

MACARTHUR HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL DEPARTMENT
4400 Aldine Mail Route
Houston, Texas 77039
281-985-6330 (MacArthur Main Office)

To the Choral Directors of Region 19:

On behalf of the Aldine Independent School District, we welcome you and your students to the 2013 Region 19 UIL North Zone Middle School Concert and Sight-Reading Contest at MacArthur Senior High School on Tuesday, March 4th and Wednesday, March 5th. Please read the following information to help you in your preparations.

Schools are to drop off their choirs on the Bus Ramp, near the cafeteria construction. Buses will enter the Bus Ramp by turning onto Gloger Dr. from the traffic light on Aldine Mail Route (refer to map). A Choir Guide will meet the director on the Bus Ramp and lead the director into the building. Students and Chaperons must wait outside or on the buses and be escorted into the building. Our cafeteria is under construction and we will be directing all hallway traffic in order to keep the contest running smoothly.

Parking space is very limited at MacArthur and because of this all school buses will be directed to specific parking lot on site. Sign will be posted and please refer to the map. We will have a staff member to assist in directing your buses.

We ask that you plan on having your Choirs wait on the buses this year. Our cafeteria is currently under construction and completely unavailable for holding students. There is no holding area other than the auditorium and seating space is very limited in our auditorium. We will be directing all people/choir “traffic” to make sure the contest runs smoothly.

Our 9th and High School campuses begin the dismissal process at 2:00pm; Aldine Mail route becomes an extremely high traffic and congested road from 2:00 - 3:30pm. Schools that are arriving between 2:00-3:30pm, plan to arrive very early. Schools ready to leave between these times may be asked wait a few minutes until traffic clears up. When picking up or dropping off between 2:00pm and 3:30pm, direct your bus drivers to enter the Bus Parking lot (refer to map), not the Bus Ramp. The bus ramp and main entrance will be unavailable due to dismissal buses and parents picking up students.

The Contest Office is in room 107, across from auditorium. Please have your forms and numbered scores ready for the contest staff. The Warm-up room will be in the Drama room, Performances in the Auditorium, and Sight-Reading will be in the Choir room. There will be 6 sections of 4-step risers in the warm-up room and on stage. The stage curtain will not close following the individual choir performances. 3-step risers will be used in the sight-reading room.

In order to keep the contest flowing smoothly we will stick strictly to the schedule. A Choir Guide will meet your choirs at their bus or outside underneath the bus ramp overhang 10 minutes before your warm-up time. The Choir Guides are instructed to move you from the warm-up to the stage 2 ½ minutes before your performance time. This means you only receive approximately 17 minutes on the risers in the warm up room. Please do not be late to warm-up as we cannot give you any additional time.

Please be advised of the following:

1. **Students must remain quiet while in the hallway or in front of the auditorium.** The warm-up room, stage, and sight-reading rooms are very close to each other. All loud conversations or noises will be easily heard by our judges and performing choirs. Please remind your students and parents so that we can create the best performance environment for all.
2. **There is no holding area other than the auditorium.** Our auditorium has no balcony and has very limited seating; therefore audience members will only be able to sit behind the judges.
3. Directors and/or chaperons must monitor and supervise their students at all times.
4. No one will be allowed into the auditorium once a choir has started their performance on the stage.
5. No food, drink, candy, or gum will be allowed in the auditorium.
6. Please remind students to be considerate audience members. Inconsiderate behavior by the audience will not be tolerated.
7. Please have your students come dressed to perform. There is no space available for changing.
8. Please remind students and adults to turn all cell phones off/silent during the competition process.
9. No personal recording devices will be allowed at the contest site. Portable electronics can also interfere with the recording equipment.
10. For safety and security reasons your **students are not to wander the building or go to the restrooms unescorted.**
11. We are not responsible for lost or stolen items. Take very little or leave it on your buses.
12. Schools staying during lunch time must make plans to eat off campus.

Please feel free to contact me (mrschirado@aldine.k12.tx.us or Choir Office 281-985-6538) if you have any questions. Best wishes to you and your students in preparations for the contest.

Sincerely,

Mr. Micah Schirado / Mrs. Danielle Stadick
MacArthur High School
Choral Directors