

Notes:

**Massachusetts  
Music Educators  
Association Western  
District**

**Director and  
Student Handbook  
2008-2009**

<http://www.geocities.com/mmeawd/district.html>



## 2008-2009 Western District Executive Board

**Chairperson:** Daniel Albert  
S: 413-565-4260 E: districtchair@hotmail.com

**Immediate Past Chairperson:** Carol Toth  
C: 413-537-6147 E: ctoth@eastlongmeadowma.gov

**Chairperson-Elect:** Brian Messier  
S: 413-362-1740 E: messierb@arps.org

**Secretary:** Rebecca Phelps  
S: 413-527-7680 E: reb105@yahoo.com

**Treasurer:** Chuck Emery  
S: 413-569-3337 x219 E:  
cemery@strsd.southwick.ma.us

**Senior Auditions Coordinator:** Scott Thomson  
S: 413-789-3649 E: slthomson@comcast.net

**Junior Auditions Coordinator:** Brenda McGurk  
S: 413-863-7251 E:  
jrdistricts\_auditions@hotmail.com

**Librarian:** Sue Dunbar  
S: 413-362-1451 E: dunbars@arps.org

### Coordinators:

**Woodwind/Brass/Percussion** - Claire Williams  
S: 413-587-1489 E: capwilliams@comcast.net

**Choral** – Kayla Werlin  
S: 413-565-4244 x354 E: kaylawerlin@yahoo.com

**Classroom/Outreach** - Diane Kontoff  
S: 413-594-3545 E: dkontoff@chicopee.k12.ma.us

**Jazz**- Patrick Kennedy  
S: 413-572-6483 E:  
p.kennedy@schoolsofwestfield.org

**String** - Denise Gendron  
S: 413-665-1131 E: dgendron@crocker.com

**Scholarship Chairperson:** Paul Calcari  
S: 413-772-1350 E: paucal1@gpsk12.org

**Webmaster:** Beth Guertin  
E: [bguertin@grsd.org](mailto:bguertin@grsd.org)

**For manager information, please go to website:**  
<http://www.geocities.com/mmeawd/district.html>

## District Calendar 2008-2009

September 2	4 PM MMEA-WD Meeting, North MS, Westfield
September 26	4:30 Elementary Sharing Session, Location TBA
October 7	4 PM MMEA-WD Fall Dinner Meeting, Union Station, Northampton
November 4	4 PM MMEA-WD Meeting, North MS, Westfield
November 8	8 AM Senior Auditions, Westfield State College
November 15	Snow Date for Senior Auditions
December 2	4 PM MMEA-WD Meeting, North MS, Westfield
December 13	8 AM Junior Auditions, Westfield State College
December 20	Snow Date for Junior Auditions
January 9	4 PM MMEA-WD meeting, UMASS/Amherst
January 10	9 AM Senior Festival Rehearsal, UMASS/Amherst
January 10	1 PM General Membership Luncheon Meeting
January 11	Snow Date for Rehearsal
January 17	9 AM rehearsal and 3PM concert, UMASS/Amherst
January 17	1 PM General Membership Luncheon Meeting
January 18	Snow Date for rehearsal/concert
January 30	4:30 Elementary Sharing Session, Location TBA
February 3	4 PM MMEA-WD Meeting, North MS, Westfield
March 6	4 PM MMEA-WD Meeting, West Springfield H.S.
March 7	9 AM Junior Festival rehearsal, W. Springfield H.S.
March 7	1 PM General Membership Luncheon Meeting
March 8	Snow Date for Rehearsal
March 21	9 AM Jr. Festival Rehearsal - 3PM Concert, UMASS
March 21	1 PM General Membership Luncheon Meeting
March 22	Snow Date for rehearsal/concert
March 26-28	MMEA All-State Conference, Boston
April 7	4 PM MMEA-WD Meeting, North MS, Westfield
May 5	4 PM MMEA-WD Spring Dinner Meeting, Union Station, Northampton
May 15	4:30 Elementary Sharing Session, Location TBA
June 2	4 PM MMEA-WD Meeting, North MS, Westfield

**All District Meetings are held at North Middle School, 350 Southampton Road, Westfield, unless otherwise specified. All members are welcome to attend.**

<http://www.geocities.com/mmeawd/district.html>

## General Music

This district offers a general music component to encourage membership and participation from music educators who do not have children participating in the district festivals. There are workshops held at the festival rehearsals each year and general music educators are welcome to attend. MMEA-WD also cooperates with the Society for General Music in Massachusetts to create professional development opportunities for general music educators. There are also many clinics at the MMEA All State Conference for general music educators. More information on opportunities/clinics available is available on the district website, by contacting the classroom coordinator.

## Taped Audition Procedure

After all other avenues of scheduling have been exhausted; in the event of a taped audition the district chairperson and auditions coordinator must be contacted no later than the official registration date in order for the tape to be accepted.

It is strongly recommended that any taped audition be administered by a professional colleague outside of your school to remove any doubts of the integrity of the tape. Please conduct the recording session just as you would an audition.

Directors can obtain information on how to conduct the audition recording by contacting the appropriate coordinator or the auditions chairperson prior to the deadline.



<http://www.geocities.com/mmeawd/district.html>

## SMOKING IS PROHIBITED AT ALL MMEA WESTERN DISTRICT FUNCTIONS

Directors with students participating in any festival are required to help perform needed duties at the festival (monitor lunches, ticket sales, ushering, etc.)

## Attendance Policy

Students selected to participate in a festival must attend all rehearsals in their entirety and the concert. Students may request a waiver from the Chairperson in case of illness only if the students present to the ensemble manager a note from a health professional at the next rehearsal. Students who do not fully participate and are not granted a waiver will not be eligible for All-State or District Festivals for one year.

## Waiver Policy

To request a waiver for a District Festival rehearsal the student must send a letter to the District Chairperson explaining the reasons for the waiver. The letter is due at least two weeks prior to the rehearsal. The letter must be signed by the student's sponsoring director with a copy sent to the ensemble manager. Failure to follow any of the required steps will result in the waiver being denied. All decisions of the Executive Board are final.

## Festival Eligibility

The **Senior Festival** is open to students in Grades 9-12 and the **Junior Festival** is open to students in Grades 7-9. Auditioning students must be in good standing with their own school district and/or music group. Auditioning students must also receive a recommendation from an MMEA Western District member. Sixth grade students may audition for Male Chorus and Strings. Ninth grade students may audition for the Junior Festival if they have not been selected to participate in the Senior Festival on the same instrument and ensemble they are auditioning for.

**Senior and Junior Festival** students may double audition for Jazz Ensemble, Chorus, and Wind/Percussion Ensembles. Student preference in performance groups will be taken into consideration when placing students, but students will be placed according to the needs of the ensembles.

## Audition Limitations

### **Senior Festival Limits**

No more than 10 sopranos and 10 altos will be allowed per school; unlimited tenors and basses will be allowed. Female tenors are not permitted.

### **Junior Festival Limits**

No limits

## Audition Procedures- Students

- ♪ All students must be on time and audition on the prescribed audition selection and requirements (scales, sight-reading, etc.)
- ♪ Students will initial all adjudication forms.
- ♪ Students must remain in the warm-up room until called for their audition.
- ♪ Upon entering the adjudication room, students must hand the audition form to the adjudicator.
- ♪ Instrumentalists may elect to sit or stand for their audition.
- ♪ Any student with a handicap which would not allow him/her to follow audition procedures should contact the Festival Chairperson in advance so that special arrangements can be made.
- ♪ Illegally photocopied music is NOT allowed in the audition rooms.

## Audition Procedures- Director

- ♪ Directors must register their students upon arrival and inform the Auditions Chairperson of any absent students.
- ♪ Students should proceed to the warm-up area while directors register. Students should not be at the registration table.
- ♪ Directors are not allowed in the audition area or computer area at any time (except Festival Committee Members).
- ♪ Directors should allow a reasonable amount of time to elapse before calling for audition results (10 days)
- ♪ Directors have 7 days after the audition results are received to appeal the results to the Chairperson.
- ♪ ALL SCORES WILL BECOME FINAL TWO WEEKS AFTER THE AUDITION.
- ♪ In case of ties, the tie breakers will be:  
COMPARE:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> solo score
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Interpretation
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sight Reading

## Senior/Junior Jazz Ensemble

### Scale Chart

Please refer to the jazz audition section in the MMEA-WD website for details. If you have any questions, please contact the jazz coordinator.

## Scale requirements for melodic and percussion instruments - Junior and Senior Auditions

Students should use the chart on the MMEA-WD website to prepare major scales in a quarter+six eighth note pattern (winds tongued and strings detached). All scales must be played up and down the full octave(s):

Senior District: mm = 100 (trombone and tuba, mm = 72); Junior District: mm = 84 (trombone and tuba, mm = 60). A two octave chromatic scale (not required for orchestral strings, one octave required for tuba) should be played slurred in eighth note triplets.

For strings, credit is given to students according to how many octaves they perform (more credit for more octaves). Please see the website for more information. Please contact the appropriate coordinator with any questions.

Note: Percussion students auditioning for the Senior Festival are not required to prepare scales for the auditions.

## Festival Concert Dress

**Boys:** Black dress shoes and socks, black dress pants, white long sleeve, collared, button-down dress shirt, long tie, and dark colored jacket (no jeans or sneakers). Dark colored jacket is required only for Senior District Festival.

**Girls:** Black shoes, black pants, or **knee length or longer** dress, black stockings, white long-sleeve blouse (no jeans or sneakers).

## Library Policies

The Western District Lending Library is available to all MMEA members. The library consists of all the music purchased for performance at the Junior and Senior District Festivals since 1976. Any band, chorus, jazz band, or orchestra piece may be borrowed for a period of two months for a cost of \$10.00 per piece. For more information, please contact Sue Dunbar at [dunbars@arps.org](mailto:dunbars@arps.org).

## Festival Procedures and Policies

### General Information:

- ♪ All student endorsement forms must be completed and mailed and the online registration form electronically sent by the designated due date on the Festival Forms and Information page of the website.
- ♪ An \$11.00 audition fee per student is due with the mailed student endorsement forms by the designated due date on the Festival Forms and Information page of the website.
- ♪ An additional late fee of \$10.00 per student, for a total of \$21.00 per student, will be charged for all late registrations.
- ♪ There are **NO** walk-in registrations.
- ♪ Illegally copied music is **NOT** allowed in the audition rooms, and will result in disqualification.
- ♪ Once the students are accepted to participate in the Festival, the director needs to electronically send the online Festival registration form by the designated due date online or a late fee will apply.
- ♪ Audition and festival fees are to be paid on the basis of the number of students registered on the audition or festival forms. No refund or reduction is allowed for students not participating.
- ♪ Students are not allowed to drive themselves, or any other students, to or from any Western District sponsored event. Students doing so will be immediately disqualified from further participation.
- ♪ Students who participate in Western District sponsored events (auditions, rehearsals, concerts, etc.) must be accompanied by a responsible adult chaperone at all times. School designated chaperones may be replaced by parents during the concert.
- ♪ Directors of students who are accepted into the Festival but are not able to participate in it must notify the appropriate manager as soon as possible so that substitutions can be made. Any withdrawals within the two weeks just prior to the festival will result in the student being ineligible for one calendar year.

## Audition Requirements and Policies

### Senior and Junior Auditions

All students must audition on the required solo published on the Western District website and/or direct school mailings. Any cuts or changes in the audition material will be published on the website and in direct school mailings.

**Illegally photocopied music is not allowed in the audition rooms, and will result in disqualification.**

### Senior Festival Vocal Auditions

Auditions will be sung to the "Music Minus One" CD recordings that will be posted on the district website and downloadable as mp3 files.

Students must also sing two major nine note do-re-do scales and an original 8 measure sight reading example. All methods of sight reading are to be accepted - solfege, numbers, neutral syllable, etc.

### Senior Festival Percussion Auditions

Students are required to bring their own mallets and sticks. Bringing one's own instruments, such as snare drum, tambourine, and triangle, is optional but encouraged.

Please refer to the Senior Festival Percussion audition form on the district website for complete audition information and instructions.

<http://www.geocities.com/mmeawd/district.html>

## **Senior Festival Jazz Auditions**

Saxophone, trombone, and trumpet students auditioning for the jazz ensemble must prepare the following:

- ♫ The designated audition piece for the year
- ♫ The designated scale requirements for their instrument (expect to be asked 2 major and one chromatic at the audition) and the Bb and F blues scale (one octave for both). All 5 scales will be played at a MM of 100.
- ♫ Be prepared for a sight reading example in a jazz swing style.
- ♫ Improvisation over the chord changes of the audition piece is not required for admission into the ensemble. However, an adjudicated improvisation can help managers and conductors with chair assignment and selection of repertoire and is, therefore, encouraged. Drummers may improvise by trading fours with themselves in one of the styles listed below.

**Guitar, bass, piano and percussion students must prepare items above as well as the following:**

- ♫ Demonstrate proficiency comping four different styles (swing, Latin, ballad, funk) on the designated chord changes for the year. The comping sample is available on the web site. Comping is performed unaccompanied. Bass walks a line, drums keep time in the appropriate style.
- ♫ Guitar and bass need to bring their own equipment including amplifier and cord. Those auditioning on drums must bring a drumset, sticks, and brushes to the audition.
- ♫ Drummers do not need to play scales for the auditions.

## **Junior Festival Percussion auditions**

Students are required to bring their own mallets and sticks. Bringing one's own instruments, such as snare drum, tambourine, and triangle, is optional but encouraged.

Students must perform the entire assigned multi-percussion solo, as well as sight reading and scales as stipulated on the MMEA-WD website.

The final score is determined by the sum of the multi-percussion solo and the sight reading and scales scores.

## **Junior District Festival – Vocal Treble Chorus**

Students auditioning for treble chorus will sing their audition piece with a CD recording of other parts. Auditions will be sung to the "Music Minus One" CD recordings that will be posted on the district website and downloadable as mp3 files.

Students must also sing one major nine note do-re-do scales and an original 8 measure sight reading example. All methods of sight reading are to be accepted - solfege, numbers, neutral syllable, etc.

## **Male Chorus**

Students auditioning for male chorus will sing their audition piece with a CD recording of other parts. Auditions will be sung to the "Music Minus One" CD recordings that will be posted on the district website and downloadable as mp3 files.

Students must also sing one major nine note do-re-do scales and an original 8 measure sight reading example. All methods of sight reading are to be accepted - solfege, numbers, neutral syllable, etc.

## **Junior District Jazz Auditions**

Saxophone, trombone, and trumpet students auditioning for the jazz ensemble must prepare the following:

- ♫ The designated audition piece for the year
- ♫ The designated scale requirements for their instrument (expect to be asked 2 major and one chromatic at the audition) and the Bb blues scale (one octave). All 4 scales will be played at a MM of 100.
- ♫ Be prepared for a sight reading example in a jazz swing style.
- ♫ Improvisation over the chord changes of the audition piece is not required for admission into the ensemble. However, an adjudicated improvisation can help managers and conductors with chair assignment and selection of repertoire and is, therefore, encouraged. Drummers may improvise by trading fours with themselves in one of the styles listed below.

**Guitar, bass, piano and percussion students must prepare the items above as well as the following:**

- ♫ Demonstrate proficiency comping four different styles (swing, Latin, ballad, funk) on the designated chord changes for the year. The comping sample is available on the web site. Comping is performed unaccompanied. Bass walks a line, drums keep time in the appropriate style.
- ♫ Guitar and bass need to bring their own equipment including amplifier and cord. Those auditioning on drums must bring a drumset, sticks and brushes to the audition.
- ♫ Drummers do not need to play scales for the auditions.