

**2022 District X Chorus Student Information Packet**  
**February 10-12, 2022**  
**Meridian High School**  
**121 Mustang Alley**  
**Falls Church, VA 22043**

**District Chorus Guest Clinicians**

We are excited to have 3 amazing clinicians join us for this event!

Our Middle School clinician is Sherry Blevins. Many of you got to meet Ms. Blevins last year virtually, and we are really excited to have her work with you in person. A music educator and composer, Ms. Blevins has conducted honor choirs around the US and is a published composer with Hinshaw Music. We're glad that she will be sharing one of her brand new compositions with us during the festival!

Our High School Treble Chorus clinician is Mr. Terry Eberhardt. Mr. Eberhardt taught elementary and high school music in Maryland, and is currently the Music Coordinator for Howard County Public Schools in Maryland. He was a finalist for the Grammy Music Educator of the Year award in 2015 and maintains an active performing schedule as well.

Our High School Mixed Chorus clinician is Dr. Michael Wu. Dr. Wu teaches at the Landon School in Bethesda, Maryland and is the Artistic Director of the Strathmore Children's Chorus. He has led District and All-State choirs in Maryland, Virginia, New York, and Delaware. Dr. Wu is also a published composer and arranger, and holds the Artist-Teacher certification from the Choral Music Experience.

**Preparation**

Students should be prepared with all notes and rhythms learned. We owe the guest conductors the courtesy of being prepared. Rehearsal tracks will be uploaded as they become available ([bit.ly/d102022](https://bit.ly/d102022)) for you to learn your notes before coming to any rehearsals. **YOU MUST NUMBER YOUR MEASURES IN ALL SELECTIONS BEFORE THE FIRST REHEARSAL.**

## **Rehearsal Expectations**

- You are guests of Meridian High School and Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School and should act accordingly. Classes will be in session Friday, so all students are asked not to enter other areas of the school.
- Do not chew gum in rehearsal. No hats.
- Give the conductor all of your attention all of the time.
- Do not bring valuable coats, jackets, sweaters, or electronics as they will be left in unsupervised areas. Wallets & purses should remain with you at all times.
- Cell phones must be turned off during rehearsal. You may be dismissed from District Chorus if found texting or using an electronic device during rehearsal.

All school rules and regulations as outlined by your school districts, including dress code, are in effect throughout the festival, as well as any other rules and regulations that may be required by the host school or district.

## **Sectional Rehearsals (High School Only)**

Sectional Rehearsals will be held **January 8**, from 9 a.m. - noon at Justice High School. **This is a required rehearsal for the festival and was listed on the commitment form that each student and parent signed.** A separate information sheet will be shared with directions and parking information. While we do not expect all notes and rhythms to be perfect, you should not be sight reading at this rehearsal.

## **Concert Dress**

Each school will wear their school's formal concert dress. Arrive in concert dress on Saturday. There are no facilities to change at Meridian HS.

## **Transportation**

Students are expected to provide their own transportation to the festival unless other arrangements have been made by your school. Students may not drive themselves to the festival rehearsals on Friday and are expected to follow school regulations on driving to an off-campus event for all other rehearsals.

## **Lunch**

Lunch will be available for pre-order on Friday and Saturday from the Meridian Choral Boosters. A separate order form will be provided for those lunches. School lunches are not available during the festival. Students may bring their own bag lunch as well.

## **COVID Restrictions**

Falls Church City Schools require proof of vaccination or a negative PCR test within 72 hours of the first rehearsal. You will provide this documentation to your director. Masks are to be properly worn over the nose and mouth at all times.

## **Recordings**

As part of your event participation fee, recordings will be provided to each student in mp3 format from the event and videos of each selection will be posted to YouTube by our recording company, Arts Laureate.

## **Festival Weekend Schedule**

A detailed schedule including breaks will be available closer to the festival.

### **Thursday, February 6**

5:30 p.m. Registration Begins

6:00 p.m. Rehearsal Begins

8:00 p.m. MS Rehearsal Ends. Students must be picked up promptly at 8 p.m.

9:00 p.m. HS Rehearsal Ends. Students must be picked up promptly at 9 p.m.

### **All students in District Chorus MUST attend this rehearsal.**

Any student who does not attend may be removed from District Chorus. This includes absence because of illness or any other conflict, excused or unexcused.

### **About the Thursday Rehearsals:**

This is not a rehearsal for students to learn notes and rhythms. It provides the opportunity to ensure that all students are sufficiently prepared for District Chorus. Sectionals and combined group rehearsals will be conducted by directors from within the district. Rehearsals will be monitored. If it becomes apparent that a student does not know their music, they may be pulled from the rehearsal and given a spot-check by a committee of directors. If it is clear that the student is not familiar with the music, they will be excused from District Chorus and no refund will be given. It is our hope that this will not be necessary.

## **Friday, February 7**

9:30 a.m. Registration

10:15 a.m. Rehearsal Begins

5 p.m. Rehearsal Ends. Students must be picked up promptly at 5 p.m.

## **Saturday, February 8**

8:30 a.m. Rehearsal Begins

12:00 noon Mini-Concert

1:00 p.m. HS Treble Concert

2:15 p.m. HS Mixed Concert

3:30 p.m. Middle School Concert

## **Attendance**

**Attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals and the entire concert.** Late arrivals and early departures are not acceptable under VMEA rules. Students violating these rules have been dismissed in the past. Please be on time!

Members of All-District Chorus may not miss any rehearsal during the event. The only exception is if the student is granted an excused absence, in which case the student may only miss one rehearsal block. The January 8 (HS) rehearsal is considered one rehearsal block.

One rehearsal block is defined as break to break on a single day. Students involved in such a conflict must submit a written request including: name of student, event conflict, and rehearsal block to be missed, to the All District Chorus Chair prior to the event. The Chair is responsible for determining a ruling with the All District Chorus Committee. An excused absence may be a Virginia High School League (VHSL) sponsored competition or any other reason approved by the committee. If a student does not communicate this information prior to the All District Chorus Event, he/she will not be excused regardless of the reason. An unexcused absence of any kind will disqualify a student from consideration for All-Virginia Chorus (HS only).

**NO STUDENT MAY LEAVE THE CAMPUS AT ANY TIME DURING THIS EVENT** - this includes going out to lunch. Anyone who does so will be dismissed from District Chorus immediately with no exceptions.