

TMEA Region XIX Middle School Orchestra 2011-2012 General Information

1. Audition Procedures

In accordance with TMEA audition procedures, five-member judging panels will hear participants. The option to use private teachers as judges may be exercised. However, there will not be more than one non-public school director per panel. **All** directors with students involved in the auditions will be expected to serve on a panel. A director may be asked to serve on a panel that is not judging his/her major instrument.

All directors are obligated to participate in both auditions and concert/clinic. Directors need permission to miss any Region XIX event. In an extreme emergency, the director must contact the Middle School Chairman.

Directors may not substitute other students for original student entries. All directors are responsible for entries. Before you send the entries, be certain that you have not left any student off. No changes will be made without permission of the MS Region Chairman.

Students auditioning for violin, viola, cello, bass, or harp will be asked to play selected passages of the two required etudes for their respective panels. **All** musical markings are mandatory. Students who are not able to play all audition material will be immediately disqualified from the audition.

Students may leave as soon as they have finished auditioning. Scores will be processed and ranked by computer. Results will be posted as soon thereafter as possible. Teachers may then either call students or post the results at their own school later that afternoon.

Each school must bring at least one dependable parent/sponsor to help monitor student behavior, as directors will be needed to judge. Also, please make it clear to parents who are bringing or picking up children that the selection of audition numbers is completely random and that the time their child auditions cannot be predicted.

Only harpists may audition on two instruments. If a student is selected on harp only, then the instrument fulfillment is harp. If a student is selected into the same orchestra on both harp and another instrument, then the student must forfeit his/her section seating and sit last chair during non-harp music selections. If a student is selected on harp and another instrument but in a different orchestra, the instrument fulfillment will be harp only.

In order to protect against lawsuits, the Middle School Chairman must have a signed parental waiver and permission form from each student before that student is allowed to audition. Be certain that the paragraph below is understood by all of your students and parents.

2. Region XIX Orchestra Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and the concert for the full duration of these functions. If a student is absent from, leaves early or arrives late to any of these

functions, he/she will be subject to dismissal from the All-Region Orchestra and will not receive a patch. Should a student have a legitimate, scheduled activity that conflicts with the region orchestra clinic, the student shall be responsible for notifying his/her director, in writing, of the conflict as soon as possible. The director is then responsible for notifying, in writing, the appropriate chairman about the conflict no later than the Monday prior to the clinic. At that time, a committee consisting of the division chair, middle school chairman and the student's director will render a decision concerning the student's participation. This same committee shall rule on any matter regarding a student's dismissal from the group. No exemptions will be granted for SAT or other standardized tests offered on any other date. Directors of students participating in the All-Region Orchestra must be present at all rehearsals. Directors must have permission from the region chairman to miss any region event or portion thereof. Should the chairman give a director permission to be absent, it is the director's responsibility to locate a chaperone as his/her replacement. When considering these situations, the region chairman is directed to respect the integrity of the All-Region organization. *(Revised & approved, August 2002)*

3. Audition Material

Directors are asked to use discretion when sending students to audition. Please be sure that your students have reasonably mastered all of the audition materials at the required tempos. You are strongly encouraged to hold your own audition to eliminate students who are not prepared.

String audition etudes are included in this packet. To reduce confusion, please do not issue copies of the etudes acquired from other sources. The audition committees will select the portion of the etudes to be listened to on the day of the audition.

Again, all fingerings, bowings and tempi are mandatory. Judges will be asked to listen for any deviation from these musical markings and reduce the student's scores accordingly. The Region Chairman has access to judges' scores for each student that auditions, as well as which school they attend. Do not allow students to audition that you have never heard or that are not prepared! This causes extreme embarrassment for the student, the committee, and you.

4. Alternates

~~Directors must notify the Region Chairman if a student will not be able to attend the Region Clinic/Concert as soon as possible in order for qualified alternates to be contacted. The cutoff date for notifying the region chair about conflicts or sickness will be January 15. After the 15th any open spots will not be filled.~~ Alternates will be selected in accordance with rank earned from audition scores. Do not bring alternates to the concert/clinic unless the region chair has contacted you. Names of the alternates will not appear in the concert program, but will be announced at the concert.

5. Important Warning:

TMEA will issue an official reprimand to any director who neglects and/or violates the above-stated rules and regulations. Local district administrators will receive a copy of the reprimand for inclusion in the director's permanent file.