

**St. Louis Suburban MMEA District 5**  
**Middle School**  
**Large Group Festival - 2024**  
**General Rules, Guidelines, and Information**  
*Updated – August 1, 2023*

**1. ELIGIBILITY**

Students participating in the festival must be enrolled in and doing regular work in the school which they represent. All participants must be regular members of the organization entered, with the exception of accompanists for vocal events.

**2. ENTRANCE GUIDELINES**

**Vocal events**

Middle schools and junior high schools may enter any large choral ensemble, of any voicing that is sufficiently developed and prepared to represent that school and be evaluated against a set of standards in comparison with other schools.

**Instrumental events**

Middle schools and junior high schools may enter any concert band or orchestra ensemble that is sufficiently developed and prepared to represent that school and be evaluated against a set of standards in comparison with other schools.

**3. ENTRY FEE**

Schools will pay a \$75.00 fee for each ensemble entered. Schools will pay this fee directly to *St. Louis Suburban MMEA District 5*. There will be no cancellation fee.

After all entries have been received and a schedule distributed, directors will receive an invoice for each ensemble entered in the large group ensemble festival. You will receive the invoice via email. Checks should be made payable to *St. Louis Suburban MMEA District 5*. Follow the instructions on the invoice on how and where to process payment. DO NOT bring checks or money to the event.

*If for any reason after the schedule has been distributed to all schools you must cancel your ensemble's performance, you must contact the festival chair ASAP. If you cancel after February 16, 2024, you will still be responsible for the \$75.00 entry fee.*

**4. TIME LIMITS**

- Middle school/junior high school choir – 15 minutes
- Middle school/junior high school band – 20 minutes
- Middle school/junior high school orchestra – 20 minutes

These times are TOTAL TIMES. Time for movement on and off the stage, as well as tuning, should take place within the allotted time. Groups still performing at the end of their allotted time will be stopped.

## **5. SELECTION OF MUSIC**

The selection of music for all groups is the option of the individual director. There are no required selections. If more than one selection is performed, the selections should be of contrasting style and/or represent different eras of compositional development. Musical selections performed last year cannot be repeated by the same group this year.

## **6. MUSIC SCORES FOR THE ADJUDICATOR**

Each of the three adjudicators for band, choir, and orchestra shall be furnished a published score for each selection. Each measure of the adjudicators' scores must be numbered.

Photocopied scores will be allowed only when accompanied by a letter from the music publisher indicating approval that a copy can be made. Verification that the music is on order is not sufficient to allow the use of photocopies. Only the music publisher can grant permission for a photocopy to be made and used. Use of illegal photocopies will result in disqualification

## **7. STUDENT/APPRENTICE TEACHERS**

Student/apprentice teachers shall be allowed to conduct groups at large group festivals, provided that the cooperating teacher is in attendance.

***(There will be no sight-reading for vocal events in 2024)***

## **8. SIGHTREADING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL VOCAL FESTIVALS**

Unison Level 1:

- 8 measures in 4/4 time starting and ending on "Do" (tonic)
- quarter, half, whole notes
- quarter note rest (only at phrase endings)
- melody stepwise
- single treble staff line
- keys of G, F

Unison Level 2:

- 8 measures in 4/4 time starting and ending on "Do" (tonic)
- eighth, quarter, half, whole notes
- quarter rests internally placed inside a measure
- unison melody, seen on TWO staves for Mixed Choruses (treble & bass clef)
- skips of "M"- "S" or "M"- "D"
- keys of G, F

Two Part Level 1:

- 8 measures in 4/4 time starting and ending on "Do" (tonic)
- quarter, half, wholes notes
- quarter note rest (only at phrase endings)

2 treble staves joined  
melody stepwise  
keys of G, F

SSA:

16 measures in 4/4 time beginning with unison "Do" (tonic)  
eighth, quarter, half, whole notes  
quarter rests internally placed inside a measure  
three treble staves joined  
melodic skips of 3rds and 5ths  
harmony mostly chordal with some passing tones  
keys of G, F

SAB:

16 measures in 4/4 time beginning with unison "Do" (tonic)  
eighth, quarter, half, whole notes  
quarter rests internally placed inside a measure  
2 treble staves joined with one bass staff  
melodic skips of 3rds and 5ths  
harmony mostly chordal with some passing tones  
keys of G,F

## **9. LARGE GROUP ENSEMBLE - STANDARDS FOR RATINGS**

Adjudicators for solo and small ensemble festival, as well as the large group festivals, will be guided by the following standards for ratings:

**RATING I - SUPERIOR:** An exemplary performance that consistently demonstrates true musical expression and few technical errors. The performance is worthy of the distinction of being recognized as among the very best for the Middle School/Junior High school level.

**RATING II – EXCELLENT:** An outstanding performance of distinctive quality for the Middle School/Junior High school level yet has minor defects in musical expression and fundamental technique.

**RATING III – GOOD:** A satisfactory performance showing accomplishment and marked promise for the Middle School/Junior High school level, but lacking consistency of musical expression and fundamental technique.

**RATING IV - FAIR:** A developing performance for the Middle School/Junior High school level indicating room for improvement in consistent musical expression and fundamental technique. Such a performance would include many technical errors, poor musical expression and ineffective use of existing instrumentation or choral voicing.

**RATING V - WEAK:** An ineffective performance indicating obvious lack of overall preparation for the Middle School/Junior High school level.

## **10. DETERMINING FINAL RATINGS FOR LARGE GROUPS**

The evaluation of each of the three judges for large groups shall count one third in determining the final rating. Each adjudicator shall give ratings as follows: Rating I, Rating II, Rating III, Rating IV, and Rating V. The following points shall be assigned each adjudicator's rating to determine the final rating for large ensembles: Rating I – one point, Rating II – 2 points, Rating III – 3 points, Rating IV – 4 points, and Rating V – 5 points.

The following scale shall determine the final rating for large groups from the ratings given by the individual adjudicators:

Rating I -----	3 through 4 points
Rating II -----	5 through 7 points
Rating III -----	8 through 10 points
Rating IV -----	11 through 13 points
Rating V -----	14 through 15 points

NOTE: Plus and minuses shall may be considered in determining the final rating.

## **11. LATE ENTRIES**

Late entries will be accepted only under extenuating circumstances and at the discretion of the festival manager. The festival chair will contact the directors submitting the late entries and inform them if their late entries have been accepted.