

District VIII All-District Auditions Procedures

1. Audition Dates, Chair/Host
 - a. Middle School (M.S.) auditions are typically held on the 4th Saturday of October, currently hosted and chaired by Elizabeth (Beth) Higginbotham annually.
 - b. High School (H.S.) auditions are typically held on the first Friday (evening only) & Saturday in November, currently hosted and chaired by Gordon Parr annually.
2. Audition Sign-ups (costs and procedures)
 - a. M.S. student names/voice parts are submitted via Google Form. H.S. student names/voice parts are submitted via Microsoft Excel. Chairs are encouraged to use the same format as each other in the future to eliminate human error, and simplify the process for directors with M.S. and H.S. students.
 - a. Student fees – approx. \$6.00 (not including the VMEA participation fee)
 - i. Late Fee penalty of \$50 that cannot come from student fees. It must come from a personal check (motion passed in February 2016).
 - b. M.S. Form 1 (reservation per head count/parts) due by last Friday in September, no later than 3 pm. Directors are required to pay for the amount of students indicated on Form 1. Within a week, directors receive a Confirmation/Financial Form (with audition time and School Code Letter). The M.S. Financial Form and fees are due by the second Friday in October. Directors must also submit student names by the same due date, via Google Form (based on initial reservation number).
 - c. H.S. registration form, fees, and master list (excel format) are all due by three Wednesdays prior to the audition date, no later than 12 pm.
3. Location
 - a. M.S. auditions are held at Grafton H.S. in Yorktown, VA.
 - b. H.S. auditions are held at Tabb H.S. in Yorktown, VA.
4. Audition Piece
 - a. M.S. Song Rotation (total of 4) as follows: “Sing We and Chant It,” “Dona Nobis Pacem,” “Give Me Wings,” “As Long As I Have Music”
 - b. H.S. Song Rotation (total of 5) as follows: “Red, Red Rose,” “To Music,” “My Gentle Harp,” “Black Is The Color Of My True Love’s Hair,” “Flower Of Beauty”
5. Judges
 - a. Choral directors, within District VIII, are on a rotating schedule (bi-annually), with exception of the District representative, All-District audition chairs/hosts, and directors with M.S. and H.S. students. H.S. directors judge the M.S. auditions and vice versa.
 - b. Local musicians/music educators are hired as needed (Pay rate of \$150). *Choral directors, within District VIII, may be hired on a non-scheduled year.
6. Hospitality for Judges
 - a. Parent volunteers help with providing a hospitality room at each audition event (budget approx. \$300).
7. Scoring Practices and Rubrics
 - a. All directors are to prepare a large envelope (approx. 9 x12) for each of their auditioning students that contain 2 rubrics each. The rubrics and the envelope are to be labeled with the student’s audition number. The student number is non-identifying (School ID letter and a number that follows).
 - b. M.S. has a total of 5 audition rooms (2 soprano rooms, 2 alto rooms, 1 baritone room). Each room has 2 judges.
 - c. H.S. has a total of 5 audition rooms (S1, S2, A1, A2, all Tenors and Basses). Each room has 2 judges.
 - d. The M.S. rubric is based on 100 points: Tone Quality (20), Intonation (20), Diction (20), Technique (20), Accuracy (20)

- e. The H.S. rubric is based on 100 points: Tone Quality (25), Intonation (25), Diction (25), Technique (15), Interpretation (10)
 - f. Judges are advised to collaborate, in order to be consistent, so there is no larger than a 10 point difference between how they assess a student. They are also encouraged to write a feedback comment for each student.
8. Registration at the Audition Event
- a. Directors check in at the registration table (lead by parent volunteer), with NafME card in hand. The director is to turn in any No-Show envelopes at the registration table.
 - b. Students are then taken to a holding area, waiting for their time to enter a warm-up room.
9. Room Runners/Tabulators
- a. The audition chair serves as the runner (or another director appointed by audition chair), and they select parent volunteers for tabulation.
 - b. Each chair has been hiring a director, within District VIII, to then enter scores in a spreadsheet (pay rate of \$150).
10. Results
- a. Results are prepared and provided to directors in a full spreadsheet with all student audition results viewable. Audition chairs are advised to limit viewable results to only student audition numbers and scores. The director of each student, the audition chair, and the All-District event chair are privy of the associated student/school name.
11. Typical Enrollment
- a. The Audition chairs have noted the average audition numbers to be as follows: 625 M.S. students, 800 H.S. students.
 - b. M.S. District VIII Chorus (SAB) is comprised of 130-150 students (grades 7-8). The goal is to have the same number of delegates from each Soprano and Alto room, while taking into consideration the baritone scores, so that they compliment the integrity of a select chorus.
 - c. H.S. District VIII Chorus delegates are separated into two choirs (SSAA, SATB). The highest soprano and alto scores are separated as even and odd (each year alternating which choir has the even numbers/odd numbers). Tenor and Bass results are looked at first to determine an appropriate cut-off. Then Soprano and Alto cutoffs are determined. A suggested number of delegates will be determined based off of responses from upcoming All-District Event site hosts (see section e.).
 - d. If a school (M.S. or H.S.) has no student with a qualifying score (delegate), the school is assigned a representative (decision is made based on their student with the highest score). A H.S. representative does not qualify for an All-VA audition.
 - e. A whole-group discussion about enrollment was not held in the February Director's Meeting, due to the meeting being rescheduled and the duration of time being limited. To address consistency with participant numbers, it was announced that the All-District Event site hosts for the upcoming 5 years (schedule set through 2038) are to provide their suggested maximum ensemble size by the end of August 2020; based on their auditorium stage dimensions, and fire-code in their suggested rehearsal spaces. The information will be consolidated, with the whole group discussion held at the September 2020 meeting.