

Dear Principal,

Your music teacher recently received an invitation from the Florida Elementary Music Educators Association (FEMEA) to participate in a unique music education opportunity for elementary students and teachers. FEMEA is a component organization of FMEA (Florida Music Educators Association). FEMEA will be hosting the FMEA All-State Elementary Chorus in Tampa, Florida, January 12-13, 2022. This very prestigious Elementary Chorus for fourth and fifth graders will perform during the annual professional development conference of the FMEA. Your music teacher is required to follow the official FEMEA procedures and has these materials available for your review.

FMEA/FEMEA strives to provide relevant and energizing professional development opportunities for music teachers and their students. This All-State Elementary Chorus is the shining example of one such service to membership. There are some expenses involved and we hope that you will assist your parents and your music teacher in securing funding for deserving young musicians from your school.

Conductor, **James DesJardins**, holds a B.M. from SUNY College at Buffalo and a M.M. from SUNY College at Fredonia. He has earned specialized certifications from the University of St. Thomas and from SUNY Buffalo in

Orff-Schulwerk and Music Learning Theory, respectively. He has been teaching music for 13 years in Western New York, and is a registered Music Together teacher. Mr. DesJardins is also a sought-after guest conductor and presenter on the topics of music pedagogy and choral conducting, and has been a church musician and soloist for three decades. He has conducted honors choruses throughout the Northeast and has presented workshops for various chapters of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association, Erie County Music Educators Association Professional Development Conference, as well as for the New York State School Music Association Winter and Summer conferences. Mr. DesJardins has been a guest lecturer at SUNY Fredonia, has served as composer-in-residence for the Buffalo Niagara Youth Chorus. He has been a featured composer in the Harmonia Chamber Singers Echoes of the Present Concert Series and is the 2017 recipient of the ECMEA/Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Award for Excellence in Music Education.

In order for your music teacher and students to participate in the All-State Elementary Chorus, your enthusiastic support will be necessary. Because we want the audition process to be as fair as possible, each participating music teacher must adhere to the following guidelines or the audition recordings will be disqualified:

1. Membership dues for the National Association for Music Educators (NAfME), FMEA and FEMEA must be paid by September 15, 2021.
2. The paperwork must be complete and the audition fees must be attached ($20 per student).
3. Requisitions, purchase orders, or personal checks cannot be used. Only school checks or money orders made payable to FEMEA will be accepted or online by credit card for the entire invoice amount-split tender not accepted.
4. The audition paperwork should be sent to FEMEA and the recordings uploaded to the FEMEA website.
5. The postmark must not be later than September 24, 2021.
6. If you have a student or students who are selected, the materials fee of $35.00 per student and $25 per teacher must be postmarked by October 22, 2021 or the student will not be allowed to participate.

Please contact us if you have questions or if we can assist you or your music teacher in any way.

Sincerely,

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