

**Massachusetts Music Educators
Association Western District
Handbook**

2009-2010

www.mmeawd.org



2009-2010 Western District Executive Board

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For manager information, please visit our website,
www.mmeawd.org

District Calendar 2009-2010

September 1	4 PM MMEA-WD Meeting, North MS, Westfield	January 29	4 PM Elementary Sharing Session, Community Music School of Springfield
September 25	4 PM Elementary Sharing Session, Community Music School of Springfield		
October 6	4 PM MMEA-WD Fall Dinner Meeting, Union Station, Northampton	February 2	4 PM MMEA-WD Meeting, North MS, Westfield
November 3	4 PM MMEA-WD Meeting, North MS, Westfield	March 5	4 PM MMEA-WD Meeting, West Springfield H.S.
November 14	8 AM Senior Auditions, Westfield State College	March 6	9 AM Junior Festival rehearsal, W. Springfield H.S.
November 21	Snow Date for Senior Auditions	March 6	1 PM General Membership Luncheon Meeting
December 1	4 PM MMEA-WD Meeting, North MS, Westfield	March 7	Snow Date for Rehearsal
December 5	8 AM Junior Auditions, Westfield State College	March 13	9 AM Jr. Festival Rehearsal - 3PM Concert, UMASS
December 12	Snow Date for Junior Auditions	March 13	1 PM General Membership Luncheon Meeting
January 8	4 PM MMEA-WD meeting, UMASS/Amherst	March 14	Snow Date for rehearsal/concert
January 9	9 AM Senior Festival Rehearsal, UMASS/Amherst	March 18-20	MMEA All-State Conference, Boston
January 9	1 PM General Membership Luncheon Meeting	April 6	4 PM MMEA-WD Meeting, North MS, Westfield
January 10	Snow Date for Rehearsal	April 30	4 PM Elementary Sharing Session, Community Music School of Springfield
January 16	9 AM rehearsal and 3PM concert, UMASS/Amherst		
January 16	1 PM General Membership Luncheon Meeting	May 4	4 PM MMEA-WD Spring Dinner Meeting, Union Station, Northampton
January 17	Snow Date for rehearsal/concert	June 1	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:
 - 1st solo score
 - 2nd Scales
 - 3rd 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: