

Choral Festival Guidelines

Purpose:

- To promote the development of skills, knowledge and appreciation of choral music.
- To promote MISD elementary music programs and to highlight “Music in Our Schools Month”.
- To promote the recruitment of students into the secondary choral Programs.

Song Selection & Guidelines:

- **Opening/Light Song** - easy two-part, folksong, round or partner song; not pop music; non-movement piece (this includes body percussion)
- **Art Song** - UIL Prescribed Music List grade 1 (PML) or comparable two-part song/folksong, non-movement piece (this includes body percussion)
- **Pop Song** - mostly unison or easy two-part with choreography/movement/body percussion; only pop song allowed in the program

Age appropriate songs should be selected on the following criteria:

- Choral sheet music must be available and used
- Overall message being delivered, story of song; wholesome text
- Words should not be substituted to become appropriate
- Contrast of pieces, styles, tempo (tempo of opening/light song vs. art song need to be contrasting)
- Range and tessitura
- Connection to theme
- Accompaniment of high quality; no “sweetener” or karaoke tracks

Elementary Music Teacher Expectations:

- Teach songs with sheet music on solfege or with piano
- Each music teacher is responsible to display best singing practices of high caliber
- If recordings are desired by a teacher, they should be made by each campus music teacher and used as a supplemental tool to guide student-initiated practice, not as a teaching tool

MISD Fine Arts Playbook – Elementary Music Addendum

Important Deadlines per Zone:

- Zone conductor must be selected at the beginning of the school year
- Collaborate with Zone conductor on selected music options
- Song selections must be emailed to Lead Elementary Music Teacher (LEMT) and DFA for approval by the end of the third week of school or sooner (progress report time)
- Song accompaniment purchase or accompaniment arrangements must be approved by DFA by time of submission
- Song selection order form must be emailed to Fine Arts Secretary by the first Monday of October or sooner
- Song selections are final and no changes may be made once submitted on/by the first Monday of October
- Narration is due on last Friday of October
- Props ordered or made by the last Friday of January
- Choreography set and distributed within Zone by the last Friday of January

Narration Guidelines:

- The Lead Elementary Music Teacher (LEMT) will send out a template to each of the zone chairs
- Make sure that all schools in the zone are listed
- Tie the theme of the Choral Festival and music advocacy into the narration
- Make sure that any special performers such as accompanists are acknowledged (this will include mention in the program)
- Zone narration is due to the LEMT by the last Friday of October

Housekeeping Items:

- Have front of the house clear for evening performance, removing props and personal items to backstage locations.
- After Choral Festival performance and when students have been picked up by parents, elementary teachers need to go back and check with secondary music teachers for any help that they may need.
- If any special effects, such as confetti, glitter, steamers, etc. are used, the zone teachers, not secondary staff, are responsible for cleanup once the students have been picked up.

MISD Fine Arts Playbook – Elementary Music Addendum

Fourth Grade Choral Festival TIMELINE **2018-2019**

May (previous year)

- o Set Date and Reserve location: Friday, March 22, 2018 at McPAC

September/October

- o DFA Contact Emcee
- o Submit name of Zone Conductor to DFA
- o Music Selections must be finalized and submitted: Friday, Sept. 14, 2018
- o Song selection order form must be emailed to Fine Arts Secretary by the first Monday of October or sooner: Monday, October 1, 2018
- o Narration due to LEMT & Fine Arts Office

December

- o T-Shirt Design approved

January/February

- o Student Info Form due to Fine Arts: Friday, January 18, 2018
- o Print and sort tickets for pick-up
- o PO for T-shirts is prepared
- o Meet with site host to make arrangements

March

- o All permission forms turned in
- o Buses arranged for pick up by Fine Arts Clerk
- o Shirts delivered to Fine Arts; organized and distributed to campuses
- o Work order done for pick-up of risers, etc.
- o Program assignments sent to Elementary Music Teachers and Choir Staff by DFA

Music Memory Guidelines

Purpose:

- To promote an appreciation and awareness of the arts through the study of a variety of styles and genres of music.
- To development a life-long appreciation of classical and other styles of music.

General Procedures:

Teachers will be provided music memory lists and recorded tracks that are grade appropriate for grade levels 2nd thru 5th. The lists for grades 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th will all include 10 selections. Students in grades 3rd and 5th will participate in a district-wide competition for music memory. The district-wide music memory competition for grades 3rd and 5th will include selections of all the designated pieces. Each selection will be a minimum of 10 seconds in length. The 3rd grade level test will include a word pool and correct spelling will be required. The 5th grade test will not include a word pool and correct spelling will also be required. Correct spelling will be graded to the degree that the intent of the student to form a letter be given utmost consideration. Teachers are encouraged to use the music memory recordings and lists with all specified grade levels as a classroom teaching tool. Teachers may use music memory as part of their curriculum and assignments may be graded as per the guidelines for the selection of students. The music memory competitions for grades 3 and 5 will be conducted either at three separate campuses or a central location on the same day. The elementary campuses will be divided into three zones and schools will participate according to their zone assignment. The competition will be held in April or May of each year. Each campus music teacher will select six students from grades 3 and 5 to represent their campuses at the competition. Students will be selected through an elimination process.

Selection process:

The music teacher has complete authority to set up the tests and the elimination process using the following guidelines and criteria. The teacher will include all students in the first test which concentrates on main themes of the music memory selections. This test will be graded. The students with the highest scores will move on to the next levels of the elimination process. All subsequent tests will be used for selection purposes and will not be used for six-week grades. The teacher may develop and administer as many tests as necessary to select their six representatives from grades 3 and 5. The teacher may determine whether students will be issued recordings for home use. No student may participate twice for the same grade level competition.