

**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 Brett Maley 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 Mr. Brett Maley Chorus Manager, at Glenallan Elementary School, 12520 Heurich Rd, Maryland, 20902 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 Mr. Brett Maley at Brett_Maley@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

Brett Maley, Manager

Zachary Tilkens, Manager

South County Honors Chorus

Brett_Maley@mcpsmd.org

Zachary_J_Tilkens@mcpsmd.org

KAM:bs

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ELEMENTARY HONORS CHORUS**

SOUTH COUNTY TIMELINE

Deadline Dates:

September 2014	Information packet and sample forms electronically distributed to Elementary General Music Teachers
September–October 2014	Elementary General Music Teachers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign and distribute information letter to parents announcing auditions.• Conduct auditions, send acceptance letter and permission slip home with nominated students.• Distribute information sheet to parents of potential student accompanist and encourage them to make audition appointment.
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 Mr. Brett Maley, Honors Chorus Manager, at Glenallan Elementary School, 12520 Heurich Rd, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20902.
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:	Tuesdays, 7:15–8:45 p.m.	Sligo Creek Elementary School 500 Schuyler Road Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• February 10, 17, 24, 2015• March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 2015• April 14, 21, 28, 2015	
Final Rehearsal:	Tuesday, May 5, 2015, 7:15–9:00 p.m.	Paint Branch High School 14121 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866
Concert:	Tuesday, May 12, 2015, 8:15 p.m., Paint Branch High School (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 Grade 5 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 Mr. Brett Maley at Brett_Maley@mcpsmd.org or Mr. Zachary Tilkins at Zachary_J_Tilkins@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 Mr. Brett Maley at Glenallan Elementary School, 12520 Heurich Rd, Silver Spring, Maryland 20902 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 honor chorus managers will begin to create extensive databases, rosters, and name tags; 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**

South County Schools

2014–2015

**Chorus Manager: Mr. Brett Maley, General Music Teacher,
Glenallan Elementary School**

Mr. Zachary J. Tilkens, Choral Music Teacher, Pyle Middle school

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

School	Number Eligible	School	Number Eligible	School	Number Eligible
Arcola	4	Flora Singer	3	Piney Branch	6
Ashburton	4	Flower Valley	3	Rock Creek Forest	3
Bannockburn	2	Forest Knolls	3	Rock Creek Valley	2
Lucy V. Barnsley	6	Galway	5	Rock View	4
Bells Mill	4	Garrett Park	4	Rolling Terrace	4
Bethesda	2	Georgian Forest	3	Sargent Shriver	3
Beverly Farms	4	Glen Haven	3	Seven Locks	2
Bradley Hills	3	Glenallan	3	Sherwood	3
Broad Acres	3	Greencastle	5	Sligo Creek	3
Brookhaven	2	Harmony Hills	3	Somerset	4
Burning Tree	3	Highland	3	Stonegate	3
Burnt Mills	3	Highland View	2	Strathmore	5
Burtonsville	5	Jackson Road	4	Twinbrook	3
Cannon Road	2	Kemp Mill	2	Viers Mill	3
Carderock Springs	3	Kensington Parkwood	4	Weller Road	3
Chevy Chase	6	Luxmanor	3	Westbrook	3
Cloverly	2	Meadow Hall	2	Westover	2
Cresthaven	6	North Chevy Chase	4	Wheaton Woods	2
Dr. Charles R. Drew	3	Oak View	5	Wood Acres	6
East Silver Spring	2	Oakland Terrace	3	Woodlin	4
Fairland	4	William Tyler Page	2	Wyngate	4
Farmland	3	Pine Crest	6		

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.

- A.

- [illegible]

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.

A. 

B. 

C. 

D. 

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.

Ostinato: 
Hey, ho! No-bod-y home.

Melody: 
Hey, ho! No-bod-y home. Meat nor drink nor mon-ey have I none.


Yet I will be ver - y mer - ry Hey, ho! No-bod-y home.

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 HONOR 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 Tuesday evenings from 7:15–8:45 p.m. at Sligo Creek Elementary School, 500 Schuyler Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. Rehearsals will begin on February 10, 2015. The concert will be held on May 12, 2015, at Paint Branch 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 Grade 6).
- 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 afternoon 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 Instructional Specialist. 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 South 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 Tuesday evening from 7:15–8:45 p.m., at Sligo Creek Elementary School, 500 Schuyler Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. 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 5, 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

Brett Maley, Zachary Tilkens, Managers
South County Honors Chorus
Brett_Maley@mcpsmd.org, Zachary_J_Tilkens@mcpsmd.org

KAM:bs

Enclosures

REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE (2014–2015)

Rehearsals: Tuesdays, 7:15–8:45 p.m. Sligo Creek Elementary School
500 Schuyler Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

February 10, 17, 24, 2015
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 2015
April 14, 21, 28, 2015

Final Rehearsal: Tuesday, May 5, 2015, 7:15–9:00 p.m. Paint Branch High School
14121 Old Columbia Pike,
Burtonsville, MD 20866

Directions to: Sligo Creek Elementary School from Rockville

Directions to: Paint Branch High School from Rockville

Take RIGHT on Mannakee Street, to RIGHT on Hungerford Drive.
Go STRAIGHT onto Rockville Pike into a SLIGHT LEFT onto MD-586 S/Veirs Mill Rd.
Turn LEFT onto Randolph Rd.
Turn LEFT onto Fairland Rd.
Turn LEFT onto Old Columbia Pike
School is on the LEFT

If you have any questions, contact Brett Maley or Zachary Tilkens, South County Honors Chorus Managers, at Brett_Maley@mcpsmd.org or Zachary_J_Tilkens@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 South County
Elementary Honors Chorus. I will support his/her participation in this activity.

Parent/Guardian's Signature

STUDENT NAME

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First

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Last

SCHOOL STUDENT ATTENDS

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NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN

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First

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Last

ADDRESS

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Number and Street

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City

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State Zip

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Telephone Number (HOME)

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Telephone Number (CELL)

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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
(SOUTH 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 ID NUMBER</u>	<u>HEIGHT IN INCHES</u>	<u>CHECK #</u>
1. _____	_____	_____ inches	_____
2. _____	_____	_____ inches	_____
3. _____	_____	_____ inches	_____
4. _____	_____	_____ inches	_____
5. _____	_____	_____ inches	_____
6. _____	_____	_____ inches	_____

PLEASE NOTIFY MR. BRETT MALEY 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: Brett Maley
Glenallan Elementary School
Brett_Maley@mcpsmd.org