

Hello Roberts Elementary Parents!

I have the pleasure of teaching your child music this upcoming year! Before we begin this next school year, I would like to inform you of an opportunity for your child to represent our school and county in the Florida All-State Elementary Chorus. Each year there is a state conference for music educators across the state of Florida to attend. At this conference, there are state-level ensembles for students in various grade levels. Acceptance into these ensembles is very prestigious as it means your child's music ability is ranked above hundreds of 4th/5th grade singers around the state of Florida. Many former members (including me) still put their All-State participation on their resume years after attending, since it shows leadership and well-roundedness at a young age. I would love for all who are interested to attend, however I am only able to submit a small number of students to audition. To ensure a fair and efficient audition process, I will be listening to pre-auditions to have a better idea of who to select for the state audition. If you and your child are interested in auditioning for this chorus, please follow the instructions below:

1. Read through the attached document titled "FEMEA Parent Letter 23-24" with more detailed information on the ensemble, dates/deadlines, the auditioning process, the required fees, and other formalities.
2. Have your child practice their pre-audition using the attached file labeled "All-state practice audition (**with guide**)" and the file titled "2023-2024 All-state Chorus Audition Prep Information" where they can find the lyrics and music starting on page 3.
3. Once they feel ready, record your child singing along to the attached file labeled "All-state practice audition (**no guide**)". Make sure your child's voice may be heard in the recording along with the audition track.
4. Submit their recording using the following link: <https://forms.gle/HBPba1AQUzyPYQ976> no later than **August 23rd**.
5. Results will be shared via the preferred parent contact information given on the form by August 30th.

Below are frequently asked questions:

- Where will the conference be? When is it?
  - The conference is held in Tampa, Florida at the Tampa Bay Convention Center.
  - The All-State Chorus rehearsal will start on Wednesday January 10th and end on Thursday January 11th with a performance later that evening.
- What will they be doing during the conference?

- They will be singing in a choir of 4th and 5th grade students from across the state of Florida. In this choir, they will be learning from an esteemed clinician who is yet to be announced. In two days, they will be able to learn and sing a selection of choral songs for a later performance in the same building.
- Am I required to attend the conference with my child?
  - Once your child has been accepted, they must have one chaperone with them for the entirety of the conference. The chaperone must be either a parent or an adult guardian (it cannot be their music teacher).
- Where will auditions be held?
  - Auditions are done through an audio recording. If your child is selected to audition, they will meet me once a week after school in the music room until September 21st.
- What are the required fees?
  - To audition, the Florida Music Educators Association requires a fee of \$20.
  - If your child is accepted into the chorus, a \$35 materials fee will also be required
  - A \$63 chaperone fee will be required for those attending the conference with their child.
  - All of these fees total to \$118 which does not include lodging and food.
- What about lodging and food?
  - There are many options for lodging in Tampa. You have the option of organizing lodging for you and your child on your own (i.e. if you have family in Tampa you can stay with them) or joining a group hotel reservation. The group reservation may cost up to \$280 for one night.
  - You or your child's chaperone will be responsible for all meals during the two days of their attendance. If you need any recommendations for places nearby to eat, I would be happy to provide that for you once the time comes around.
- Who will be behind the auditions?
  - The panel of adjudicators are selected by the Florida Elementary Music Education Association. They will be the only ones selecting students to attend the conference, meaning I have no say in if your child will be selected or not.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I cannot guarantee that your child will be selected, but I would be remiss not to offer everyone the opportunity to participate. Please let me know if you and your child are interested in auditioning and attending this event by sending in a practice audition recording no later than **August 23rd**.

Thank you,

Imani George