



General Ray Davis Middle School Vocal Arts Virtual Audition Requirements

Thank you for your interest in the vocal major program at General Ray Davis Middle School! This year, prospective Vocal Majors are required to record a video of their audition through Flipgrid. All students have free access to Flipgrid via Classlink on their RCPS-issued device.

Prospective Vocal Majors should prepare **in advance** the audition materials for their grade level. **The window for audition video submission will open on January 5, 2021 and will close at noon on January 16, 2021.** During that time frame, a link for Flipgrid video submission will be posted on the DMS website, Specialty tab. Please plan for potential technology issues and **record your audition on Flipgrid as early as possible.** Flipgrid submissions will not be accepted after the January 16, 2021 deadline.

Read below for specific audition requirements and learning tracks per grade level:

Rising 6th Grade Requirements

Vocal Solo (25 points)- Rising 6th Grade students are required to record a Flipgrid video singing the solo “Oh Shenandoah” from memory, **with the provided piano accompaniment track.** You may not sing with the learning track. Videos that include the learning track will be disqualified.

Your performance will be scored for pitch & rhythm accuracy, tone quality, appropriate style, and diction (see attached rubric).

To receive consideration, auditionees must prepare the required materials and adhere to the guidelines as articulated above.

6th Grade: Click [here](#) to access the sheet music, learning track, and accompaniment track.

Rising 7th & 8th Grade Requirements

Part One: Major, Minor, & Chromatic Scales (6 points)- Rising 7th and 8th grade students are required to record a Flipgrid video singing major, minor, and chromatic scales, from memory, using the following recommended starting pitches:

Soprano- E flat above middle C

Alto- Middle C

Tenor- A below middle C

Bass- E flat below middle C

Part Two: Vocal Solo (25 points)- In addition to singing the scales above, rising 7th-8th Grade students are required to record a Flipgrid video singing the solo “Oh Shenandoah” from memory, **with the provided piano accompaniment track**. You may not sing with the learning track. Videos that include the learning track will be disqualified.

Note: Your scales and solo should be recorded on the same video.

Your performance will be scored for pitch & rhythm accuracy, tone quality, appropriate style, and diction (see attached rubric).

To receive consideration, auditionees must prepare the required materials and adhere to the guidelines as articulated above.

7th & 8th Grades: Click [here](#) to access the sheet music, learning tracks, and the accompaniment track.

Have questions? Contact Jay Sessoms, Choral Director at jsessoms@rockdale.k12.ga.us

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR AUDITION RUBRICS

General Ray Davis Middle School Vocal Arts

Solo Component Rubric

Pitch Accuracy/ Intonation

0	1	2	3	4	5
Student does NOT sing the correct pitches and/or student does NOT maintain any sense of intonation.	LESS THAN HALF of the pitches are sung accurately and/or student demonstrates only RARE moments of correct intonation.	ONLY ABOUT HALF of the pitches are sung accurately and/or student tends to be out of tune ABOUT HALF of the time.	MOST of the pitches are sung correctly and/or student tends to sharp/flat only in extreme registers or vocal "breaks."	NO MORE than two pitches are sung incorrectly; pitch center is maintained with no tendencies to go sharp or flat.	ALL pitches are sung accurately and pitch center is maintained at ALL times with no tendencies to go sharp or flat.

Vocal Tone Quality

0	1	2	3	4	5
Student does not demonstrate correct vocal technique. Excessive strain or breathiness is pervasive throughout.	Student demonstrates acceptable technique LESS THAN HALF of the time; tone dominated by strain or extreme breathiness.	Student demonstrates correct technique ABOUT HALF of the time; strain or excessive breathiness occurs throughout vocal range.	Student demonstrates age-appropriate technique MOST of the time, but some vocal strain occurs in extreme registers/breaks.	Student demonstrates age-appropriate technique ALMOST ALL of the time; some breathiness occurs in extreme registers/breaks.	Student demonstrates excellent vocal technique at ALL times that is age-appropriate, pleasant to hear, and appropriate for a choir.

Rhythmic Accuracy

0	1	2	3	4	5
Student demonstrates SIGNIFICANT problems with rhythm and/or student does not maintain tempo with accompaniment.	LESS THAN HALF of the rhythms are sung accurately and/or student demonstrates only RARE moments of correct tempo.	ONLY ABOUT HALF of the rhythms are sung accurately and/or student's tempo is inconsistent with tempo of accompaniment.	MOST of the rhythms are sung correctly and/or student OCCASSIONALLY has trouble singing at the tempo of accompaniment.	No more than two rhythmic errors are detected, student performs the song at the tempo of the accompaniment.	ALL rhythms are sung correctly and at the tempo of the accompaniment.

Dynamics/Appropriate Style

0	1	2	3	4	5
Overall performance was so poor that other factors made assigning any credit for dynamics/style impossible.	Little attention is paid to dynamics as printed and/or incorrect style is utilized throughout performance.	Student only demonstrates printed dynamics and/or appropriate style ABOUT HALF of the time.	Student performs MOST dynamics as printed, but pop/country/musical theatre, etc. styles are OCCASSIONALLY detected.	NO MORE than two errors related to dynamics occur during performance.	Student demonstrates correct style and correct dynamics at ALL times.

Diction

0	1	2	3	4	5
Overall performance was so poor that other factors made assigning any credit for dynamics/style impossible.	Significant problems related to diction are occurring making it impossible to understand the text without looking at the music.	ONLY ABOUT HALF of the time is the student demonstrating correct diction; at times it is hard to understand the lyrics.	Student demonstrates correct diction MOST of the time, but some vowels sounds are not as pure as required in choral singing.	Student demonstrates correct and appropriate diction ALMOST ALL of the time, but a few consonants are missing.	Student incorporates pure vowels, clear consonants, and correct syllabic stress at ALL times at an appropriate level for his/her age.

Scales (Rising 7th/8th Graders Only)

	Possible Points		Points Awarded	
Major Scale Ascending	No Errors: 1	Any Errors: 0		Scales Points: _____
Major Scale Descending	No Errors: 1	Any Errors: 0		
Minor Scale Ascending	No Errors: 1	Any Errors: 0		
Minor Scale Descending	No Errors: 1	Any Errors: 0		
Chromatic Scale Ascending	No Errors: 1	Any Errors: 0		
Chromatic Scale Descending	No Errors: 1	Any Errors: 0		