

PMEA DISTRICT 12 CHORAL AUDITION POLICY (as of September, 2005)

1. Students must participate in their own school choral organization in order to audition for District Chorus.
2. Directors must be current members of PMEA. A photocopy of the membership card must be sent with each director's list of auditioning students.
3. Directors must accompany their students to the fall auditions and to the district festival, and serve on audition committees. If the director is not in attendance, his/her students will not be allowed to audition or to participate in the festival.
4. The maximum number of students allowed to audition from any school is 20: four sopranos, four altos, four tenors, four basses, two accompanists, and two additional male voices.
5. An audition fee, as determined by the District Executive Board (currently \$4), will be assessed for each student auditioning for District Chorus, payable when the director submits his list of students to the host director, on a date determined by the host. A check written to District 12 PMEA, and only one check per school, please, will cover auditorium expenses, janitorial expenses, refreshments, honoraria, and any other expenses of audition. This financial obligation must be met by participating school districts, directors, and students, or students' names will not be put on the audition list, and will not be allowed to audition.
6. Measures must be numbered on all student and director copies of audition pieces (the first full measure numbered '1').
7. Students will be auditioned on specified editions of each piece. Teachers must be aware that various other editions brought to the audition must be made 'equal' to the specified edition by writing in musical markings, notes, rhythms, etc. to coincide with those of the specified edition. The auditioning teachers and the festival conductor will expect students to sing what is in the specified edition of each piece.
8. It is the director's responsibility to procure the audition music, in correct editions, in plenty of time for his/her students to prepare.
9. It is recommended that teachers make every effort to teach correct pronunciation of foreign language texts to their auditioning students. The MENC Pronunciation Guide for Choral Literature is suggested as a source of proper pronunciation.

10. A one-hour Director's Meeting will precede student auditions, after which audition committees will begin hearing students in a timely fashion. Students who need to be heard as soon as possible should request that their directors inform the audition host of their need at least a week before the audition. Every effort will be made to schedule these students for the beginning of the audition period. However, if a student cannot commit to attending the audition for its first hour (the hour after the Director's meeting), that student may not audition.
11. Any FEMALE wishing to audition for the TENOR part MUST fill out the State Female Tenor Waiver and return it to the PMEA state office by mail or fax no later than **2 pm** on the Friday before fall auditions. Any auditioning FEMALE tenor student that does not have this form on file at the PMEA state office by 2pm on the Friday before fall auditions will not, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, be permitted to audition. No FEMALES will be permitted to audition for the BASS part.
12. Sopranos, altos, and basses must be in grades 10, 11, or 12. Because of the shortage of tenors, 9th grade MALE tenors may audition. If chosen, 9th grade MALE tenors must re-audition for placement at the festival, but are not eligible to go on to Region Chorus.
13. No MALES will be permitted to audition for the ALTO or SOPRANO part.
14. Except for students who have requested an early audition time by the date of registration, students will be assigned a random audition time. Students must be available at the Audition Site for the duration of the auditions.
15. No switching of voice part will be permitted on the day of auditions.
16. In auditions, the student will be directed to the passage to be sung, and given the starting pitch sung on a neutral syllable by a judge with like voice part. The student will sing the passage a cappella. If the student starts badly, that student may stop, get their bearings, ask for an emergency second start, and the pitch will be given again. A third start will not be given.
17. Students will be judged in the following manner: 20 points - Pitch, 20 points - Rhythm, 20 points - Musicianship, and 20 points - Tone Quality. Diction may be considered as one of the aspects of musicianship.
18. Student conduct at auditions and the festival should be exemplary. Students disciplined at a District festival shall be subject to punishment deemed appropriate by the District President including, but not limited to: expulsion from the concert, dismissal from the festival, ineligibility to participate in future festivals, withholding of awards, and a letter of reprimand/concern to parents, school administrator, and PMEA sponsoring member director. Consultation among the district president, the host, and the student's director will precede disciplinary action (Consistent with PMEA Region and State Festival Discipline Policy).

19. If three or more students from a school audition, but none of them are selected, the school may send one singer as its representative to the festival, at the discretion of the District President, unless all students auditioning from that school are scored so low by the auditioning teachers as to be deemed totally unprepared. Which singer is chosen to represent the school will be determined by students' numerical placement and balance considerations for the ensemble, and will be discussed by the host and the school's director. Placement will be overseen by the district president. Students placed in the festival in this way must re-audition for placement at the festival, but are not eligible to go on to Region Chorus.
20. No student will be "placed" into a festival because of being distraught at doing an uncharacteristically poor audition, or having had the wrong edition of the piece, or any other reason. Hosts have no authority to place any student into the festival, except in cases of representation from a school that had three or more students audition and none be selected, or as in No. 20, below.
21. The host director has the prerogative to place into the festival a few of his/her own students who auditioned but were not selected, for the musical enrichment of those students and the director's program. The host director will make certain that any such students are prepared on the music. These students will re-audition at the festival for the experience of bettering their audition skills, but are not eligible to go on to Region Chorus.
22. The host of the fall district auditions and the district festival will receive an honorarium as determined by the District Executive Board (currently \$100 for auditions, and \$200 for the festival).
23. To participate in a festival all financial obligations for students and directors must be completed.
24. Careful monitoring of each host's budget will be made by district officers, with the intent of keeping costs down. The point of hosting a festival is to make the musical experiences available to young people, not to make thousands of dollars profit. Excessive profits will be either turned over to District 12 to allay next year's festival expenses or rebated to each school's music department, that choice to be determined from consultation by the host, the district president and the district secretary-treasurer.
25. The host will send careful instructions to students concerning appropriate dress for the festival concert. Low-cut or high-hemmed gowns, for instance, are inappropriate.
26. If a student cannot attend the festival, the host and district president must be contacted immediately. The director of the next eligible student in that voice part will be contacted, so that a substitution can be made. Substitutions will be up until five days before the festival, and are made with the agreement that that director make every effort to prepare the substitute student, who must participate in the festival re-auditions.
27. Festival housing arrangements will be made with a minimum of two students per home.

28. All students participating in the District Festival will take part in the re-audition -
- or be dropped from the festival.
29. Students must attend the entire festival. They may not leave for SAT's, mid-terms, sports contests, or any other personal, religious, or school activities. The host director may not excuse any student from any part of the festival. Any extremely extenuating circumstances must be handled according to PMEA's state policy manual directly through District 12's president. Students must be in full attendance for all three days of the festival in order to be considered for Region Chorus. Students must rehearse and perform ALL musical compositions selected for the concert.
30. In order that our students are familiar and comfortable with Region and State audition procedures, we will run our re-auditions at the District Festival in the following manner: Auditions will be "blind", in that judges will sit facing away from the student, and will not ask the student questions that could allow his/her voice to identify him/her. Problems or questions should be communicated through a sergeant-at-arms: a director or student who is not judging.
31. At the beginning of the audition period, all student music folders will be collected and placed in the audition room. When the student enters the room, he will pick up his folder, and take direction from the audition committee on what to sing. After being given the pitch, the student will be told that he may take 15 seconds to look over the music, after which the pitch will be given again, and he will sing. On leaving the room, he will be escorted to an area separate from those students still waiting to audition.
32. It is recommended that several pieces in the program use accompaniment, so that the talent of the chosen accompanists is employed and displayed.
33. At the district festival, one accompanist will be chosen to go on to Region-State Chorus by: a)audition committee results, and b) consultation among the host, the guest conductor, the district president, and the chairperson of the audition committee.
34. If a school is unable to fulfill its scheduled hosting commitment as indicated on the Festival Host Rotation List, it is that school's responsibility to find a replacement for the festival. In the event the scheduled host is unable to arrange for an exchange with another school, the students from that school will be ineligible to participate in any PMEA-sponsored event until the host obligation has been satisfied. If the scheduled host school has been able to arrange for an exchange with another school, then a Letter of Intent to host in exchange with the replacement school from the school's administration will allow those students to participate in the interim.
35. A director can be excused from the original auditions, or the festival re-auditions, for the following reasons: a) a school event that conflicts with auditions: or b) a death in the family. The District President must receive a letter from the director's administration no later than two weeks prior to the auditions requesting that the director be excused. It is then the director's responsibility to secure a qualified substitute who is also a current PMEA member.