

District 9 All District Choir Audition Procedures

- High School Auditions are held on Election Day in November of each year
- Auditions are open to high school students grades 9 - 12
 - 9 + 10th grade treble voices audition for the SSAA ensemble
 - 9th - 12th tenors/bases + 11th + 12th treble voices audition for the SATB ensemble
- Middle School District Choir Auditions are held the first Tuesday back from winter break. This year auditions took place January 8th, 2019.
 - Middle school auditions are only open to 8th grade students who are selected for one SATB choir
- Audition committee consists of one chair, one host and one registrar (additional paid position.)
 - Chair is responsible for the finances
 - Host is responsible for logistics and being the site host
 - Registrar assembles judges, sets the schedule and tabulates

Audition Registration: Costs and Procedures

- Teachers register students via google spreadsheet in late September/early October for High School auditions, the same process happens for Middle School in late November.
- Registrar sends two verification emails. A first draft where people can make edits/fix errors and a second final email a few days prior to the event.
- Audition cost is \$7.00 per student for high school and \$5.00 for middle school.

Location

- Schools rotate each year on an event rotation.

Audition Piece: How it is selected, rotated etc.

- High School auditions use the All-VA audition piece. Depending on the length of the All VA piece we sometimes shorten the piece by a phrase or two.
- Middle School auditions use "How Can I Keep from Singing."

Sight Reading Procedures

- High School
 - Students have 30 seconds to study before performing for an eight measure excerpt.
 - Audition key are typically BbM (bases/altos) and DM (soprano/tenors) [This is because we use CM and Eb Major for our all county auditions earlier in the fall and like to mix up the key signatures]
 - 8 measures in 4/4
 - Range of an octave plus low ti
 - Starts and ends on do
 - Leaps of D/M/S and Re to Low ti

- Half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes, beamed running 8th notes in stepwise motion, dotted quarter plus eighth notes
 - Half rests and quarter rests may be included
 - Soprano, Alto and Tenor read in treble clef
 - Basses read in bass clef
- Middle School
 - Students have 30 seconds to study before performing for a four measure excerpt.
 - Audition keys are F for soprano, D for alto, G for tenor, D for bass.
 - 4 measures in 4/4
 - Range of low ti to la
 - Starts and ends on do
 - Stepwise motion only
 - Half notes, quarter notes, quarter rests, eighth notes, beamed running 8th notes in stepwise motion
 - Soprano, Alto and Tenor read in treble clef
 - Basses has option of treble or bass clef

****Sight-Singing exercise composer is chosen by the event chair or registrar.**

Judges (who and how they are funded)

- The registrar selects and asks approx. 16 - 24 judges depending on how many rooms we are using. The judges should not be teachers of the auditioning students. Typically use teachers from other districts, retired teachers or private voice teachers. Auditioning students must pay an audition fee (\$7.00) to participate and this fee is used to pay for the judges; however .20 from each audition goes to VMEA, as the VMEA fee.
- High School Room Break Down
 - We use 10 rooms
 - Since we have 12 voice parts to judge (4 for SSAA, 8 for SATB), we have 2 rooms that each have 2 voice parts, those with the smaller numbers, and then the other 8 rooms have a single voice part.
- Middle School Room Break Down
 - We use 6 rooms.
 - The sopranos and altos are each split evenly between 2 rooms but are not split by divisi.
 - The tenors and basses each have their own room.

Who staffs the auditions?

- The audition chair 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 are also paid to help run the event. Teachers from the district are expected to accompany their main block of students when they audition. They are not expected to attend for early or late audition students.
- The host also holds an adjudicator meeting the morning of the event to go over all procedures.
- The school does not provide a warm up room, as students are expected to warm up before attending the audition. Students and teachers wait in either the schools auditorium or cafeteria until their audition number is called.

Scoring practices and rubrics

- High School- Tone (15); Intonation (15), Technical Accuracy (15), Feeling of Phrase (10), Diction (10), Sight-Reading Rhythm (20), Sight-Reading Pitch (15)
- Middle School - scored out of 100 points on the following categories: Tone (15), Rhythmical Accuracy (15), Intonation (15), Feeling of Phrase (15), Diction (15), Sight-Reading Pitch (15), Sight-Reading Rhythm (10)

All scoring for District 9 auditions are recorded electronically and managed by the registrar. An audition ticket is printed for every student. When they arrive to their audition rooms, the room monitor tears the stub with just the student’s audition number off and hands it to the judges. Monitor keeps the top portion of the ticket which has the student name, school, and audition number, and indicates the time the student entered the audition room on the ticket. If there are any anomalies, they can later be checked against the tickets. The judges choose the audition number in the drop-down menu and the audition starts. Judges may type comments during or after the audition and also select the scores in each category via button. Scores are automatically added, recorded, and sent to the cloud. The registrar combines the two judges’ scores for the student composite score. No tabulators are necessary.

Results and how they are announced

- Middle school - one mixed choir, results are announced via email and then distributed by directors.
- High school - There is an SSAA group and an SATB group.
 - All 9th and 10th grade treble voices audition for SSAA.

- All Tenor/Bass voices and 11th + 12th grade treble voices audition for SATB.
- 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, the registrar and the District Representative. There are typically three or four alternates per voice part, per choir unless there is a tie. In the event of a tie, the registrar decides to go above or below the cutoff number based on the choir.
- The registrar will prepare results to send to teachers and will list the date results can be posted. Teachers should not post the list before the date listed by the registrar.

Description of hospitality for judges

- 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.
- Middle School - The budget of the event is not sufficient to cover expenses for hospitality so we rely on parent donations for dinner and snacks.

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 2018, District 9 had 15 total schools audition for high school.

992 students auditioned for high school.

336 students auditioned middle school.