks approx. 16 judges (two per room for selected song, one per room for sight reading) The judges should not be teachers of the auditioning students. Typically use teachers from other districts, retired teachers, college music students (master's program or seniors) and elementary school teachers. Auditioning students must pay an audition fee (\$5.25) to participate, this fee is used to pay for the judges; however .25 from each audition goes to VMEA, as the VMEA fee.

6. Who staffs the auditions?

The audition chairs and host, staff the audition, along with parent and student volunteers. The student volunteers are trained beforehand on the process by doing a "mock audition" walk through. The hosts hold a meeting with the student workers to discuss rules and expectations. Custodians and security guards are also paid to help run the event.

We have about 9 Song Audition rooms that are used in the school for the event: Middle School Soprano, Middle School Alto, Middle School Baritone/Tenor, Soprano 1 High School, Soprano 2 High School, Alto 1 High School, Alto 2 High School, Tenor 1 and 2 High School, Bass 1 and 2 High School.

4 Sight- Singing Rooms: Sopranos, Altos, Tenors, Basses

3 warm-up rooms: Band Room, Chorus Room, Auditorium

1 holding/waiting room- cafeteria

7. Scoring practices and rubrics

Middle School- scored out of 100 points on the following categories: vocal quality (20); diction (15); Intonation (25); Preparation of Material (30); Musicianship (10)

High School- vocal quality (15); diction (15); Intonation (20); Preparation of Material (30); Musicianship (10)

High School Sight Reading- scores out of 20 points on the following categories: correct rhythms (10), correct pitches (10)

Envelopes and score sheets are printed for every auditioning students and they are given a number so that judges will not know any names (Middle School/High School, school number ID, student number ID, voice part) for example (MS.1.23.A). Two judging rubrics are printed (1 white, 1 yellow). Sight reading rubrics are printed for High School students (blue). These materials are printed two weeks before the event.

After 5-10 auditions, room runners collect score sheets and take them to the tabulation room so that tabulators can enter scores. 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 preferably teachers, we ask that each teacher score twice as many students they had audition to assist with the process. We typically have approximately 5-10 teachers tabulating at one time.

8. Results and how they are announced

Middle school- is a mixed choir.

High school - There is an SSA group and an SATB group.

Once scores are entered, they are sorted from highest to lowest based on voice parts. The cutoff score is up to the discrepancy of the All-District audition chair, the All-District chair, and the District Representative. There are typically two alternates per voice part, per choir. In the event of a tie, district chair decides to go above or below the cutoff number based on the choir.

Mixed and SSA High School choir will be determined by alternating down the score list. The chair will prepare draft results to allow teachers to confirm that all information is correct. These draft scores should not be announced to students.

Since auditions are held on Saturday, results are released to teacher “unofficially” on Monday morning. Once, all results have been double checked, official results are usually released by Monday afternoon. In efforts to maintain confidentiality, results are posted by school and student number. The chair of event will distribute final scores and results to teachers to share with students.

9. Description of hospitality for judges

Middle school and high school - Typically, a light breakfast is provided for judges along with a full lunch during their break. Snacks and refreshments are provided throughout the day. Payment for the hospitality of JUDGES ONLY comes from the budget of the event. Teacher hospitality is through donations.

10. Concessions/meals available for auditionees.

Concessions are based on the host school. In the past the host school has provided concessions for sale as a fundraiser for the schools organization.

11. Typical Enrollment for Auditions

For auditions in November 2017, District 2 had 51 total school audition, 800+ students were Middle Schoolers, 1200+ were High School students.