

Approved Proposal for Senior District Chorus Preparation

Goals:

Musical experiences engage us on many levels: At the most basic level, we must learn WHAT notes to sing and WHEN to sing them. Beyond that we approach artistry when we work on HOW to sing them, and our most transcendent experiences come when we can get to the WHY of the music. The Senior District Festival experience can and should be a musical high point for our students. When singers are well prepared for the festival, rehearsals can be an exciting opportunity to dig into the HOW and WHY of great music. When students come to the festival unprepared, a two-day experience is not enough time to get to anything but the WHAT and WHEN.

The following approved proposal is designed to encourage and help our students prepare for the first chorus rehearsal, so that, in collaboration with an inspiring conductor and a challenging program, the experience can reach its potential.

Procedure:

1. Music will be on site the day of auditions. The manager and assistant will distribute chorus folders to be mailed to each school with its audition results.
2. On the Thursday before the first Saturday rehearsal, there will be sectional rehearsals from 5-8 pm. Ideally, these will be held at two sites in different geographic locations. Volunteer teachers will lead the four sectionals at each site.
3. Students who choose to attend sectionals will be exempt from random part testing at the first Saturday rehearsal.
4. At the first Saturday rehearsal, the manager will arrange for four teachers to serve as a hearing committee.
5. The manager or assistant manager will select four octets at random. Students in those octets will perform short excerpts from the repertoire.
6. The hearing committee will rate each student "Well Prepared," "Prepared," or "Unprepared."
7. The District Chairperson will notify each choral director as to the level of preparation of the student.

Approved May 1, 2007