



## Alamo Heights Junior School Choir

7607 N. New Braunfels ~ San Antonio, TX 78209  
rholliday@ahisd.net ~ (210)660-8863

August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Parents of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Students,

The Texas Music Educator's Association sponsors an activity to honor outstanding middle school choir students from Bexar County and the surrounding area. For this competition, students sing three prepared Region pieces for a panel of judges. The judges then select the strongest performers from each section for membership into the Region Honor choir. The Region competition is held on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> for boys, and Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> for girls (8<sup>th</sup> grade in the morning and 7<sup>th</sup> grade in the afternoon). All of the Region auditions will take place at Tex Hill Middle School in NEISD. Students selected for the Region Choir will be involved in a clinic and concert on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at Seguin High School. The clinic is lead by some of the most well known music educators within the state of Texas. The Region choir is an **extremely** high honor, and it is hoped that many of our choir students will choose to participate in this competition.

**Students wishing to compete must be able to complete the following criteria:**

- Students must be academically eligible to participate
- Students must turn in their \$20 registration fee and registration form by September 20<sup>th</sup>.  
**This fee is non-refundable.** *Scholarships are available on an as-needed basis*
- All boys must be available Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm-9:00pm.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls must be available Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> 7:30am-12:30pm.
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls must be available Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm-6:00pm.
- Provide his/her own transportation to and from the competition (Tex Hill MS) and clinic (Seguin High School). *If we have enough participants, we may be able to provide a bus.*
- Students who audition for Region Choir must be prepared to attend the Region clinic on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Seguin High School.

Please contact Mrs. Holliday if you have additional questions concerning Region Choir.

Sincerely,

Rachel Holliday  
Director of Choral Music  
Alamo Heights Junior School

### **What is the purpose of the Honor choir?**

The purpose of the Region 12 Honor choir is to select some of the top vocal musicians from local middle schools. Participation in the Region Honor Choir allows students to receive recognition for their vocal talents. Your child will be competing individually against every child that is registered for his/her voice part. There are well over 700 students competing in this contest. In some situations you may have 150 students competing for 40 "chairs" (slots). This is why it is a *huge honor* to be selected for this prestigious choir.

### **For which Honor Choir is my child auditioning?**

There are three Honor Choirs for which students can audition.

- **The SA Honor choir** (Soprano, Alto) - 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls.
- **The SSA Honor Choir** (Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto) - 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls.
- **The TTB Honor Choir** (Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Bass) - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys.

### **How does my child prepare for auditions?**

Each Honor Choir has three pre-selected choir pieces that each student will need to learn fully with the help of Mrs. Holliday and a practice tracks on Google Classroom. In order to be successful, students must practice music on their own time in addition to rehearsing at school. Mrs. Holliday is available for rehearsing before school, during lunch and after school upon appointment.

### **When will my child audition and how is that decided?**

Each student will receive a badge number upon registration at the beginning of each contest. Each child auditioning will have a different badge number that was randomly assigned through the use of a computer program. This computer program will also calculate scores and rankings throughout the day. Students are called in numerical order. The last three digits on their badge will indicate the order in which they will audition. There is no way of knowing exactly when a child will audition. This is why we ask students to plan on being at the contest site for a majority of the day. Low numbers will audition earlier in the day and high numbers will audition later. While waiting to audition, students are not allowed to be on electronic devices or practice their music. Once your child auditions, they may go home. A chaperone may escort a student outside to use a cell phone to call home when they are ready to be picked up after they audition. Mrs. Holliday will contact students the evening of the contest to inform them of results.

### **What is the actual audition process?**

Selection to become a member of the Region 12 Honor Choir is determined through an audition process. Each student will individually sing the same prepared pieces for a panel of judges. Each contestant will sing a small section of the three prepared pieces. These sections are referred to as "cuts". The CD used during the region auditions is identical to the practice tracks that our students will use in preparation for this contest. The contest "cuts" will be given to students the day before the contest.

Students will compete against other students on their voice part. Each panel of judges will only hear students auditioning on a specific voice part and for a specific honor choir. For example, one panel of judges will be responsible for listening to all of the students auditioning on Soprano 2 for the SSA choir.

During the audition process, students are not seen by the judges in order to maintain anonymity and ensure fair judging practices. A contest monitor will escort the contestant to their contest room. When the contestant indicates that he/she is ready to begin, the monitor will start the CD and quietly leave the room. Each audition lasts approximately two minutes.

Each judge will rank singers based on the success of their audition. There are usually five judges on a panel. When determining a contestant's ranking, the highest and lowest rankings received within the panel of judges are discarded and an average of the three middle scores is used. Students are then assigned a "chair" (their ranking) with 1<sup>st</sup> chair being the highest.

### **What happens if my child is chosen as a member of the Region 12 Honor Choir?**

Once a child has been selected into the Honor Choir, they have the privilege of attending the Region clinic and concert (November 2<sup>nd</sup>). All students selected for the Region Honor Choir are required to attend this event. During the Region Honor Choir clinic, students will have the opportunity to work with top choral directors from across the state. The afternoon of the clinic culminates with a final concert consisting of all the students chosen to participate in the Region 12 Honor Choir. The Honor Choir clinic and concert allows the students to experience new ideas and musical interpretation from very gifted choral conductors. Students receive a Region Honor Choir badge for participating in the clinic and concert.

# 2019 Region 12 Honor Choir Auditions

(Please detach and return **this page only**)

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_ft\_\_\_\_in

Which choir are you auditioning for?

- TTB – 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys – Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm-9:00pm
- SA – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls – Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm-6:00pm
- SSA – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls – Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> 7:30am-12:30pm

Which voice part are you auditioning for?

- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Soprano
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Alto
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Soprano 1
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Soprano 2
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Alto
- Tenor 1
- Tenor 2
- Bass
- I'm not sure...

**PARENTS:** Please indicate if you are available to help with any of the following:

- Chaperone boys contest
- Chaperone 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls contest
- Chaperone 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls contest
- Donate snacks
- Donate water
- Help carpool students to contest

Please check one of the following:

- I have attached the \$20 entry fee (cash or checks payable to AHISD) and I understand that it is non-refundable.
- I have attached partial payment of the entry fee and would like to be considered for a scholarship to cover the remainder of the payment.
- I am unable to supply the entry fee at this time and would like to be considered for a scholarship to cover payment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent phone number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent email address

Please return this page to Mrs. Holliday no later than Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>