

# HMS Choir Contest/Festival and Transportation Information

## IMEA Auditions/Festival

Illinois Music Educators Association holds junior level auditions and festival in the fall each year. The students will learn 5 pieces from which a selection will be chosen the day of the audition as well as performing and major scale. Any 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student is eligible and is encouraged to audition for the IMEA Festival. Auditions will be held on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at Sterling High School in Sterling, IL. Individual times will be assigned and therefore individual transportation will be required. The Festival will be held on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at DeKalb High School.

The deadline to sign up for an audition will be Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. At this time the district will pay the \$5 audition fee. You will then be committed to preparing and singing the audition, backing out is not an option. Fulfilling your commitments, scared or otherwise, is an important value to uphold as young musicians. If you make the ensemble, the district will pay the entrance fee.

## Solo/Ensemble Contest

Solo and Ensemble Contest is Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at HMS. All choir students are required to participate or complete an alternative written assignment. You will sing either a solo (with piano accompaniment) or an ensemble (small group, up to 16 singers, in at least two parts with piano accompaniment) for an adjudicator – an expert singing instructor for a placement rating. The song must be a folk song, aria, art song, spiritual or approved musical theater pieces. No pop styles are permitted in this contest. Due to the nature of times of performances, individual transportation will be required.

## Choral Organizational Contest

All choirs will sing for the organizational contest on a Saturday in March, tentatively the 10<sup>th</sup>. **This is a mandatory performance and is coupled with the concert grading guidelines.** Transportation to this event and entry fees will be provided by the district for this event. Students, in class, prepare 3 selections to be performed for 3 adjudicators and comments and a rating are given. They will also participate in a small 25 minute clinic in which one judge will work with the group to improve sound production, technique, and the like. If students receive a Division I rating, the choir will advance to State contest in April.

## NCJC Festival

The NCJC Festival is held every year in May at NIU, this year the date is Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. This is an honor choir where students (8<sup>th</sup> mostly, some 7<sup>th</sup>) are selected by the director for participation based upon class conduct, music preparedness and vocal acuity. Selections will be made by the director by the end of April. A modest fee will apply for participation/dinner. Transportation to the event will be provided; transportation home will be individually required.

## Music in the Parks

Music in the Parks is a contest/reward day at Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, IL on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. This contest requires the choirs to each prepare 2 concert selections to be performed in the morning at a local school close to Six Flags. Then students will have the opportunity to enjoy the park. In the late afternoon, there will be an awards ceremony where we learn what ranking we placed against the other choirs in our division. This event requires a large fee per student to cover the contest fee, park entrance fee and transportation. (~\$80) As a choir we will be participating in at least 2-3 fundraisers to help offset the cost (poinsettias, pizza and chocolate). Additional information will be given in class closer to the event.

## Transportation to and from choir events

Please make sure that you have made arrangements for your child to be transported to and from choir events. Students may ride with other parents, but please be sure to make arrangements in advance in these situations. If a child is left waiting for a parent, we as the directors are obligated to wait with him/her, but are NOT allowed to take them home without prior consent.