

GUIDELINES FOR THE MTVA CHORAL FESTIVAL COPIED DIRECTLY FROM THE MTVA HANDBOOK

CHORAL FESTIVAL

A. General Information

1. The rules and regulations for the Elementary/Middle School Festival, Junior High/Middle School Festival and the Senior High Festival shall be the same except where specifically noted.
2. All directors of students must be members in good standing of the local, state, and national music organizations.
3. Choruses with less than twenty-one (21) members may participate in choral festival provided fees are paid to cover 21 students.
4. Students will be classified according to their local school system's classification:
 - a. 9th grade is Junior High in some areas while in other areas they are considered High School. Directors may choose which classification for adjudication.
 - b. Elementary students in grades four through six (4-6) will be classified as Elementary/Middle School.
 - c. The Executive Board shall approve other combinations or variations.

B. Music

1. Choice of music:
 - a. Members are encouraged to choose music of the highest quality and appropriate for an adjudicated choral festival.
 - b. The current school year's Mid-State, Honors, or Mass Choir repertoire will not be allowed to be performed at the choir's corresponding grade level.
 - c. Senior High School choruses shall perform three (3) selections.
 - d. Junior High/Middle School Choruses shall perform three (3) selections.
 - e. Elementary/Middle School Choruses shall perform two or three (2 or 3) selections.
2. Illegal photocopies of music will not be accepted. If a director fails to provide three legal copies of a piece, the choir will not be able to perform that piece, resulting in the lowering of one letter grade in the final tabulation. If a director wishes to perform a piece which is out of print, he/she must notify the Choral Festival Chair at least one week prior to the beginning of the event and bring proof from the publisher that copies are out of print.
3. All music must be turned in at the registration desk thirty minutes before warm-up time.
4. All music for judges, three (3) copies of each selection, must have the measures numbered. Failure to do so will result in the penalty of lowering the rating by one grade level.

5. All music will be performed from memory.
6. No tracks or CD accompaniment will be allowed.
7. Selections performed by a given group may not be repeated by that group for two (2) years.

C. Adjudication, rating, and awards

1. There shall be no classifications according to graded difficulty of the music.
2. New schools and beginning teachers may be adjudicated for comments only upon request and approval by the Executive Board.
3. There shall be three judges.
4. Final grade shall be the average of the three judges' scores.
5. Rating System:

A+ = 12	B+ = 9	C+ = 6	D+ = 3	F = 0
A = 11	B = 8	C = 5	D = 2	
A- = 10	B- = 7	C- = 4	D- = 1	

Ratings will be tallied at the registration desk, and any discrepancy will be returned to the judge.

6. Awards:

Choirs receiving a Superior (A) or an Excellent (B) rating will be awarded with a corresponding trophy.

Sight-Reading

1. All High School and Junior High/Middle School choruses will be required to sight-read. Elementary School choruses will be encouraged to sight-read.
2. Choruses may elect to sight-read for comments only provided the director submits a written request to the Executive Board at the meeting one month prior to the month of the festival.
3. Each chorus will be required to sight-read one or more sets of rhythm patterns, one or more sets of pitches, and melodic lines.
4. Failure to sight-read, except for Elementary School choruses, will disqualify the group from the festival.
5. Sight-Reading rating will NOT affect performance rating.