

Director's Letter MiddleFest 2026

Dear Directors,

We are excited to see you all back for another fun year of MiddleFest at First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, NC! Thank you for preparing your singers and guardians for this event! This year we are pleased to announce Dr. Megan Boyd of Raleigh as our clinician!

Please read everything in this letter before you fill anything out or do anything else! Maybe even read it twice 😊 Thank you for following deadlines with fidelity so we can plan a successful event! Consider printing this off to use as a checklist! More details about certain sections below. More information is being added regularly, so continue to reference this document between now and the event!

Note: If you know of any other directors who may be interested, please send this letter along, or reach out to us with their information! They do NOT have to be an ACDA member to attend!!

MiddleFest Site: <https://www.ncacdaonline.org/events/middlefest>

Director's Checklist in ORDER of occurrence with deadlines:

	<p>ASAP/NOW: Order Music Order your music from JW Pepper - Email middlefest@ncacdaonline.org a copy of your order confirmation. See folder for PDF copies of the music to get started teaching. Your students MUST have the original music at the event in a folder. See JW Pepper Link OR Doc version of MUSIC LINK</p>
	<p>OCTOBER 17th: Org. Registration 1. Organization Registration FORM LINK 2. Organization Registration Invoice will be sent after you register from our treasurer, Jeremy Truhel Postmarked By October 17th, 2025 Registration Invoice (One Per School/Organization) We will be using paypal this year which should be predominantly self service. Please email Middlefest@ncacdaonline.org with questions. NOTE: This year we are inviting collegians to our saturday Professional development. If you know any Music Ed students or their teachers, please invite them by sharing this link!</p>
	<p>Late Fall: Select Students All schools will receive a base allotment of 9 (THIS IS AN INCREASE from 6); 3 per voice part. We will reach out with details of extra allotments after initial registration is complete. CHANGE: We will be singing 3 part repertoire this year, so please bring singers accordingly when looking at the repertoire. Parts will be identified as "Part 1, Part 2, & Part 3" - Considerations: leadership, exemplary behavior, endurance/perseverance - Matching pitch, quality tone, and ability to learn additional music (outside of your class/ensemble repertoire) is required! - See this template to help you select singers. Totally optional, just a resource for you!</p>
	<p>Late Fall: Notify Selected Students and send home Parent Letter. (See Below, make changes to fit your needs)</p>
	<p>November/December: BOOK HOTEL There is no official hotel block. If needed, book a hotel room for yourself and make sure your students have as well. Some groups choose to leave this up to the parents, some choose to book as a group, it's up to you. Here are 3 recommendations near the venue. 1. Marriott Greensboro Downtown</p>

	<p>2. Hyatt Place Greensboro Downtown 3. Hampton Inn and Suites Greensboro Downtown *Local people, make sure to have a plan for transportation of students both days.</p>
	<p>Dec/Jan: STUDENT PAPERWORK: Liability/Photo Release Form (One Per Student) - Paper Form to be turned in on the day of the event.</p>
	<p>Nov/Dec/Jan PRACTICE TRACKS: Have students download practice tracks. Please remember the tracks are to help them after you have sat down and taught the music at the piano. Avoid relying on them for students to learn the music.</p> <p>*Practice recommendation: Set a schedule to meet with students 6 times or more prior to the event to ensure proper learning of the music. Hold Rehearsals and Begin sharing detailed event info with students.</p> <p>LINKS HERE</p>
	<p>December 19th, 2026 SINGER REGISTRATION: Singer registration form (Includes: LUNCH ORDER/T SHIRT ORDER) all information needs to be accurate and complete (lunch orders, shirt sizes etc) for the event by January 9th, 2026. This will ensure everyone is dressed, fed, and accounted for in February. Students will receive a copy of the schedule with their nametag/lanyard. THANK YOU!</p> <p>SINGER REGISTRATION FORM *Find the tab for your school and fill out accordingly***</p> <p>Like before, The Singer Registration Invoice (with your final count of shirts, lunch tickets, and singers with additional allotments included) will be sent after you register from our treasurer, Jeremy Truhel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Postmarked By January 9th, 2025 Singer Registration Invoice (One Per School/Organization) - We will be using paypal this year which should be predominantly self service. Please email Middlefest@ncacdaonline.org with questions.
	<p>Before the Event: DUTY Sign Up</p> <p>Here is the link to sign up for Duty. Thank you for finding a slot that works for you! If everyone signs up this will ensure proper supervision in the event. More roles may be added as we get closer to the event.</p>

Music Because of changes at J.W. Pepper you will need to order your own music. I suggest ordering at this link [TODAY!](#) The music will be sung from memory for the concert. If for some reason you already have copies or you would like to order from someone else below are the titles. Please have students bring original copies of the music in a folder for the event. [MUSIC LIST HERE](#)

Supervision during MiddleFest: Teachers, you must accompany your student(s) to MiddleFest and at all rehearsals. You and your school are responsible for your student(s) and their behavior. There should be a chaperone in addition to the choral director, for every 10 students. You are more than welcome to leave the immediate area to go to sessions/meetings/or get coffee but, please check out with Anna or Shelby (coordinators) prior to leaving the premises.

Additionally, we kindly ask that everyone contributes 1 slot on our duty list to support the event. [Here is the link to sign up for Duty](#). Thank you for finding a slot that works for you!

Concert Attire: Middlefest T-shirt No modifications to the shirt, tucked in. Blue/denim Jeans with no holes/rips. Minimal accessories, Dark color “quiet shoes”. Flats, tennis shoes, dress shoes. Hair secured away from eyes. No hats, sunglasses, smartwatches, or phones onstage.

Arrival and Check-In info: If arriving with students, plan to enter the side doors (no stairs) and head straight to the check in table. Students can put their bags and items towards the back of the space. You will receive name-tags, lanyards, and any handouts. You will turn in paperwork at this time. T-shirts will be handed out after the start of rehearsal to teachers. Make sure to hand them out before students leave the site. We will guide students to their seats in sections after they put their items (bags, etc.) down. We aim to begin singing promptly at 6 PM! Traditional “seating” will take place at the very beginning of rehearsal.

To accommodate a slightly earlier rehearsal start-time, let us know if your group would like to arrive early to sit and eat or have a break between travel & rehearsal.

Check Out: No formal check out with us, but we'd love to say goodbye to you at the end of the event! For safety reasons please plan a meeting spot to check out with your students each day. We recommend turning in music or other items (if applicable) to directors BEFORE the start of the concert/dress rehearsal. Ex. After lunch on Saturday. Be sure students keep track of their belongings as best as possible both days!

See below for:

Sample parent letter, interest letter, music notes , Full schedule

2026 Parent & Student Letter Outline

Hello! Congratulations on being selected to participate in this year's NCACDA MiddleFest. This event, just for 6-8th grade singers, is a special opportunity for students to sing, learn, and collaborate with other students across the state under the direction of a high-caliber guest clinician, Dr. Megan Boyd. Dr. Boyd is from Raleigh and has many experiences working with singers of all ages. This event takes place February 6-7th, 2026 in downtown Greensboro. Rehearsals are Friday evening and all day Saturday with a final concert at 4 PM. This event is a great way to represent our school and community! Thank you for your efforts to prepare for this event by attending rehearsals at school to learn the music in advance.

Cost associated with this event is \$50 per singer to accommodate registration, music purchasing, T-Shirt, and Lunch on Saturday. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Practice schedule at school will be as follows: INSERT YOUR DETAILS HERE

Concert Attire: Middlefest T-shirt No modifications to the shirt, tucked in. Jeans with no holes/rips. Minimal accessories, Dark color "quiet shoes". Flats, tennis shoes, dress shoes. Regular school clothes are appropriate for Friday's rehearsal. Consider a light jacket as rehearsal spaces can get chilly.

Transportation information: (Insert Hotel information as needed)

Arrival and Parking at the concert: Students will be rehearsing up until the concert and doors will open at 3:45 PM. The main sanctuary doors have stairs, but a side door is available as an accessible entrance. Students must check out with their director prior to leaving. Parking is available near the sanctuary entrance as well as some street parking. Plan to arrive early to park & find seating. After the concert be sure to check out with your director before leaving the venue.

Site: First Presbyterian Church, 17 N Elm St, Greensboro, NC 27401

Singer Schedule Friday, February 6th

5:30 - 6:00 Registration (directors check in you and your students)\\

*Early arrival can be accommodated as needed

6:00-8:30 Rehearsal (Seating 6:00 Singing ASAP)

Singer Schedule Saturday, February 7th

8:30 Check in/Site Opens

9:00 - 12:00 Rehearsal

12:00 - 1:15 Lunch (Sandwich meal box on site)

1:15 - 3:30 Rehearsal/Dress Rehearsal (onstage)

3:30 - 3:55 Restroom/Water Break

*Audience enters 3:45

4:00 pm Performance - Sanctuary

*Singers come dressed for the concert that afternoon middlefest shirt and blue jeans

MiddleFest 2026 Full Schedule

Site: First Presbyterian Church, 17 N Elm St, Greensboro, NC 27401

Singer Schedule Friday, February 6th

5:30 - 6:00 Registration (directors check in you and your students)

6:00-8:30 Rehearsal (Seating 6:00 Singing ASAP)

Let us know if you'd like to arrive early to eat dinner on-site. We can accommodate as needed.

Singer Schedule Saturday, February 7th

8:30 - 12:00 Rehearsal (Teacher PD Schedule, See below)

12:00 - 1:15 Lunch (Sandwich box)

1:15 - 3:30 Rehearsal/Dress Rehearsal (onstage)

3:30 - 3:55 Restroom/Water Break

4:00 pm Performance - Sanctuary

Singers come dressed for the concert that afternoon middlefest shirt and blue jeans

Director/Collegian Schedule Saturday, February 7th

9:15-9:30 Gather and Refreshments from WSCA

9:30-10:20 Session*

Short Break

10:30-11:20 Session*

11:20-11:50 Mini Business Meeting

Light agenda: Annual Feedback/Plans for next year/Announcements from ACDA and for the good of the group!

11:50 Return to Rehearsal/ Prepare for lunch with students

Notes:

*Sessions will include one reading session and one interest session. Bring a charged device. Digital reading packets only. Following the event, we will send you a letter to submit for .5 CEU's! See THIS [SPREADSHEET](#) To sign up for a duty

Music notes from Dr. Boyd

I hope 2026 has welcomed you in and you are settling into your routines. I am really looking forward to working with your singers and seeing all of you in just a few short weeks. I know that SAB music can sometimes be tricky for our B voices that are in the process of deciding where they want to land. Below are some notes to try and help navigate that, but you ultimately know your singers the best. Do what is comfortable and healthy for them above all else.

Hope is the thing with Feathers, Penny Rodriguez

Mm. 20-22, mm. 46-49: any B voice may join the A line

Mm. 66-69: B cue notes may be left out, the S cue note may be added

Rhapsody, Rollow Dilworth

As written

What Do the Trees Know, Jocelyn Hagen

Mm. 3-10: If this whole line feels too low for B voices, we can have these measures be SA only - this is likely a decision we will make once together, but if you are stressed about your B voices not reaching the lowest notes here, have no fear!

M. 14 - any B voice may take the pitches E and D (trees know) up the octave

M. 20 - any B voice may join the A line for beat 1 (must let)

M. 41 and m. 43 - any B voice may leave out beat 3 (buds/dark) and pick up on beat 4 (can/gives)

M. 45 - any B voice may sing a G# on beat 1 (glow)

Mm. 60-66 - whatever we do for mm. 3-10, we will repeat here

Mm. 68-70 - B voices should read as written

M. 75 - any B voice may join the A line on beats 3-4 (us)

Bringers of Noise, Kyle Pederson

Mm. 1-25 - We will use 3 speakers for the opening 1. "In the time... Sounds muted." 2. "Then we arrived...feet of beasts." 3. You hear a blast?... We are there." 1/2/3. "We are the Bringers of Noise!" So, if you have singers with powerful and theatrical voices, this is their moment!

Mm. 77-83 - We will do the optional vocal percussion

Mm. 108-126 - We will observe all marked stomps

Mm. 120-123 - Feel free to use 2-3 singers per ensemble on the opt. solo or leave it out for your ensemble entirely

If you have any additional musical questions or need clarification, please reach out to Anna and Shelby who can get in touch with me.

Interest Letter MiddleFest

(You can copy/paste and customize school-specific details as needed)

Hello!

We are excited to share an upcoming choral opportunity for our middle school singers. NCACDA MiddleFest is a special honor choir event designed specifically for students in grades 6–8 who enjoy singing and are interested in working with other motivated singers from across North Carolina.

MiddleFest 2026 will take place on **February 6–7, 2026**, in **downtown Greensboro**, and will feature a high-caliber guest clinician, **Dr. Megan Boyd** from Raleigh. Dr. Boyd brings extensive experience working with singers of all ages and provides an engaging, inspiring rehearsal experience. Students will participate in Friday evening and Saturday rehearsals, culminating in a final concert on Saturday at **4:00 PM**.

This event is a wonderful opportunity for students to grow musically, collaborate with peers from across the state, and represent our school and community. Selected singers are expected to attend school rehearsals in advance to prepare the music.

Cost for participation is \$50 per singer, which includes event registration, music, a MiddleFest T-shirt, and lunch on Saturday.

Additional details such as rehearsal schedules at school, transportation, attire, and the full event schedule will be shared with families once interest is confirmed.

If your student is interested in being considered for MiddleFest 2026, please indicate your interest by **[insert response method and deadline here]**. Participation is not guaranteed, but expressing interest is the first step in the selection process.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions. We look forward to hearing from you and sharing this exciting opportunity with our singers!

Sincerely,

[Your Name]