

DISTRICT ALIGNMENT INFORMATION

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT KMEA

2024 – VERSION 1

1. Ensembles Offered

- a. High School Band
- b. High School Jazz Band
- c. High School Choir
- d. High School Orchestra
 - i. Location of event moves from Northwest to Southwest every-other-year
- e. Middle Level Band
- f. Middle Level Choir
- g. Middle Level Orchestra
- h. Elementary Choir

2. School Responsibilities

- a. Each school is responsible for selecting students to either Audition or Participate (Elementary Choir).
- b. Each school will rehearse their students for the auditions in their own manner.
- c. Each school will enter student-auditions in either Festival Scores or KMEA Members site. Directors will upload or take students to audition site.
- d. Directors will watch for participation list and purchase appropriate music for the performance events for each student.
- e. Directors will be responsible for rehearsing all music for each event their students are selected to participate in.
 - i. All students should arrive at each event ready to perform.
 1. Performance Clinician will rehearse students for performance strategies such as: nuances, tuning, pronunciation, dynamics, etc.
 2. Performance Clinicians will not teach notes and rhythms from the perspective of students who have never learned them.
- f. Each school will be responsible for dictating to each student participant the proper attire for the district performance.
- g. Each school will provide transportation for their students to the Performance event on the day of the Performance by the appropriate rehearsal time and will be responsible for their students throughout the day of performance. They will also be responsible for providing transportation on the way home too.
 - i. Lunch will be provided to all student participants the day of the Performance, with the exception of the MS Choir and Elementary Choir performance.
 1. The MS/Elementary Choir Performances will be at noon and SW KMEA will not provide lunch at this event.
 - ii. A snack will be provided in the morning at each of these events for all student participants, including MS/Elementary Choir.

- h. Each school will be responsible for student/director behavior the day of the Auditions (HS Choir) and at all Performance Events.
- i. Each school will pay fees for Auditions or Participation by March 1st of the Fiscal Year.

3. Director Responsibilities

- a. In addition to the School Responsibilities, each Director must also:
 - i. Plan to participate in any District needs for the Audition process of all district students,
 - ii. Plan to participate in any District needs for the day of the Performance events, which their students are participating in.
 - iii. District Expectations:
 - 1. HS Band Directors**
 - a. All directors submitting auditions will be asked to judge HS Band Auditions.
 - 2. HS Jazz Band Directors**
 - a. All directors submitting auditions will be asked to judge HS Jazz Band Auditions
 - 3. HS Orchestra Directors**
 - a. All directors submitting auditions will be asked to judge HS Orchestra Auditions
 - 4. HS Choir Directors**
 - a. All directors submitting auditions will be asked to judge In-Person at the HS Choir Live Auditions in November in Dodge City, KS.
 - 5. MS Band Directors**
 - a. All directors submitting auditions will be asked to judge MS Band Auditions
 - 6. MS Orchestra Directors**
 - a. All directors submitting auditions will be asked to judge MS Orchestra Auditions
 - 7. MS Choir Directors**
 - a. All directors submitting auditions will be asked to judge MS Choir Auditions

4. Student Responsibilities

- a. Each student is responsible for either Auditioning or asking to Participate (Elementary Choir).
- b. Each student will rehearse the audition music and learn to follow procedures in their own manner compliant to their school director's desire.
- c. Each student should follow-up with the school director in respect of audition material and entries in either Festival Scores or the SW KMEA Choir Invoice Generator on SW KMEA Website.

- d. Check that your Director uploaded your materials for audition, if needed.
- e. Each student participant will have the appropriate music for the district performance.
 - i. Students will either memorize or learn music for the event according to the expectations of the district performance event.
- f. All students should arrive at each event ready to perform.
 - i. Performance Clinician will rehearse students for performance strategies such as: nuances, tuning, pronunciation, dynamics, etc.
 - ii. Performance Clinicians will not teach notes and rhythms from the perspective of students who have never learned them.
- g. Each student participant will have the proper attire for the district performance.
- h. Each student will be responsible for their behavior the day of the Auditions (HS Choir) and at all Performance Events.
- i. Students selected for High School District Ensembles **MUST** participate the day of the event, or forfeit the opportunity to participate in Kansas All State Ensembles or Kansas All State Auditions.

5. Participation Eligibility Requirement

- a. There are two requirements for a student to be eligible to audition for the SWKMEA District Ensembles
 - i. The student's director must be a member of KMEA, and will register each audition in the online format (either Festival Scores or KMEA Members.)
 - ii. The student must be deemed an eligible student in good standing at their school.

6. Registration Process

a. High School Band

i. Audition Recordings

Auditions will be submitted online using [Festival Scores](#). Teachers may create their Director account and update their Director and Student profiles at any time. Event Tags will be posted on the SWKMEA Website.

b. High School Jazz Band

i. Audition Recordings

Auditions will be submitted online using [Festival Scores](#). Teachers may create their Director account and update their Director and Student profiles at any time. Event Tags will be posted on the SWKMEA Website.

c. High School Choir

i. Audition Registration

All auditions must be registered online in the [KMEA Members](#) site by the deadline posted.

ii. Live Auditions

d. High School Orchestra

i. Audition Recordings

Auditions will be submitted online using [Festival Scores](#). Teachers may create their Director account and update their Director and Student profiles at any time. Event Tags will be posted on the SWKMEA Website.

e. Middle Level Band

i. Audition Recordings

Auditions will be submitted online using [Festival Scores](#). Teachers may create their Director account and update their Director and Student profiles at any time. Event Tags will be posted on the SWKMEA Website.

f. Middle Level Choir

i. SWKMEA Directors will use recorded mp3 auditions.

ii. Refer to the Guidelines and Auditions pages on the website for specific audition directions.

iii. Auditions will be uploaded and scored in the [Festival Scores](#) audition management system.

g. Middle Level Orchestra

i. SW KMEA Directors will use recorded mp3 auditions using the Festival Scores audition management system.

ii. Auditions will be submitted online using [Festival Scores](#). Teachers may create their Director account and update their Director and Student profiles at any time. Event Tags will be posted on the SWKMEA Website.

h. Elementary Choir

i. Nominations

Nominations are submitted in the [KMEA Members](#) site.

ii. Requirements

Students must be in 5th or 6th grade. Directors should rank their students according to website guidelines.

7. Audition/Participation Fees

a. HS Jazz Band -

i. \$15.00 – Audition Fee - Pay for all completed auditions using the Festival Scores Invoice.

ii. \$5.00 – Participation Fee – Pay for all students selected using the Festival Scores Invoice.

b. HS Band

i. \$15.00 – Audition Fee - Pay for all completed auditions using the Festival Scores Invoice.

ii. \$5.00 – Participation Fee – Pay for all students selected using the Festival Scores Invoice.

c. HS Orchestra –

i. \$15.00 – Audition Fee - Pay for all completed auditions using the Festival Scores Invoice.

ii. \$5.00 – Participation Fee – Pay for all students selected using the Festival Scores Invoice

iii. HS Orchestra fees are paid to the NW District every-other-year, instead of the SW District, as the SW HS Orchestras travel to the NW district every-other-year and the NW HS Orchestras travel to the SW opposing years.

Fees will be paid to the District that is hosting.

- d. **HS Choir** –
 - i. \$12.00 – Live Audition Fee - Pay for all entered on KMEA Members site - paid for through SWKMEA Invoice generator
 - 1. Late Fee #1 - \$30.00 per audition
 - 2. Late Fee #2 - \$50.00 per audition
 - 3. Late Fee #3 - \$100.00 per audition (up to the day of the Live Audition)
 - ii. \$5.00 – Participation Fee – Pay for all students selected to the choir using the SWKMEA Invoice Generator.

- e. **MS Band** –
 - i. \$15.00 – Audition Fee - Pay for all completed auditions using the Festival Scores Invoice.
 - ii. \$5.00 – Participation Fee – Pay for all students selected using the Festival Scores Invoice.

- f. **MS Orchestra** –
 - i. \$15.00 – Audition Fee - Pay for all completed auditions using the Festival Scores Invoice.
 - ii. \$5.00 – Participation Fee – Pay for all students selected using the Festival Scores Invoice.

- g. **MS Choir** –
 - i. \$15.00 – Audition Fee - Pay for all completed auditions using the Festival Scores Invoice.

- h. **Elementary** –
 - i. \$15.00 – Participation Fee for each student selected. Use the SWKMEA Invoice generator.

- i. **ALL FEES PAID:**
 - i. All fees owed to SWKMEA are required to be paid by March 1st of each fiscal school year. Ensembles who do not pay by the March 1st deadline will incur a \$50.00 fee in addition to the fees owed. If not paid, a school can lose the opportunity to participate in SWKMEA events.
 - ii. Failure to include a copy of the invoice(s) will result in a \$15 fee assessed to your school (*SWKMEA board action July 17, 2017*).

8. Audition Process

a. High School Band

- i. Requirements for the Recorded Audition
 1. A Chromatic scale slurred up and tongued down. Play the rhythm as indicated on the scale sheet. Quarter Note MM=60.
 - a. Scales can be found at <https://ksmea.org/hsband/excerpts/>
 2. Unison Etude: Perform the entire etude at the prescribed tempo indication. <https://swkmea.org/?section=hsband>
 3. Sections of the KMEA All-State Band Audition Excerpts <https://swkmea.org/?section=hsband>
- ii. **Audition Recordings**

Auditions will be submitted online using [Festival Scores](#). Teachers may create their Director account and update their Director and Student profiles at any time.

b. High School Jazz Band

- i. **Audition Excerpts**

Excerpts may be downloaded from the KMEA website.

 1. <https://ksmea.org/hsjazz/excerpts/>
- ii. **Audition Recordings**

Auditions will be submitted online using [Festival Scores](#). Teachers may create their Director account and update their Director and Student profiles at any time.

c. High School Choir

- i. **Audition Requirements**
 1. Students will learn the two All-State audition pieces they can be found in the “Audition Selections” section on the KMEA website.
 - a. [Audition Selections](#)
 2. Approximately a week before auditions, directors will be notified of the “cuts.” These will be the sections of the audition pieces that will be evaluated in the audition.
 3. Students will audition in-person at Dodge City Middle School on the audition date by singing the required sections of music for each specific voice part: Soprano-Alto-Tenor-Bass.
 - a. **Exception:** In the event of an absence due to a conflict for Live Choral Auditions, the director must notify the HS Choral Chair two weeks prior to the live audition date. The audition recording must be emailed to the HS Choral Chair by the Wednesday prior to live auditions. The recording must include complete cuts recorded continuously of both audition pieces recorded on the first take. The absence is only excusable due to KSHSAA State level events or National or National Qualifying Events for school

sanctioned organizations. (SWKMEA Board Action, June 2024)

4. Audition Day Procedures:
 - a. Students meet in the auditorium/gym for instructions. The cut recording will be played every 30 minutes
 - b. Students names and numbers are posted at their respective audition rooms.
 - c. Auditions are to be blind, the three judges will have their backs to the student.
 - d. The door monitor will announce the student's number to the judges.
 - e. There will be a person designated to start the recording. The student performs their audition without director and without stopping or re-starting the recording.
 - f. Tabulations will be made using Festival Auditions.
 - g. Results will be posted on the district website as soon as they are available.
 - h. Every school with students auditioning for band or choir will be guaranteed at least one student placed in either the band or choir.

d. High School Orchestra

i. Audition Excerpts

1. Each instrument(Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass) will perform one 3-octave scale and one excerpt chosen from the All-state excerpt literature for that year.
2. Each instrument will perform one excerpt chosen from the District literature for that year's concert.
3. Excerpts are found at: [HS Orchestra - District Auditions](#)

e. Middle Level Band

- i. Chromatic Scale: Written out for each instrument here [Chromatic Scale PDFs](#)
 1. Rules for Chromatic Scale:
 - a. Play the chromatic scale on eighth notes with the MM Quarter Note=60.
 - b. Slur up, tongue down
 - c. Students must play the chromatic scale as written.
- ii. Unison Audition Excerpts:
 1. Audition material for all instruments will be taken from the Essential Technique for Band. These materials are selected on a two-year cycle.
 2. Cycle 1: Even Years
 - a. Essential Technique for Band
 - i. #164: Reading Skill Builder No. 7 for WW, Brass, Mallets and Snare
 - ii. #132 Only Snare Drum Quarter Note =120
 - iii. #123 Only Timpani Record Tuning of Three Timpani then play exercise Quarter Note = 120 with no fermatas.
 3. Cycle 2: Odd Years
 - a. Essential Technique for Band
 - i. #166: Reading Skill Builder No. 9 for WW, Brass, Mallets, and Snare.
 - ii. #132 Only Snare Drum Quarter Note = 120
 - iii. #123 Only Timpani Recording Tuning of Three Timpani then play exercise Quarter Note =120 with no fermatas.
- iii. **Audition Recordings**
 1. Students will audition via mp3 recording through [Festival Scores](#). Audition recordings must be uploaded by the audition deadline.
 2. Please fill out your student profiles as completely as you can. This is the only way the Chair can get the correct information to each school and student.
 3. No accompaniment playing with audition material.
 4. Directors, please listen to the recordings before submitting them. In the past, background noise or incorrect recording has ruined a recording for a student.

f. Middle Level Choir

i. Selection Guidelines

1. The Choir shall have 200 participants total.
2. Only 7th and 8th grade students are eligible.
3. Students will audition via mp3 recording through Festival Scores. Audition recordings must be uploaded by the audition deadline.
4. Schools will pay an audition fee for each student that submits an audition.
5. The top 50 scores in each voice category will be selected to the honor choir. One qualifying student from every district.
6. There will be THREE alternate quartets selected. Those students will be notified by the MS Choir Chair if they are to perform.
7. Students will audition using Dona Nobis Pacem. PDFs are found on the KMEA All-State Middle Level Choir Auditions page. Tenors may audition on either the key of C or A-flat for their district audition.

ii. Recording/Submission Guidelines

1. The starting pitch must be played on the recording.
2. A single pitch is all that is allowed to be on the recording before the student begins to sing.
3. Allow the pitch to decay/cease prior to the student beginning to sing.
4. No talking is allowed on any part of the recording.
5. Do NOT announce the name of the student, teacher or school on the audition recording.
6. Do NOT speak to the student at the end of the recording.
7. Do NOT provide vocal support for the student. This includes, but is not limited to, singing with them or humming along.
8. The students must record this song with NO accompaniment or other instrumental support.
9. The starting pitch must be played and recorded and it is all that is allowed on the recording before the students begin to sing.
10. Auditions will be disqualified for:
 - a. Failure to include the starting pitch on the recording
 - b. Failure to start on the indicated pitch in the audition excerpt
 - c. Recording multiple pitches at the beginning of the recording
 - d. Singing with accompaniment or other instrumental support
 - e. Singing/humming while the starting pitch is playing
 - f. The presence of any talking on the recording
11. Be sure to follow the audition process completely and meet the audition deadline to ensure that your student(s) recordings are heard and evaluated. There will be a non-refundable audition fee

per student. Auditioning students must be part of a school vocal group during the fall and spring semesters.

12. Audition recordings must be in mp3 format and uploaded by the established audition deadline. Uploads will be closed at midnight on the night of the deadline date. The mp3 recordings contained in the system at the moment of the deadline will be the entries that are judged. All previously uploaded mp3 files will be disregarded. If multiple mp3 files are uploaded for a particular student, only the final uploaded file will be judged. Late entries will not be accepted!

13. Information about the Middle Level Choir can be found at

<https://swkmea.org/?section=mschoir>

g. Middle Level Orchestra

i. Audition Excerpts

1. Each instrument(Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass) will perform one 3-octave scale and one excerpt chosen from the All-state excerpt literature for that year.
2. Each instrument will perform one excerpt chosen from the District literature for that year's concert.
3. Excerpts are found at: [MS Orchestra - District Auditions](#)

h. Elementary Choir

- i. Information about the Elementary Choir can be found at [SWKMEA Elementary Choir](#)
- ii. It is the directors' responsibility to select qualified 5th or 6th grade students from their school, and nominate them on the [KMEA Members](#) site by the deadline.
- iii. Directors will be notified before December 1 of the District Choir personnel. The clinician will develop and distribute a teaching guide to all directors. Teachers should begin to rehearse the music so their students will have a positive experience on the day of the concert.

iv. Selection Guidelines

1. The Choir shall consist of 200 participants.
2. Students must be in 5th or 6th grade.
3. Each grade school may enter 5 students total. With a 200 student limit, entry will be based on a first-come-first-serve basis.
4. Timestamps on the roster submissions will determine the date of entry.
5. On the roster form, the director must rank each student as their 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th rated student in terms of overall musical ability—1st being the most musically talented.
6. All five students will participate in the District Choir.

9. Audition Notification

- a. Directors will be notified via SWKMEA Website and by Ensemble Chairs after judging is complete