FLORIDA
ELEMENTARY MUSIC
EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Congratulations! Your child has been selected to participate in the 2026 Florida Elementary Music Educators Association Northern Regional Festival. This is quite an honor and we hope that it is an enjoyable and memorable experience for you and your child.

You must register, sign waiver and pay for your child on femeamember.org by 10/17/26

A “Reminder for Parents and Participants” list is included with this letter to help you make the necessary arrangements for your child. You may invite family and friends to the concert on Saturday evening. You will note in the information packet that you need to stay in or nearby the rehearsal with your child, throughout the day.

Please remember that children who are not in the FEMEA Northern Regional Festival are not permitted in the rehearsal area, and that non-participating school age children are not allowed in the Gulf Coast State College buildings, except to attend the concert.

Please be sure to check the rehearsal schedule to plan meals and healthy snacks for your child. Please note that students must bring lunch with them. Lunch time is limited and there are few options in the area. We want the students at their best for focus and performance. 100% attendance is required so have them in place and ready a minimum of ten minutes before the start time for each rehearsal.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your music teacher.

Sincerely,

Joani Slawson
FEMEA Northern Regional Festival Coordinator
FEMEA Past-President

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Participants must:

- be a 4th or 5th grade student, currently attending an elementary school and chosen by FEMEA through All-State auditions.
- be recommended by the music teacher and principal.
- agree to wear white blouse/button-down shirt, black dress pants or slacks with pockets (no jeans), and black low-heeled (no high heels) dress shoes for the concert performance.
- agree to participate in *all* rehearsals and the concert to be held in Gulf Coast State College in Panama City on **Saturday, November 14, 2026.**
- have already signed the Regional Participant's Contract which specifies appropriate conference behavior.

Participant's Parent/Guardian must:

- register, sign waiver and pay for your child on femeamember.org by 10/17/26 in addition to all lodging, food, and transportation costs.
- agree to serve as a chaperone for the child for the duration of the rehearsals and concert or designate an adult guardian (other than the music teacher) to serve as chaperone.
- agree to provide the child with a white blouse/button-down shirt, black dress pants/slacks with pockets (no jeans), and black low-heeled (no high heels) dress shoes for the concert performance for chorus/Orff. , no shorts, no hoodies, above the knee skirts must have tights or leggings).
- sign and return any forms that your child's music teacher may require. This includes any permission forms required by your county.

REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Students must participate in *all* rehearsals and the concert. Times are subject to change.

Northern Regional Student Schedule *subject to change

9:00 am Registration (Gulf Coast State College)

9:30 - 10:30 Rehearsal Session 1

10:30 - 10:45 Break

10:45 - 12:00 Rehearsal Session 2

12:00 -12:45 Lunch Break

12:45 - 1:45 Rehearsal Session 3

1:45 - 2:00 Break

2:00-2:45 Rehearsal Session 4

2:45-3:00 Break

3:00-3:45 Rehearsal Session 5

3:45 - 4:25 Break/Change Clothes

4:25 - 4:50 Dress Rehearsal on Stage

5:00 Concert

PLEASE NOTE: *A parent or guardian other than the music educator is required to accompany each child to the rehearsal site and to supervise the child at all non-rehearsal times, including breaks and meals. Breaks are built into the rehearsal schedule and will be posted outside each rehearsal room the day of the event.*

REMINDERS FOR FEMEA NORTHERN REGIONAL PARENTS:

_____Did you fill out a school or county form for out-of-county field trips which your music teacher may have provided for you? Each county has different requirements, so this form may not be required of you.

_____Do you have hotel arrangements for at least one night, unless you are within commuting distance to the rehearsal and performance site? You will need to be in Panama City at the Gulf Coast State College by 9:00 am on Saturday, November 14, 2026. **Allow yourself up to 20 minutes for parking and walking, and registration.**

_____Have you made sure that your child has the required clothing to perform?

_____Have you made arrangements to meet the music teacher in Panama City before you come to the FEMEA Northern Regional Festival registration area at Gulf Coast State College?

_____Have you made arrangements to bring lunch for you and your student?

_____Is there a designated adult (other than the music educator) to serve as a chaperone for the child for the rehearsals and concert?

_____Have you made arrangements for children in your party who are not FEMEA Northern Regional Festival participants? *It is a FEMEA policy that the only children allowed in the Gulf Coast State College buildings during rehearsals are the participants.*

REMINDERS FOR FEMEA NORTHERN REGIONAL MUSICIANS:

_____Do you have concert clothes: white blouse/button-down shirt, black dress pants or slacks with pockets (no jeans) and black low-heeled dress shoes?

_____Are you ready to learn, memorize, and then perform all your music in just one day?

_____ Did you pack a pencil and water bottle for the rehearsals?

CHECKLIST FOR FEMEA NORTHERN REGIONAL TEACHERS

_____ Ensured all participating students parent/guardian has completed payment/registration?
_____ It is your responsibility to satisfy your county's requirements for overnight/off-campus trips. You may need to fill out special forms or secure special permission. Contact your music supervisor or your principal for information.
_____ Notify Joani Slawson (see contact info below) about any students needing special accommodations.
_____ Ensure that parents know they must make their own hotel reservations, if needing to stay overnight.
_____ Remind your student(s) and parents to be aware of the schedule and not be late.
_____ Arrange a meeting place inPanama City for you, your student(s), and their chaperone(s) as they may only register with the teacher.
_____ Bring the following information with you to Panama City and keep it with you at all times:

1. The name of the hotel(s) housing your student(s), if applicable.
2. The parent names, home addresses, cell phone, and home phone numbers of your students.

_____ Provide the parents of your student(s) with your cell phone number.
_____ Plan on monitoring rehearsal times through-out the day and be available as needed to address any potential problems that may arise.

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ALL STUDENTS, CHAPERONES, AND MUSIC TEACHERS MUST BE IN Panama City at Gulf State State College FROM 9:00 AM UNTIL THE END OF PERFORMANCE AT APPROX. 6:00 PM.

As soon as you know that any of your students will be unable to participate in FEMEA Northern Regional Festival, it is your responsibility to contact the coordinator, Joani Slawson, immediately at joani@femea.flmusiced.org or (321) 432-2770