

2009 Polk County Elementary Music Showcase **Teacher Checklist**

- _____ **Audition all potential students.** Ensure they meet ALL requirements.
- _____ **Check receipt of all student forms and make copy for your files.** (Include any alternates – make no promises – you will be informed if we added any of your alternates when we send out music)
- _____ Student Information Form
- _____ Field Trip Form
- _____ Polk Technology Consent Form
- _____ Registration Form
- _____ **Fill out T-shirt form (one for your school) using information from Student Information Form. Make a copy. Be sure you have payment for all orders.**
- _____ **Send all student forms (due Wednesday, Feb. 25th) via courier to:**
Alicia Walton, Sandhill Elementary, Rt. C
- _____ **Send T-shirt form with enclosed check(s)/money order(s) (due Wednesday, Feb. 25th) via courier to: Anna Jones, Bartow Elementary Academy, Rt. E**
- _____ **Plan preparation rehearsals at your school now. Notify your students early.**

Notes and Guidelines:

- 1. Please read all materials before beginning this process.** Note things like: T-shirts aren't required, but school attire is; All students will be in pants for the concert; School-based rehearsals (in addition to the joint ones) are expected – don't just send the kids home with a CD and hope for the best...
- 2. Be sure you are committed.** *Surprise... you* need to learn the music in order to teach it! We all have a lot going on, but you need to ensure that you can prepare your students and that you are at the evening rehearsals and the concert. If your student's ride is late, you need to be ready to stay...
- 3. Audition all students and talk to them about this commitment.** Don't assume they will understand the magnitude of this program. Talk with them about the focus needed for long rehearsals and how clinicians and rehearsal conductors may work differently than you. (the absolute authority on all things music!)
- 4. Contact parents.** A form is not enough. Be sure they understand about transportation, attire, and rehearsals. Be sure they don't think it will be ok to "miss just one" or "slip out an hour early" because of another commitment.
- 5. Make good choices!** (don't you hate that phrase) Review the requirements and think carefully before submitting names.
- 6. All music is expected to be at all rehearsals and returned.** Please be sure your students get the music there – every copy lost is money wasted. Even if you have it memorized – bring it! (and copies... don't make them.)

2009 Showcase Teacher Information

Be sure all your forms are turned in on-time! (Wednesday, Feb. 25th)

When auditioning students, consider the following:

- **Student is attentive, focused, and respectful.** Rehearsals are l-o-n-g and sometimes tedious. This is not the place for your student who has trouble paying attention, gets easily frustrated, or has a problem accepting others in authority. As Mr. Howes pointed out, this is not the venue to "reach" a kid. That wouldn't be fair to your student or to all the others.
- **Student is a talented musician in the group you assign.** It doesn't help us if you've got one too many great singers and you toss the extra into the recorder ensemble (and they only know B-A-G) or you put a student with great ears in the orff ensemble (overlooking the fact that they have some problems keeping the tempo steady)...
- **Parents are willing and able to make the commitment.** We all know times are hard. You may have a parent who is very happy to do things at your school, but just can't afford the gas (or time off work) to drive to these rehearsals. When you talk to the parent-be sure they have checked the dates. There will be conflicts. You may need to be creative with transportation- car pooling is an option. Be sure they are willing to miss that game, practice, meeting, ...before you decide.

Audition Suggestions: (this is by NO MEANS exhaustive)

Choirs

1. Make sure the voice is clear and confident. (boy's voices need to be unchanged...) Parts are assigned by school, not individual, so be sure all your students are comfortable singing "higher".
2. They should be willing to experiment with the voice. Our conductors and clinicians will try different things to improve the sound.
3. They should be able to follow multi-part music and understand basic score terminology used for rehearsals. If your choir sings unison, try using a simple piece in your audition. (for instance-"Freedom is Coming" from the 5th grade book. It is simple to learn, has open score, repeats, 1st and 2nd endings... you can hear how confident the student is singing with other parts by using the CD.)

Orff (contact Jessica Fredricks for additional ideas)

1. Be sure the student can maintain the beat and count (rests included) while playing a variety of instruments.
2. Ensure they use proper technique and have respect for the instruments.

Recorder (contact Marcia McKinney for additional ideas)

1. They need to confidently move from one note to the next, in rhythm. (can't stop to find fingering each time)
2. They need to know fingering for notes beyond B-A-G. Minimum of a C major scale, including the high d.

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Each spring, the Polk County Elementary Music Educator's Association takes the opportunity to showcase outstanding students from music programs across the county. This event features a Boy Choir, Girl Choir, Orff Ensemble, and Recorder Ensemble. Clinicians from across the state are brought in to challenge and inspire.

Your child _____, has been selected for the _____. This selection was based on outstanding musical abilities, classroom participation, the ability to be focused and follow directions, to be responsible, and be cooperative.

As with all extra-curricular activities, there is a commitment needed from each family to make the experience successful. Your commitment will involve:

- transportation to rehearsals and the final performance
- providing the required performance attire
- encouraging your child to learn and memorize the assigned music both at home and at any additional practices scheduled by your school.

Students traditionally wear a showcase T-shirt to rehearsals, which is available for \$8.00. This shirt is not required, but students will be expected to be in school dress code appropriate clothing at all times.

Please carefully review the dates and information below and decide if you and your child are willing to accept this commitment. If so, fill out all included forms and return immediately. Keep this letter for your information.

Dates, Times and Locations:

- Thursday, April 23rd - 6:00–8:30 p.m. – Chain of Lakes Elementary, Winter Haven
- Monday, May 4th - 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. – Florida Southern College, Lakeland
- Tuesday, May 5th - 8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. – Florida Southern College
- **Concert**- Tuesday, May 5th- 7:00 p.m.–Branscomb Auditorium, Florida Southern College

****Students must attend all rehearsals and stay for the entire rehearsal****

Performance Attire for the Concert on May 5th: (No Exceptions)

- Long, plain black dress pants/slacks (no jeans, no designs)
- Long Sleeved White Shirt (button down with collar) or blouse which must be tucked in (no cream or off white)
- Black socks or hose and Black (low heeled) dress shoes

We are excited to have your child participate in the 2009 Polk County Elementary Showcase and know it will be a memorable experience!

Please contact your child's music teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Alicia Walton, Elementary Showcase Chair, 2009

2009 Polk County Elementary Showcase
Student Registration Form
(Please Print Clearly)

School Name

Music Specialist: First Name _____ Last Name _____

Ensemble (Circle One): Boy Choir Girl Choir Orff Ensemble Recorder Ensemble

Student: First Name _____ Last Name _____

Grade: (Circle One) 4th 5th Age: _____

T-Shirt Order: (Optional - Circle one and include payment of \$8.00)

Youth M (10-12) Youth L (14-16) Adult S Adult M Adult L Adult XL

Primary Parent/Guardian: First Name _____ Last Name _____

Relationship to Student _____

Home Phone _____ - _____ - _____ Cell Phone _____ - _____ - _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Secondary Parent/Guardian: First Name _____ Last Name _____

Relationship to Student _____

Home Phone _____ - _____ - _____ Cell Phone _____ - _____ - _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Any Additional Information: _____

I recommend the above student for participation in the 2009 Polk County Elementary Showcase.

Music Specialist Signature

Date

Principal Signature

Date

I will participate in the Polk County Elementary Showcase. I will learn the music provided and will return it in good condition. I will attend all rehearsals and the performance of the All County Showcase. I will work in a respectful and productive manner at all times.

Student Signature _____

As a parent of the applicant, I have read the attached letter and understand the conditions required of my child. I agree to provide transportation and ensure my child attends all rehearsals, provide the specified performance attire, and support my child's participation in the Polk County Elementary Showcase.

Parent Signature _____

School Name

SHOWCASE T-SHIRT ORDER FORM
(include entire order for your school, please)

- Shirt sizes are Youth Medium (10-12), Youth Large (14-16), Adult Small, Adult Medium, Adult Large, Adult XL and Adult XXL
- Cost is \$8.00 per shirt.
- Please **DO NOT SEND ANY CASH!!!!** Personal checks or money orders are acceptable.
- Make checks payable to: **POLK COUNTY SCHOOLS**

Name	Size

Total # of shirts: _____

Total Amount: \$ _____

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA
FIELD TRIP PERMISSION FORM
(ONE TIME TRIP USE)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

_____ has my permission to participate in
Name of student

the school-sponsored field trip being taken by Polk County Elementary Music Educators Association

Polk County Elementary Showcase on Tuesday, May 5, 2009
Name of Organization/Group Date of trip

to Lakeland Fast Food Restaurant
Destination of Field Trip

As parent/guardian I acknowledge the following:

1. School officials are authorized to obtain emergency medical treatment for this student as necessary.
2. The School Board has made available to this student the opportunity to purchase student accident insurance.
3. I will not hold the School Board liable for injury to this student during this field trip.

(Signature of parent/guardian) Date

NOTE: FOR ALL OUT-OF-COUNTY TRIPS, A NOTARIZED MEDICAL TREATMENT AUTHORIZATION FORM MUST ALSO BE AVAILABLE. IT SHOULD BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE STUDENT'S FIRST OUT-OF-COUNTY TRIP AND RETAINED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

