**Choir Activity FAQ sheet**

**TMEA All-State Audition Process**

This is a multiple round competition where students learn specific music selected for the state and complete individually against other high school student on the same voice part. Auditions are blind, meaning the student sings behind a screen and is announced to the judges as a number. Top students each round move on in competition moving closer to making the All-State choirs.

**Region auditions:** Our region consists of Austin, Bastrop, Dripping Springs, Hays CISD, Shiner,

Wimberley and several private schools.

Students audition on specific voice parts: S1, S2, A1, A2, T1, T2, B1, B2.

Students rehearse complete music selections in preparation for the contest.

At the beginning of the auditions, students receive the cuts (portions of the songs) that

will be used in the audition. Every student sings the same 3 cuts of music and receives

a score from each of 5 judges. The scores are averaged to determine chair order.

The top 20 chairs (18 + 2 alternates) make the Region choir and perform at the Region

Clinic/Concert in the Mixed Choir. These students also move on to compete at Pre-Area

auditions.

**Pre-Area auditions:** Same as Region, but adds a sight reading component.

18 students on each voice part compete on new music selections and sight reading.

Sight reading is a single line of music in the singer’s range.

The tonic triad (Do, Mi, Sol, Mi, Do, Sol, Do) is played as well as the starting pitch.

Students then have 30 seconds to practice singing through the example. At the end of

the 30 second period, ‘time’ or ‘stop’ is stated and the tonic triad and starting pitch are

played again. Now the student is judged on their reading of the example on both pitch

and rhythm. Students should do this reading at a slow, comfortable pace.

Top 5 chairs in each voice part move on to compete at Area auditions.

**Area auditions (FINAL ROUND):** Competition made up of Regions 12, 18, 29 & 32 compete.

This includes Eanes, Leander and a large portion of San Antonio.

Students perform cuts from 3 songs in the morning. After lunch, students return to the

same room in a different order to sight read. Sight reading uses the same process as

Pre-Area auditions.

Chairs 1-3 – make the All-State Mixed Choir

Tenor/Bass chairs 4-6 – make the All-State Men’s Choir

Soprano/Alto chairs 4-7 – make the All-State Women’s Choir

**NACDA and SWACDA**

These are American Choral Directors Association conventions that alternate every year. The

Southwest Division represents 7 states. Every other year it is a National Convention. Students

can audition for placement in Honor Choirs for different age groups. Auditioning is done in our

choir room using mics and certain criteria. The nice part is a mistake can be made and we can

just start over and make a better recording. Once the recording of the audition is made, we

send it to the Vice President in charge of the desired choir. Approximately one month later, we

receive the results of who was selected to sing at the convention. At that time, other information regarding registration, housing, expectations, etc. are given.

We highly encourage students to audition for these choirs. It’s not often that our students get

the opportunity to sing with students from all around the country. We have even had full choirs

selected in the past to perform at these conventions!

Auditions must be submitted before Oct. 1.

This year, the SWACDA convention is in Denver, CO.

**Financial – All-State, NACDA & SWACDA**

Auditions fees for the TMEA, SWACDA, and NACDA are in addition to Fair Share Fees.

If a student is selected for the TMEA All-State Choir – convention expenses including hotel and

meals are covered by our district.

If a student is selected for SWACDA or NACDA, addition registration, travel, hotel and meal fees

will have to be incurred by the individual family.

**Lettering in Choir at Anderson**

The purposes of awarding letters to choir students are:

1. To recognize students for extra effort and work inside and outside the classroom, above and beyond the expected performance levels;

2. To build spirit and unity within the organization;

This will be done using a point system that will be filled out toward the end of each school year. The total score to

be achieved within a school year is 50 points. This total can be reached through a variety of activities and performances that we offer throughout the year.

Jackets will be presented in the Fall to qualifying students who are currently enrolled in the choir program. A choir jacket is earned when a student has met one of the following requirements:

1. Earned enough points as designated in advance by the directors.

or

2. Participated in three years of choir and enrolled in their 4th year.