

## E.G.U.S.D. VERSE CHOIR

**Goal:** Students will interpret an author's work creatively and effectively through choral speaking.

**Guidelines:** Verse choir may be thought of as music that is not sung. All styles of choral speaking except solo parts are permitted. Styles appropriate for this competition include (1) unison speaking, (2) two groups which alternate stanzas or lines, or (3) multiple parts which combine whole group and small group speaking. Gestures should be used for appropriate support.

**Rules:** **Failure to meet the rules will result in point deductions by the judges.**

1. Students may participate in only one event.
2. Students may not use the same selection more than one year.
3. The group must contain at least three and not more than ten students.
4. If more than one selection is used, there must be an obvious relationship between the selections.
5. The selection must be introduced with the title and author. If the author is unknown or chooses to remain anonymous, he or she should be announced that way. If the author is a district employee, it should be announced "*Written by our teacher/principal/coach, etc. . .*" The school name may **not** be used in the introduction or in the body of the piece.
6. One or more students may take one step forward to introduce the selection and then step back before beginning. Generally, the feet should not move during the presentation. No planned or choreographed foot movement will be permitted. **No kneeling.** All other appropriate gestures/movements are acceptable.
7. The selection must be memorized and should reflect the maturity of grade level.
8. Props, visual aids, and costumes may not be utilized. Costumes, which may include matching clothing, hair ribbons, hats, or color schemes, may not be worn. School uniforms may be worn. If a non-uniform school wishes to give the appearance of wearing a uniform, white collared uniform tops and khaki or navy blue uniform bottoms (**not jeans**) are permissible.
9. Spirit wear may not be worn. The school logo or name may not be displayed.
10. The selection must be spoken, not sung.
11. Selections may be disqualified if they contain words, statements, themes or gestures that are not appropriate in an educational setting, such as name calling, i.e., stupid, liar, idiot, or sexist/racist remarks. (*Ask yourself, "Would I allow this in my classroom?"*)
12. Solo voices are permitted **only** in the introduction.
13. The students may not be prompted or directed. With the exception of kindergarten, coaches may not accompany groups to the competition area.
14. Time limits will be strictly enforced. Time **does** include the introduction.

Kindergarten:	No time limits
Grades 1-2:	1-3 minutes
Grades 3-4:	2-4 minutes
Grades 5-6:	3-5 minutes

### **Judging Criteria:**

1. Quality of the selection: factors include the literary merit of the selection, its difficulty and originality, its cultural and/or social value, and its appropriateness to the grade level and curriculum. Students are discouraged from using highly repetitive selections, particularly in divisions of older students. *15 points*
2. Quality of the speakers: factors include togetherness of voices, grouping of speaking parts, complementary tones of voices, rate, fluency, intonation (monotone to appropriate variation), and appropriate volume. *15 points*
3. Quality of interpretation: factors include a demonstrated understanding of the selection, the use of appropriate gestures, and the degree of togetherness, the degree of complexity in the speaking parts, appropriate expression of emotion and, if indicated, humor. *10 points*
4. Overall effectiveness: factors include stage presence, audience engagement, confidence, and eye contact. *10 points*