

This message is for those students who have an interest in auditioning for the ILMEA District 1 Band and Choir in October 2016.

There has been a change made to the ILMEA District 1 auditions for band and choir students, beginning in the 2016-17 academic year. We are informing you of this change to facilitate an understanding of the new process, and, to allow students enough time to prepare effectively for the new format.

What has changed?

In the area of Band/Orchestra Winds & Percussion, schools in District 1 are now limited to sending 20 instrumentalists to the ILMEA auditions. This number of 20 students represents the total number of students on any combination of instruments, auditioning for band or orchestral winds and percussion.

In the area of Choir, schools in district 1 are now limited to sending a total of 40 choral students to the ILMEA auditions. This number of 40 includes a maximum of 5 on each of the 8 different voice parts.

Why did this change?

The number of students desiring to audition has exceeded the capacity of the audition system. Other ILMEA Districts in Illinois have worked with a limit from each school and it has produced effective results and a more manageable audition process. Put another way, auditions were starting to conclude after 9:30 PM, which is too late on a school night. The members of the organization decided to put into place a system that would create a manageable audition process.

What has not changed?

Jazz Band and Vocal Jazz auditions. There is no cap on the number of students schools may send to audition for either Jazz area.

What does this mean for South High?

For the past twenty years we have averaged 40+ Band and 50+ choir students participating in the auditions. We now need to create a process by which students will “pre audition” to be selected to represent our allotted amount of students. In other words, an audition for ILMEA must first take place at school with our current music faculty before the traditional ILMEA District 1 audition is registered to take place at Carl Sandburg High School.

When will the pre-audition take place?

We do not have a concrete audition date or process ready to share at this time. You should expect that a pre-audition of some kind will take place during the first three weeks of the new academic year. We will announce specific details in August.

What does this mean for you this summer?

We are announcing this change now so that as you prepare your ILMEA etudes, scale sheets, prepared selections, tonal skills, and sight reading over the summer, you will target early-September as the time in which you need to be completely prepared to share your work on these materials.

Your music teachers and private lesson instructors are your advocates for success. The strength of District 99's annual participation in ILMEA relies on the self-motivation of students – like yourself – that are dedicated to individual improvement, and those who use opportunities, like ILMEA, to set goals for personal musicianship. We encourage every student enrolled in choir and band classes to work on the materials over the summer, and participate in our pre-audition process!

The DGS Music Team