




2023-2024

MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL NEW DIRECTOR MANUAL

MMEA LEADERSHIP

<p>MMEA State President Jennifer Davis Starkville High School 603 Yellowjacket Drive Starkville, MS 39759 C 601.513.2297 jdavis@starkvillesd.com</p>	<p>MMEA HS Division President Jana Smith Northern SPA Coordinator Stone High School 1268 McGregor Dr. Wiggins, MS 39577 C 601.408.7976 jsmith@stoneschools.org</p>	<p>MMEA HS Division President-Elect Jordan Langworthy Central SPA Coordinator Germantown High School 534 Oak Park Circle Pearl, MS 39208 C 601.421.0505 jangworthy@madison-schools.com</p>
<p>MMEA HS Division Past President Joel Hill Conference Registrar Madison County Schools 105 Elm Court Madison, MS 39110 C 601.668.9148 jhill@madison-schools.com</p>	<p>MMEA HS Division Secretary Daniel Vernon Southern SPA Coordinator Gulfport High School 270 Oakwood Drive Gulfport, MS 39507 C 601.218.4631 daniel.vernon@gulfportschools.org</p>	<p>MMEA HS Division Rep. Chairman Dr. Lynn Holliman Repertoire Chairman Riverside High School 3515 Highway 1 South Greenville, MS 38701 C 662.335.4528 lholliman@westernline.org</p>

MS ACDA LEADERSHIP

<p>MS ACDA HS Division Dale Beech All-State Treble Honor Choir Chair Hernando High School 805 Dilworth LN Hernando, MS 38632 C 601 347 8581 dale.beech@dcsms.org</p>	<p>MS ACDA HS Division Terrell Hall All-State SATB Honor Choir Chair Olive Branch High School 9366 East Sandidge Road Olive Branch, MS 38654 C 662 871 2410 terrell.hall@dcsms.org</p>	<p>MS ACDA HS Division Toney Keeler All-State Honor Show Choir Chair Northwest Rankin High School 5875 MS-25 Flowood, MS 39232 C 601.498.2238 ant501@rcsd.ms</p>
<p>MS Solo & Ensemble MPA Elementary & JH Dr. Lynn Holliman MMEA JH Division Secretary Riverside MS & HS 3515 Highway 1 South Greenville, MS 38701 C 662.335.4528 lholliman@westernline.org</p>		<p>MS Solo & Ensemble MPA High School Jennifer Davis MMEA President Starkville High School 603 Yellowjacket Drive Starkville, MS 39759 C 601.513.2297 jdavis@starkvillesd.com</p>

Welcome

Welcome to choral music in the State of Mississippi! Whether you are a first year teacher or a seasoned veteran from another state, this handbook is designed to help you through your first year of teaching in the state of Mississippi. This handbook is meant to serve as a general guide, but please keep in mind that procedures can vary between districts. In addition to the division MMEA presidents and the state MMEA president, your elected district chair(s) and choral colleagues in your area can also be a great resource

As a new director in the state, it is to your advantage to attend all MHSAA / MMEA choral business meetings, led by the MMEA division president. These meetings are held at the beginning of August and January each year at the MHSAA building in Clinton. Exact dates for these meetings can be found by visiting www.msmea.org. Please note, there are MMEA divisional meetings that are not sponsored by the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

Suggestions, Common Misconceptions & Adjudicator Pet Peeves compiled by a Committee of "Seasoned" Choral Directors

1. Put all choral dates on your school calendar at the beginning of the school year, or sooner if possible.
2. Begin teaching sight-reading on the first day of class. Establish a sight-reading vocabulary and procedure with your students.
3. Do everything ahead of time. Don't forget to take care of buses, uniforms, chaperones, accompanists, permission forms, etc.
4. Ask other choral directors to work with your groups. Retired choral directors can be a great resource.
5. Require your students to listen to other groups at festivals.
6. Inform and/or teach your students and community about proper times to enter and exit concerts and adjudicated festivals.
7. Remember, festivals require a copy of music for each adjudicator, the director and the accompanist, for each song, with measures numbered. No photocopies are allowed without a letter of permission from the publisher verifying permission has been granted.
8. Attend ALL: **MHSAA / MMEA Business Meetings, MMEA Fall Workshop, MMEA / MS ACDA State Conference & MS ACDA Summer Conference.**
9. You cannot get by without staying current. YOU are responsible for knowing all state assessment/festival procedures. In an effort to determine what is best for choral music education in our state, regulations are being changed and updated constantly.
10. If your school is an MHSAA member and you have a choral program (any level), you are required to participate in the Choral Art Festival (CAF) or the State Performance Assessment (SPA). If you are overwhelmed, seek out your assigned district chair or regional MMEA Officer / Site Coordinator.
11. Choose music selections and sight-reading levels/voicings that are suitable to the talent level of your choral groups. Don't choose music selections or sight-reading levels/voicings that "everyone else is doing". Ensure the success of your students on stage and in the sight-reading room.
12. You cannot get by with turning in forms and fees late. It is YOUR responsibility to submit things on time. MHSAA could issue a fine to your program for noncompliance.
13. It is **not** the responsibility of a Site Coordinator to arrange for an accompanist at CAF or SPA. In addition, the sight-reading adjudicator will not accompany your choral group.
 - a. YOU must secure an accompanist in advance, not two days before a festival. Two months in advance is preferable for most accompanists. Give them time to work on the music.
 - b. You **MUST** pay the accompanist for their services. Find out the going rate for an accompanist in your area.
14. ACDA and MMEA are two completely different organizations even though many choral directors are members of both organizations.
15. Junior High and Senior High Choral Division are two completely separate divisions even though many choral directors participate or teach in both divisions. Both divisions have a separate set of officers. The two divisions sometimes share meetings and sessions.
16. Junior High and Senior High Choral Division Officers do not necessarily know all rules and regulations of the other division.
17. Ninth grade students can be categorized as Junior High or Senior High.
18. ACDA honor choirs and Solo & Ensemble MPA are not governed by either MMEA or MHSAA.
19. National Standards are similar to par in golf. They tell you what to shoot for, not which club to use.
20. "For Rehearsal Only" or a cappella means no accompaniment.
21. Do not allow the accompanist to "pound out pitches" at the beginning of an a cappella piece. It ruins the mood of the piece.
22. A lot of choreography is not acceptable in adjudicated festivals, except in show choir categories.
23. Musicality is most important. If a performance is musical in nature, an adjudicator may forgive an occasional out-of-tune chord and almost anything else. Be expressive.

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR

Create and Maintain a Calendar

1. Before the school year starts, it is imperative that you meet with your administration/counselors to discuss scheduling for the choral music program.
2. You will want to determine how many classes you are teaching and obtain rosters for each of these classes.
3. Be sure you are familiar with the procedures for dropping and adding courses. Your counselors are vital to the success of your program, and it is important to develop friendly communications early on.
4. As soon as possible, provide your administration with a choral calendar for their approval.
5. This same calendar should also be distributed to students and their parents no later than the first few weeks of school.
6. It would be helpful to obtain a calendar from the previous year so you will know what types of performances for which the students are accustomed.
7. As you are scheduling concerts, be sure you are aware of other school events (especially if you have many singers involved in marching band or another sport) ACT testing dates, SATP testing dates and MMEA / ACDA sponsored events.

Registration with Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA)

1. In order for your students to be eligible to participate in choral music activities in the state, you must register both yourself and your students (student eligibility) with MHSAA. All forms are located in the choral manual on the MMEA website. Click on the Junior High Division tab or High School Division tab to download the handbooks. www.msmea.org
2. **FORM 1** registers you as a choral director. It can be found in the choral manual. It must be filled out completely, signed by your principal and submitted to the MHSAA office by September 15.
3. If this form is not received, your students will be unable to participate in choral festivals.
 - a. Submit to: LeAnna Dawson, MHSAA Assistant Executive Director ldawson@misshsaa.com

Student Eligibility

1. Students are academically eligible to participate in state-wide choral activities if they are the correct age/correct grade and they maintain a GPA of 2.0 or a C average.
2. Eligibility rules are explained in depth in the MHSAA manual.
3. If a student does not meet eligibility requirements they may participate in your school concerts, but they may **not** participate in any state-wide choral events that includes singers from another school (ie, district festival/honor choir and/or state performance assessment).
4. Submit eligibility through **DragonFly Max**.
5. Check with your athletic director or principal for instructions.

Membership of Professional Organizations

1. Join your professional music organizations so that your students will be eligible to participate in all of the choral music opportunities offered state-wide. Membership forms may be requested from each organization.
 - a. MMEA - email memberservices@nafme.org for a printable membership form
 - b. MS ACDA - visit www.msacda.org/files/6415/9553/3286/ACDA_Printable_Membership_Form.pdf

Repertoire Selection

1. Repertoire selection is one of the most important keys to success during your first year.
2. It is helpful to obtain old concert programs and recordings so you can ascertain the skill level of your singers, as well as an understanding of the kinds of repertoire they have been exposed to.
3. In many situations, it is best to wait to pick the majority of your repertoire until you have had a chance to hear and work with the singers.
4. Spend time before school starts narrowing down a large list of possibilities, then you will have many pieces ready to choose from once you have had an opportunity to hear your singers.
5. Be sure to choose several pieces for the beginning of the year that will provide your singers with success early on, and that they are sure to enjoy.
6. There will be many opportunities to challenge your singers throughout the year, and you will increase your chances of them rising to the challenges you set if you give them a feeling of success during the first weeks of school.

Festival Repertoire Selection

1. New directors may often run into situations where they are faced with a smaller number of men in their choir than desired. If this is the case remember that you can use SAB music for adjudicated festivals.
2. Each performing group sings two selections at the State Performance Assessments for both junior high school and high school.
 - a. For high school, one of these selections must come from the Mississippi, Texas or Florida Prescribed Music lists.
 - b. The second selection may be the choice of the director. Keep in mind that certain musical styles may not be appropriate for festival performance; if you have questions regarding the suitability of a piece of music for festival, it is always recommended that you contact a mentor or trusted colleague.

CHORAL MUSIC ACTIVITIES IN MISSISSIPPI

Sponsored by MHSAA, MMEA & MS ACDA

All-State Honor Choir

1. The event is sponsored by MMEA and MS ACDA.
2. Directors must be a member of MMEA / ACDA in order for their students to be eligible to participate.
3. Registration/auditions vary depending on the sponsoring organization.
4. Honor choirs rehearse and perform during the MMEA / ACDA State Conference, annually held in January.
 - a. Elementary - contact Celia Criddle ccriddle@nasd.ms or Joseph Coleman jcolemanedu516@gmail.com
 - b. JH All-State SSA Honor Choir - contact Jamie Lee Moore jamieleemoore88@gmail.com
 - c. JH All-State SATB Honor Choir - contact Ginger Partain gpartain@nettleton.k12.ms.us
 - d. JH All-State Honor Show Choir - contact Sam Lovorn slovorn@clintonpublicschools.com
 - e. HS All-State Treble Choir - contact Dale Beech dale.beech@dcsms.org
 - f. HS All-State SATB Honor Choir - contact Terrell Hall terrell.hall@dcsms.org
 - g. HS All-State Honor Show Choir - contact Toney Keeler ant501@rcsd.ms

Mississippi Solo & Ensemble MPA

1. This event is sponsored by both MMEA (Junior High) and MS ACDA (Senior High).
 - a. Elementary & Junior High Contact: Dr. Lynn Holliman lholliman@westernline.org
 - b. High School Contact: Jennifer Davis jdavis@starkvillesd.com
2. Directors must be a member of MMEA / ACDA in order for their students to be eligible to participate.
3. The event is organized by region so dates vary widely.
 - a. Information is provided at the fall business meeting and on the following websites: www.msmea.org www.msacda.org

Choral Art Festival

1. After you register yourself and your students with the MHSAA, you are eligible to participate in the Choral Art Festival.
2. Information is provided at the fall business meeting and on the following websites: www.msmea.org
 - a. In addition, regional specific information is disseminated through district chairs and/or regional site coordinators.
3. The Choral Art Festival, sponsored by MMEA, is an alternative festival to State Performance Assessment where choirs and small ensembles may choose between **Ratings** or **Comments Only** for both stage performance and sight-reading.
4. This choral experience is a perfect, non-threatening environment that is especially helpful for new or developing choral programs and/or new choral directors.
5. All choirs and small ensembles **should** perform two music selections **from memory**.
6. Any voicing of 6th grade students may participate but are not allowed to combine / perform with other grades.
7. Any voicing or combination of 7th-12th grade students may perform together.
8. Information is provided at the fall business meeting and on the following websites: www.msmea.org
 - a. Contact: Jordan Langworthy: jangworthy@madison-schools.com

State Performance Assessment

1. After you register yourself and your students with the MHSAA, you are eligible to participate in the State Performance Assessment.
2. Information is provided at the fall business meeting and on the following websites: www.msmea.org
 - a. In addition, regional specific information is disseminated through district chairs and/or regional site coordinators.
3. All participating choirs and small ensembles **must** perform two music selections **from memory**.
4. All participating choir and small ensemble students **must** sight-read at State Performance Assessment.
5. Eligible Groups:

- a. Junior High
 - i. Choirs: SA(T)B, SSA(A), T(T)B(B) - any combination
 - ii. Ensembles - SA(T)B, SSA(A), T(T)B(B) - any combination
- b. High School
 - i. Choirs: SA(T)B, SSA(A), T(T)B(B) - any combination
 - ii. Ensembles: High School - performing groups of 2-20 voices
 - 1. Suggested ensembles include but are not limited to:
 - a. Duets, trios, sextets, etc.
 - b. Traditional quartets: (1) voice per part, 4-part music, (4) singers
 - c. Non-traditional quartets: multiple voices on (1) part, 2 or 3-part music, (4) singers
 - d. Traditional sextets: no fewer than 3-part music, (6) singers
 - e. Non-traditional sextets: 2-part music, (6) singers
 - f. Traditional octet: no fewer than (4) parts, (8) singers
 - g. Non-traditional octet: 3-parts or fewer, (8) singers
 - h. Mixed Ensemble: any mix of SATB literature, no more than (20) singers
 - i. Treble Ensemble: any mix of SSAA literature, no more than (20) singers
 - j. TB Ensemble: any mix of TTBB literature, no more than (20) singers
 - 2. Ensembles with numerical references in their name (trio, quartet, sextet, etc.) shall not include more singers than the name implies. (Example: Quartets cannot have five singers)

Festival Preparation

1. Registration must be completed in January.
2. Fees must be paid in full before the assessment / festival event.
3. Submit your Travel/Bus Request form as soon as you receive the performance schedule.
 - a. Complete it ahead of time; then fill in the date & time
4. You are responsible for
 - a. Teaching sight-reading at the beginning of the school year and every day that follows - ensures success
 - i. Practice the specific festival procedures with your students in the weeks leading up to adjudication
 - ii. Masterworks Press sells past sight-reading examples from the state of Mississippi
 - b. Securing an accompanist for stage performance and sight-reading
 - i. You **MUST** pay the accompanist
 - c. Rules & procedures for sight-reading
 - i. Rules and procedure differ between junior and senior high levels
 - d. Preparing packets for the adjudicators:
 - i. Three original, clean copies of each piece of music with measures numbered
 - ii. Three copies of the adjudication forms
 - iii. One copy of the sight-reading adjudication form
5. Photocopied music will result in disqualification.
6. Clearly identify music used from the Choral Public Domain Library (CPDL). www.cpdll.org
7. Plan to arrive at least thirty minutes ahead of your first scheduled event..

ORGANIZATION & ASSOCIATION EXPLANATIONS

MHSAA – Mississippi High School Activities Association www.misshsaa.com

1. Sanctions out-of-school special activities such as festivals, honor choirs, and choir camp
2. Govern the MMEA High School Choral Division's State Performance Assessment and Choral Art Festival
3. Promotes the general welfare of secondary schools in their relationships with each other through planning, directing, and controlling assessments, games and other interscholastic activities, and through defining responsibilities.
4. Secondary schools that are accredited by the State Department of Mississippi or the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools are eligible for membership in MHSAA.
 - a. The principal of a school wishing to be a member must complete the required forms and pay an annual membership fee.
5. Affiliated with **National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)** www.nfhs.org

NafME – National Association for Music Education www.nafme.org

1. A national music organization committed to the advocacy of music education. NafME was instrumental in making sure the arts were included as a discipline in "Goals 2000: Educator America Act", now a law.
2. Membership in NafME includes membership in MMEA; for a membership form, email memberservices@nafme.org

MMEA – Mississippi Music Educators Association www.msmea.org

1. The local affiliate of the NafME organization
2. Co-Sponsors State Conference and Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessment with MS ACDA.
3. Supervises the mentor program and choir camp.
4. The Senior High Choral Division Executive Board are members of the MMEA Board.
 - a. They are liaisons to MHSAA who conduct business matters and initiate policy changes.

ACDA – American Choral Directors Association www.acda.org

1. The national organization for choral directors working in the following choral classifications: SATB/mixed, men, women, boy, girl, ethnic, jazz / show choir, church, and children's choirs.
2. Benefits directors of singers from elementary through college, music administrators and others involved in community, church, and professional choirs.
3. Membership in ACDA includes membership in MS ACDA; for a membership form, email
4. The ACDA Advocacy Resolution supports necessary funding at the local, state, and national levels of education and government to ensure the survival of arts programs for this and future generations.

MS ACDA – Mississippi Choral Directors Association www.msacda.org

1. The state chapter of the ACDA organization.
2. Sponsors (4) honor choir opportunities for high school students, chaired by members of the MS ACDA board.
 - a. All-State SATB Honor Choir
 - b. All-State Treble Honor Choir
 - c. All-State Honor Show Choir
3. Co-Sponsors State Conference and Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessment with MMEA.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Delta State University High School Honor Choir

An annual and enriching honor choir experience, by audition, for outstanding high school SATB choral / vocal students of Mississippi.

Contact: Dr. Julia Thorn jthorn@deltastate.edu

Festival of Choirs

An annual community mass choir sponsored by The Southern Miss Gulf Coast Civic Chorale in Long Beach. Contact: Dr. Jonathan Kilgore jonathan.kilgore@usm.edu

Mississippi Aca-Fest

A workshop for teachers and students who are interested in contemporary a cappella groups. Contact: Jeffery Coulter jeffery.coulter@lamarcountyschools.org

Mississippi State University Choral Colloquium

Choral directors choose their most outstanding middle school and high school singers to form an honor choir with an internationally known conductor. www.statesings.com

Ole Miss Tenor/Bass Choir Festival & Treble Choir Festival

Two different choral festivals that include an opportunity for advanced middle school, high school, community college, university, and adult singers to perform together and learn from each other. Choral organizations are asked to bring balanced quartets.

Tenor/Bass Choir Contact: Dr. Don Trott dtrott@olemiss.edu

Treble Choir Contact: Dr. Elizabeth Hearn ehearn@olemiss.edu

Riverland Choral Festival

An annual adjudicated festival sponsored by the Pearl Singers, Pearl High School. Contact: Andy Beasley abeasley@pearlk12.com

The Spirit of Southern Invitational

An adjudicated event for contemporary a cappella groups, 16 mic wireless system & technician provided, and small high school or community college choral ensembles, 25 singers or less of any format. Feedback from a panel of adjudicators given as well as trophies across four divisions. Contact: Dr. Jonathan Kilgore jonathan.kilgore@usm.edu

The University of Southern Mississippi Southern Invitational Choral Conference (SICC)

Choral directors choose their most outstanding high school singers to form an honor choir with an internationally known conductor.

<http://www.usm.edu/music/choirs>

Treble Song Honor Choir

An annual and enriching honor choir experience, by audition, for SSA singers in middle school and high school. Contact Kristy Brumfield dan124@madison-schools.com

William Carey Honor Choir

Choral directors submit nominations of their most outstanding high school singers to form an honor choir with an internationally known conductor. Contact: Alexandra Arnold aarnold@wmcarey.edu

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

Arts Instructional Resources for Choral and Instrumental Music, updated June 2023

https://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/Offices/Secondary%20Ed/ARTS/arts_instructional_resources_for_choral_and_instrumental_music_june-2023_updated.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3kOJuyyGb9np8VUSN_oONrmyMDcX3vasm5Etg4N-f2HVt41TYYSwQfZ2w_aem_AfNP_93XzS6_iASTMdk8cP0PMNMbtWWTmFR8nqtWRS-JYc_4-pNnuJIOlrGmPkZUnwA

Choral Music Course Descriptions

The Choral Performance program of study serves as a guide to develop curriculum for choral performance classes. The classes aim to include students who choose to pursue choral performance and identify with the sounds of singing and its expressive qualities. The idea of singing for an audience motivates students to work hard for performance goals and students are able to sing in two and three parts. Vocal maturation results in an entirely different singing sound from the earlier grades. This is an excellent time to develop vocal technique, increase music literacy skills, and learn basic elements of music theory. Choral courses allow students to continue music learning through the study of choral performance repertoire. In addition to learning repertoire, students will continue to develop vocal technique, sight singing, and ear training skills. p.32

Choral Music courses allow students to continue music learning through the study of choral performance repertoire. In addition to learning repertoire, students will continue to develop vocal technique, sight singing, and ear training skills. Students who choose to enroll in choral music courses in successive years are expected to master three proficiency levels (proficient, accomplished, advanced) in the high school performance standards. p. 32