

Update - TMAA Sight Reading Revision Committee April 2019

This committee was formed two years ago to look at the current “sight reading” process. The main goals established by the committee was to develop an evaluation system that would:

1. more closely resemble the procedures used to learn a new piece of music in the typical classroom setting.
2. allow the director and ensemble flexibility in the procedures/methods they use to learn a new piece of music without unnecessary restrictions or guidelines.
3. Measure the individual and ensemble skills when an ensemble prepares a new piece of music in a limited time frame. Since this is not “true” sight reading the name would be changed to Music Literacy Evaluation. Below is the latest version of the Music Literacy Evaluation process.

Score Study Period

- Band and orchestra conductors will have a three-minute score study period.
- Choir conductors will have a one-minute score study period for middle school ensembles and a two-minute score study period for high school ensembles.
- During the score study period, music/folders will be distributed to the students, but the students will not be able to view or study the music during this period.

Instruction/Rehearsal Period – Only one director may instruct/rehearse the ensemble

- Length of instruction/rehearsal period
 - There will only be one instruction/rehearsal period for all organizations.
 - Band & Orchestra times will remain the same as the combined general and summary explanation periods in the current system.
 - Varsity and non-varsity choirs will have 10 minutes and sub non-varsity choirs will have 11 minutes.
- Instrument Use
 - The director may not play a string, wind or keyboard instrument other than the one exception listed below for choir.
 - Band & Orchestra students may play the evaluation music individually, in small groups or with the full ensemble.
 - Choir students may sing the evaluation music individually, in small groups or with the full ensemble.
 - Choir only – The piano may be used to play the tonic triad (broken or unbroken) throughout the instruction/rehearsal period. The director and/or students cannot play any of the evaluation music on the piano.
- Directors and students may sing parts and/or count, clap and tap rhythms during the Instruction/Rehearsal period.

After the Instruction/Rehearsal Period and before the Performance

- **Band & Orchestra:** If a director chooses, a sustained note (unison or chord), of the director's choice may be played immediately following the instruction period and prior to the performance. No further warm-up or musical instruction of any kind is permitted by the conductor, **except** the use of verbal counting to initiate the performance is permissible. In the event the director elects to halt the performance, it should be for the sole purpose of designating a starting point. No further instructions may be given.
- **Choir:** At the completion of the instruction period, the choir will be given the tonic chord, in block or broken chord style. At that time, the students and the director may reproduce the tonic chord, utilizing their preferred method (numbers, syllables, etc.). Starting pitches may then be given, which each section and the director may sing, again utilizing their preferred method. After the choir has sung the starting pitches, no further warm-up or musical instruction of any kind is permitted by the director, **except** the use of verbal counting to initiate the performance is permissible. The music will then be sung without piano accompaniment and using the group's preferred performance method. The director may choose to read the piece in the printed key or any other key suitable for the group. In the event the director elects to halt the performance, it should be for the sole purpose of designating a starting point. No further instructions may be given.

Judges

- One judge will be in the room during the instruction period to ensure compliance with the procedures for the Music Literacy Evaluation. This judge may rotate among the panel, but must be a TMAA Provisional or Active member. The remaining two judges will enter the room immediately after the instruction period ends.