

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ELEMENTARY HONORS CHORUS**

September 2014

Dear Elementary General Choral Music Teacher:

Here are the instructions, timeline and sample forms you will need to complete this year's Elementary Honors Chorus selection, notification, and registration process. Please read this material carefully, make every effort to meet each deadline, and email Kecia Hayman at the address below if you have any questions.

**Note: Every school is expected to nominate students.**

- **Avoid scheduling school performances that will conflict with Honors Chorus rehearsal and performance schedules.**
- Schedule auditions early enough to avoid conflicts with other school activities. Your school nomination list, registration forms, and permission slips for all nominated students must reach Ms. Kecia Hayman, Honors Chorus Manager, at Lake Seneca Elementary School, 13600 Wanegarden Drive, Germantown, MD, 20874, by November 19, 2014, or the places reserved for your school will be given to another school.
- Be sure to use the audition procedures and rating sheet to insure that students you nominate sing with head voice, are able to match pitch, maintain a harmony part, will attend regularly and participate responsibly.
- Please e-mail Ms. Kecia Hayman at [Kecia\\_L\\_Hayman@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kecia_L_Hayman@mcpsmd.org) as soon as possible if you learn that a child you nominated will not participate.
- Please help organize car pools and see that all chorus members from your school have each other's phone numbers.
- We need your help in encouraging **excellent advanced** piano students to audition as student accompanists.

We are looking forward to our best year yet. Thanks for your enthusiasm and support.

Katherine Murphy, Fine Arts Content Specialist  
General and Choral Music  
[Katherine\\_A\\_Murphy@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Katherine_A_Murphy@mcpsmd.org)

Kecia Hayman, Manager  
North County Honors Chorus  
[Kecia\\_L\\_Hayman@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kecia_L_Hayman@mcpsmd.org)

KAM:bs

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ELEMENTARY HONORS CHORUS**

**NORTH COUNTY TIMELINE**

Deadline Dates

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| September 2014         | Information packet and sample forms distributed to Elementary General Music Teachers  |
| September–October 2014 | Elementary General Music Teachers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sign and distribute information letter to parents announcing auditions.</li><li>• Conduct auditions, send acceptance letter and permission slip home with nominated students.</li><li>• Distribute information sheet to parents of potential student accompanist and encourage them to make an audition appointment.</li></ul> |
| November 5, 2014       | Permission slips returned to Elementary General Music Teachers by nominated students.   |
| November 19, 2014      | Nomination lists and permission slips for all nominated students must be received by Ms. Kecia Hayman, Honors Chorus Manager, at Lake Seneca Elementary School, 13600 Wanegarden Drive, Germantown, MD, 20874.  |
| January 8, 2015        | Auditions for Student Accompanist   |
| February (1st week)    | Distribute directions to rehearsal site and assist students in forming carpools.  |
| February 11, 2015      | Rehearsals begin (see complete schedule below).   |

**REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCE**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Rehearsals:      | Wednesdays, 7:15–8:45 p.m., Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School<br>13737 Wisteria Drive<br>Germantown, Maryland 20874                         |
|                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• February 11, 18, 25, 2015</li><li>• March 4, 11, 18, 25, 2015</li><li>• April 1, 15, 22, 29, 2015</li></ul> |
| Final Rehearsal: | Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 7:15–9:00 p.m., Watkins Mill High School<br>10301 Apple Ridge Road<br>Gaithersburg, MD 20879                                |
| Concert:         | Wednesday, May 13, 2015, 8:15 p.m., Watkins Mill High School<br>(Students are expected to be in the Choral Music Room at 7:15 p.m.)                 |

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ELEMENTARY HONORS CHORUS**

September 2014

**Chorus Description**

The Elementary Honors Choruses were established in 1982 to bring talented children of various backgrounds together to study and perform choral music representing a wide variety of historical eras and cultures and to achieve the following objectives:

- To provide a high-level performance opportunity for fifth grade students with outstanding choral singing ability.
- To help students develop and refine choral singing skills and enhance their ability to read music.
- To reinforce Curriculum Framework objectives for the elementary general music program.
- To bring talented children of various backgrounds together to study and perform choral music representing a wide variety of historical eras and cultures.
- To strengthen the choral program in MCPS elementary schools by providing opportunities for teachers to observe exemplary choral teaching techniques.

**Instructions for Audition and Selection**

1. For purposes of the Elementary Honors Choruses, the county has been divided into two geographic districts. The attached list indicates the number of students you may send from your school based on approximately 4 percent of the projected number of students in the highest grade (5 or 6). This will result in a chorus which numbers approximately 220 students.
2. The audition is designed to obtain a variety of information about each student. Only those students who demonstrate accuracy of pitch, ability to maintain a harmony part and use of head voice should be nominated for the Honors Chorus.

If you have any questions about the audition procedures, please e-mail Kecia Hayman at [Kecia\\_L\\_Hayman@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kecia_L_Hayman@mcpsmd.org).

3. Please evaluate the data recorded on the audition score sheet in order to make final determination of the students your school will send. Keep the completed audition score sheet. We realize that decisions are difficult since so few children are eligible. Please use your best judgment.
4. After completing auditions and making your selections (October 22, 2014, at the latest), give a permission slip to each student you are nominating, asking for its return within three school days. When all have been returned, please forward them to Ms. Kecia Hayman at Lake Seneca Elementary School, 13600 Wanegarden Drive, Germantown, MD, 20874, together with the list of nominated students. The deadline for receipt of these items is November 19, 2014. In the event that a school does not nominate the number of students for which it is eligible, or if the permission slips are not returned by the deadline, those positions will be redistributed to another school.
5. On November 19, 2014, the honors chorus managers will begin to create extensive databases rosters, and nametags, therefore no additional student names will be accepted after this date (except for additional spots as determined by the management).

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ELEMENTARY HONORS CHORUS**

**North County Schools**

**2014–2015**

**Chorus Manager: Ms. Kecia Hayman, general/choral music teacher,  
Lake Seneca Elementary School.**

These numbers indicate the number of students that are eligible to participate in the North County Elementary Honors Chorus.

| <b>School</b>       | <b>Number Eligible</b> | <b>School</b>        | <b>Number Eligible</b> | <b>School</b>     | <b>Number Eligible</b> |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Beall               | 5                      | Fox Chapel           | 6                      | Potomac           | 4                      |
| Belmont             | 2                      | Gaithersburg         | 4                      | Judith A. Resnik  | 3                      |
| Brooke Grove        | 3                      | Germantown           | 2                      | Dr. Sally K. Ride | 4                      |
| Brown Station       | 3                      | William B. Gibbs Jr. | 5                      | Ritchie Park      | 4                      |
| Candlewood          | 2                      | Goshen               | 4                      | Lois P. Rockwell  | 3                      |
| Rachel Carson       | 6                      | Great Seneca Creek   | 5                      | Rosemont          | 3                      |
| Cashell             | 2                      | Greenwood            | 4                      | Sequoyah          | 3                      |
| Cedar Grove         | 5                      | Jones Lane           | 4                      | South Lake        | 5                      |
| Clarksburg          | 2                      | Lake Seneca          | 2                      | Stedwick          | 4                      |
| Clearspring         | 7                      | Lakewood             | 4                      | Stone Mill        | 4                      |
| Clopper Mill        | 2                      | Laytonsville         | 3                      | Strawberry Knoll  | 3                      |
| Cold Spring         | 4                      | Little Bennett       | 7                      | Summit Hall       | 3                      |
| College Gardens     | 5                      | Thurgood Marshall    | 3                      | Travilah          | 3                      |
| Capt. James E. Daly | 4                      | Maryvale             | 3                      | Washington Grove  | 2                      |
| Damascus            | 2                      | Spark M. Matsunaga   | 7                      | Waters Landing    | 4                      |
| Darnestown          | 3                      | S. Christa McAuliffe | 4                      | Watkins Mill      | 4                      |
| Diamond             | 4                      | Ronald McNair        | 5                      | Wayside           | 4                      |
| DuFief              | 2                      | Mill Creek Towne     | 2                      | Whetstone         | 4                      |
| Fallsmead           | 5                      | Monocacy             | 2                      | Woodfield         | 3                      |
| Fields Road         | 3                      | Olney                | 5                      |                   |                        |
| Flower Hill         | 3                      | Poolesville          | 3                      |                   |                        |

## ELEMENTARY HONORS CHORUS AUDITION

**Instructions:** Record points earned in each category on the Audition Score Sheet using the scoring rubrics provided. Consider recording auditions to allow for further reflection. In addition, this may provide parents with insight into your decision, should they question your judgment.

**I. Range:** Student is able to vocalize all pitches in exercise below.

Repeat pattern on the following beginning pitches.



*Scoring* -      Yes = 4 points      No = 0 points

**II. Ability to sing on pitch:** Student sings “Happy Birthday” (unaccompanied) maintaining pitch accuracy. *Teacher should play tonic triad (G, B, D) and beginning pitch (D) ONLY.*

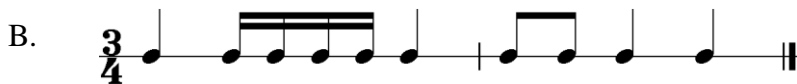
*Scoring* - 4 – Completely accurate  
3 – Very few mistakes  
2 – Inaccurate  
0 – Unable to maintain pitch

### III. Aural Memory (Ability to learn music quickly):

**RHYTHM:** Student echo-claps the following patterns clapped by the teacher; one hearing only, one try only. Score each example separately.



This example is to establish the procedure.  
DO NOT SCORE THIS EXAMPLE.



*Scoring* - 4 – Completely accurate  
3 – Very few mistakes  
2 – Inaccurate  
0 – Unable to maintain pitch

OVER

**MELODY:** Student echo-sings, on “loo,” the following patterns played on the piano; one hearing only, one try only. Score each example separately.



This example is to establish the procedure.  
DO NOT SCORE THIS EXAMPLE.



*Scoring -*

- 4 – Completely accurate
- 3 – Very few mistakes
- 2 – Inaccurate
- 0 – Unable to maintain pitch

**If student’s score on part III is 18 or higher, then proceed to part IV.  
If not, child is ineligible for Honors Chorus.**

**IV. Ability to maintain harmony part:** Student sings ostinato below as teacher sings the melody of “Hey, Ho! Nobody Home.” Student should be able to maintain the ostinato with pitch and rhythm accuracy.



*Scoring -*

- 4 – Completely accurate
- 3 – Very few mistakes
- 2 – Inaccurate
- 0 – Unable to maintain pitch

**Total the student’s points to obtain his/her score.**

# ELEMENTARY HONORS CHORUS AUDITION SCORE SHEET

[illegible]

For the final column (Behavior/Commitment Exceptions), please indicate that the student is aware of and agrees to the behavior and commitment expectations for honor chorus.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ELEMENTARY HONORS CHORUS**

Fall 2014

Dear Parent:

Your child is eligible to audition for membership in the 2015 Elementary Honors Chorus. The Honors Chorus was formed in 1982 by the MCPS Department of Curriculum and Instruction to bring together talented children of various backgrounds to study and perform choral music representing a wide variety of historical eras and cultures and to achieve the following objectives:

- To provide a challenging performance opportunity for elementary students in the highest grade (5 or 6) with outstanding singing ability.
- To help students develop and refine choral singing skills and enhance their ability to read music.
- To reinforce the curriculum framework objectives for the elementary schools by providing opportunities for teachers to observe exemplary choral teaching techniques.

The audition is designed to obtain a variety of information about each student. The audition will be administered to all interested students during the school day by their school general/choral music teachers.

Rehearsals will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7:15–8:45 p.m., at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School, 13737 Wisteria Drive, Germantown, Maryland 20874. Rehearsals will begin on February 11, 2015. The concert will be held on May 13, 2015, at Watkins Mill High School. Attendance at all rehearsals is expected. Participants are responsible for providing their own transportation.

I hope you will encourage your child to audition. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Choral Director

KAM:bs



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ELEMENTARY HONORS CHORUS**

**Student Accompanists**

The Elementary Honors Chorus presents opportunities for qualified students to participate as student accompanists. One or two advanced pianists will be selected to accompany one selection performed by the chorus and possibly to perform a solo as well. Please make the following information known to all students whom you believe to be interested and qualified:

Qualifications:

- a. The student should be currently enrolled in Grade 5 (or in Grade 6 in a school which includes sixth grade).
- b. The student should be unusually musical, well past intermediate level and able to demonstrate the ability to accompany standard octavo music for treble chorus.

Auditions:

- a. Auditions will be held on the evening of **Thursday, January 8, 2015**. Appointments should be made by the student's parent/guardian by calling the music secretary at 301-279-3250, **no later than December 2, 2014**.
- b. Students will be asked to perform two solo compositions of their choice for a selection committee composed of the North and South County conductors, accompanists, Honors Chorus Managers and the General/Choral Music Coordinator. It is not necessary to memorize these selections.
- c. Students will be mailed a copy of a choral accompaniment to be practiced at home and played at the audition. It is not necessary to memorize this.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ELEMENTARY HONORS CHORUS**

November 2014

Dear Parent:

CONGRATULATIONS! Your child has been chosen by the elementary general music teacher to be a representative from your school to the 2015 North County Elementary Honors Chorus. This selection was made through audition on the basis of his/her demonstrated musical ability. Only a few students from each school have been selected to participate in this exciting choral experience.

Rehearsals will be held every Wednesday evening from 7:15–8:45 p.m. at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School, 13737 Wisteria Drive, Germantown, Maryland 20874. Please mark your calendar with the rehearsal and performance dates listed on the next page.

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals as well as the concert. Students are allowed three absences. A fourth absence, however, will result in loss of chorus membership and the student will not be eligible to perform in the concert. Attendance at the final rehearsal on May 6, 2015, is mandatory. Any student absent from rehearsal will not be permitted to participate in the concert. Chorus members are expected to follow adult directions during rehearsals. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the chorus. Participants are responsible for their own transportation. Parents are encouraged to arrange carpools. Please contact the music teacher if assistance is needed.

We believe that children with outstanding musical abilities should be recognized and provided with opportunities to expand their musical potential. You and your child should feel a great sense of pride in his/her selection for the Elementary Honors Chorus. Because membership in the Elementary Honors Chorus involves a major commitment of time for the rehearsals and performance, we recommend that you and your child discuss this responsibility before accepting the nomination.

The registration fee is \$20.00. This fee is non-refundable. This program is entirely funded by participant fees. We do not wish to exclude any student for whom this fee may represent a financial hardship. If this is the case, please speak with your principal, who will work with us to arrange assistance.

Please be sure that your child returns the attached Permission Slip/Registration Form to your school's music teacher by November 5, 2014 together with your check in the amount of \$20.00, made payable to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). Registration is not complete until both items have been returned. *Include your child's full name on the line in the lower left hand corner of your check.*

We hope you will support your child's opportunity to work together with other students at this high level of musical endeavor.

Katherine A. Murphy  
Fine Arts Instructional Specialist  
Katherine\_A\_Murphy@mcpsmd.org

Kecia L. Hayman, Manager  
North County Honors Chorus  
Kecia\_L\_Hayman@mcpsmd.org

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Enclosures

If you have any questions, contact Kecia Hayman, North County Honors Chorus Manager, at [Kecia\\_L\\_Hayman@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kecia_L_Hayman@mcpsmd.org).

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ELEMENTARY HONORS CHORUS**

**PERMISSION SLIP/REGISTRATION FORM**

My child, \_\_\_\_\_ understands the commitment of  
First Name Last Name  
time, attendance, and behavior and accepts the nomination for membership in the North County  
Elementary Honors Chorus. I will support his/her participation in this activity.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

**STUDENT NAME**

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**SCHOOL STUDENT ATTENDS**

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**NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN**

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Parent E-mail address

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Student ID #

**RETURN BY NOVEMBER 19, 2014**

**ELEMENTARY HONORS CHORUS  
SCHOOL NOMINATION LIST  
(NORTH COUNTY)**

School \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

**DO NOT LIST ANY STUDENT UNTIL A SIGNED PERMISSION SLIP HAS BEEN RETURNED.**

**DO NOT LIST MORE STUDENTS THAN THE NUMBER INDICATED ON THE ELIGIBILITY LIST.**

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>STUDENT<br/>ID NUMBER</u> | <u>HEIGHT<br/>IN INCHES</u> | <u>CHECK #</u> |
|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. _____    | _____                        | _____ inches                | _____          |
| 2. _____    | _____                        | _____ inches                | _____          |
| 3. _____    | _____                        | _____ inches                | _____          |
| 4. _____    | _____                        | _____ inches                | _____          |
| 5. _____    | _____                        | _____ inches                | _____          |
| 6. _____    | _____                        | _____ inches                | _____          |

**PLEASE NOTIFY MS. KECIA HAYMAN IMMEDIATELY IF A CHILD LISTED ABOVE IS UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE.**

**PAPER CLIP THIS FORM TO THE PERMISSION SLIPS FOR ALL STUDENTS YOU HAVE LISTED. (DO NOT USE STAPLES.)**

**PLEASE RETURN FORMS NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 19, 2014 to: Kecia Hayman  
Lake Seneca Elementary School  
Kecia\_L\_Hayman@mcpsmd.org**