

District XVI All-District Audition Information

1. Audition registration - costs and procedures
 - a. Middle school and high school - \$10 per student, names submitted via Google Spreadsheet (middle school) or Google Form (high school) approximately three weeks prior to the event at which point the chair creates an audition schedule.
2. Location (central or rotating)
 - a. Middle school and high school - Locations are often on a two-year rotation, but it is not mandated.
3. Audition piece - how it's selected, performed, rotated
 - a. Middle school - Sopranos and altos have one audition song, and tenors and basses have another. We use a two-year rotation of songs. Currently, we are rotating "The Violet" (Mark Patterson)/"Come Travel With Me" (Scott Farthing) on odd years and "Things that Never Die" (Lee Dengler)/"Rest Not" (Laura Farnell) on even years. Songs are performed with an accompaniment track and are about 45 second excerpts.
 - b. High school - The All-VA audition piece is used.
4. Sight-reading procedures
 - a. Middle school - Students have 30 seconds to study the sight-reading example before they perform it for a score. The sight-reading excerpt is written by the chair, and has the following limits: F Major, 8 measures long, starting and ending on tonic, diatonic steps from do to sol, rhythms including quarter notes, half notes, quarter rests, half rests, and paired eighth notes on the same pitch.
 - b. High school - Students have 30 seconds to study the sight-reading example before they perform it for a score. The sight-reading excerpt is written by an independent contractor, and has the following limits: Eb major, 8 measures, starts and ends on low do, range ti-la, mm. 1-2 and mm. 5-6 are the same, stepwise motion and tonic triad skips, diatonic, in 4/4, and 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. **Half note & dotted quarter note/eighth note cannot be placed on beats 2-3 as syncopation is defined as the "placement of rhythmic stresses or accents where they wouldn't normally occur."*
5. Judges (who and how they are funded)
 - a. Middle school - The audition chair selects and asks 8 judges (two per room). The judges should not be teachers of the auditioning students.
 - b. High school - The audition chair selects and asks 12 judges (two per room). The judges should not be teachers of the auditioning students.
6. Who staffs the auditions?
 - a. Middle school and high school - The audition chair and host staff the audition, along with parent and student volunteers.
7. Scoring practices and rubrics
 - a. Middle school and high school - The rubric evaluates tone quality (20 points), diction (20 points), technical accuracy (20 points), intonation (15 points), interpretation (15 points), and sight-reading (10 points.) 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.
8. Results and how they are announced
 - a. Middle school and high school - There is an SSA group and an SATB group. For the middle school group, dividing the boys into tenors/basses or combining them into baritones is up to the guest conductor and should be determined ahead of time. Once scores are entered, they are sorted from highest to lowest. 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, default to the student with the higher intonation score. Girls are sorted into the SSA or SATB group 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. Once an appropriate amount of time has passed, the chair will distribute final scores and results to teachers to share with students.

9. Description of hospitality for judges

- a. Middle school and high school - Typically, a light breakfast is provided for judges along with a full lunch during their break. Snacks and lunch are provided for volunteers as well.

10. Concessions/meals available for auditionees.

- a. Middle school and high school - None