

# **Massachusetts Music Educators Association Western District Handbook**

**2008-2009**

<http://www.geocities.com/mmeawd/district.html>



## 2008-2009 Western District Executive Board

**Chairperson:** Daniel Albert  
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**Senior Auditions Coordinator:** Scott Thomson  
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For manager information, please visit the website:  
<http://www.geocities.com/mmeawd/district.html>

## District Calendar 2008-2009

September 2 4 PM MMEA-WD Meeting, North MS, Westfield  
September 26 4:00 Elementary Sharing Session, Location TBA

October 7 4 PM MMEA-WD Fall Dinner Meeting,  
Union Station, Northampton

November 4 4 PM MMEA-WD Meeting, North MS, Westfield  
November 8 8 AM Senior Auditions, Westfield State College  
November 15 Snow Date for Senior Auditions

December 2 4 PM MMEA-WD Meeting, North MS, Westfield  
December 13 8 AM Junior Auditions, Westfield State College  
December 20 Snow Date for Junior Auditions

January 9 4 PM MMEA-WD meeting, UMASS/Amherst  
January 10 9 AM Senior Festival Rehearsal, UMASS/Amherst  
January 10 1 PM General Membership Luncheon Meeting  
January 11 Snow Date for Rehearsal  
January 17 9 AM Rehearsal and 3PM concert, UMASS/Amherst  
January 17 1 PM General Membership Luncheon Meeting  
January 18 Snow Date for rehearsal/concert

January 30 4:00 Elementary Sharing Session, Location TBA

February 3 4 PM MMEA-WD Meeting, North MS, Westfield

March 6 4 PM MMEA-WD Meeting, West Springfield H.S.  
March 7 9 AM Junior Festival rehearsal, W. Springfield H.S.  
March 7 1 PM General Membership Luncheon Meeting  
March 8 Snow Date for Rehearsal  
March 21 9 AM Jr. Festival Rehearsal - 3PM Concert, UMASS  
March 21 1 PM General Membership Luncheon Meeting  
March 22 Snow Date for rehearsal/concert  
March 26-28 MMEA All-State Conference, Boston

April 7 4 PM MMEA-WD Meeting, North MS, Westfield

May 5 4 PM MMEA-WD Spring Dinner Meeting,  
Union Station, Northampton  
May 15 4:00 Elementary Sharing Session, Location TBA

June 2 4 PM MMEA-WD Meeting, North MS, Westfield

**All District Meetings are held at North Middle School, 350 Southampton Road, Westfield, unless otherwise specified. All members are welcome to attend.**

## **Festival Procedures and Policies**

### Director Responsibilities:

Directors with students participating in any Festival are required to help perform needed duties at the festival (monitor lunches, ticket sales, ushering, etc.)

### Attendance Policy:

Students selected to participate in a Festival must attend all rehearsals and concerts in their entirety. Students who do not fully participate will not be eligible for All-State or District Festivals for one year. In the case of an emergency, a student may request an attendance waiver from the Executive Board through their ensemble's manager. A waiver must be requested within 2 weeks of the festival. All decisions of the Executive Board are final.

### Festival Eligibility:

- ♪ The **Junior Festival** is open to students in Grades 7-9.
- ♪ The **Senior Festival** is open to students Grades 9-12
- ♪ Auditioning students must be in good standing with their own school district and school ensemble. If there is no school ensemble program available on the student's instrument, students may audition provided they are in good standing in the school district.
- ♪ Auditioning students must be endorsed by an MMEA Western District member.
- ♪ Sixth Grade students may audition for the Young Men's Chorus and/or orchestral strings.
- ♪ Ninth grade students may audition for the Junior Festival if they have not been selected to participate in the Senior Festival on the same instrument and ensemble for which they are auditioning.
- ♪ Senior and Junior Festival students may double or triple audition for multiple ensembles, but must indicate their preference and will only be allowed to participate in one. Student preference in performance groups will be taken into consideration when placing students, but students will be placed according to the needs of the ensembles.

### Festival Registration/Participation:

- ♪ All student endorsement forms must be completed and mailed and the online registration form electronically sent by the designated due date on the Festival Forms and Information page of the website.
- ♪ A non-refundable \$11.00 audition fee per student is due with the mailed student endorsement forms by the designated due date on the Festival Forms and Information page of the website. An additional fee of \$10.00 per student will be charged for late registrations.
- ♪ There are **NO** walk-in registrations.
- ♪ Once students are accepted to participate in the festival, the director needs to electronically send the online Festival registration form by the designated due date on the Festival Forms and Information page of the website.

- ♪ A non-refundable \$20.00 festival participation fee per student is due by the designated due date on the Festival Forms and Information page of the website. An additional fee of \$10.00 per student will be charged for late registrations.
- ♪ Students are not allowed to drive themselves, or any other students, to or from any Western District sponsored event. Students doing so will be immediately disqualified from further participation.
- ♪ Students who participate in Western District sponsored events (auditions, rehearsals, concerts, etc.) must be accompanied by a responsible adult chaperone at all times. School designated chaperones may be replaced by parents during the concert.

#### Senior Festival Concert Dress:

**Men:** Black dress shoes and socks, black dress pants, white long sleeve, collared, button-down dress shirt, long tie, and black jacket (no jeans or sneakers).

**Women:** All Black. Women may wear a black dress or combination black top and black skirt or pants. Top must cover shoulders, and skirts/dresses must cover knees while seated. Black leggings do not qualify as black pants.

#### Junior Festival Concert Dress:

**Men:** Black dress shoes and socks, black dress pants, white long sleeve, collared, button-down dress shirt, long tie (no jeans or sneakers).

**Women:** Black shoes, black pants or skirt, black stockings, white blouse. Top must cover shoulders, and skirts must be below knees while seated. Black leggings do not qualify as black pants.

## **Audition Requirements and Policies**

#### Audition Selections:

All students must audition on the required solo and scales published on Audition List section of the Western District website.

#### Audition Procedures:

- ♪ Directors must sign in their students upon arrival and inform the Auditions Chairperson of any absent students.
- ♪ Illegally copied music is **NOT** allowed in the audition rooms and will result in disqualification. Students may use a copy for the purposes of page turning if an original is present.
- ♪ Directors are not allowed in the audition or tabulation area at any time.
- ♪ Any student with a handicap which would not allow him/her to follow standard audition procedures should contact the Festival Chairperson in advance so that special arrangements can be made.
- ♪ Directors should allow 5 business days to elapse before calling for audition results.
- ♪ Directors have 10 business days from the audition date to appeal the results to the District Chairperson.
- ♪ Tie scores will be broken as follows:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> solo score
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Scales
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sight Reading

Audition Limitations:

No more than 10 sopranos and 10 altos will be allowed to audition for the **Senior Festival** per school. There are no limitations to the **Junior Festival**. Female tenors are not permitted.

Taped Auditions:

After all other avenues of scheduling have been exhausted, directors may obtain information on how to conduct a taped audition by contacting the appropriate coordinator. The coordinator must be contacted no later than the official registration date.

## **General Music**

This District, in cooperation with the Society of General Music in Massachusetts, offers general music workshops to encourage membership and participation from music educators who do not have students participating in the District Festivals. There are also many general music clinics at the MMEA All State Conference. More information is available on the District website or by contacting the classroom coordinator.

## **District Library**

The Western District Lending Library is available to all MMEA members. The library consists of all the music purchased for performance at the Junior and Senior District Festivals since 1976. Any band, chorus, jazz band, or orchestra piece may be borrowed for one concert season for the cost of \$10.00 per title. For more information, please contact the District librarian.

## **Notes:**