



Mona Shores Public Schools

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Job Posting

2024-2025 School Year

Post Date: April 10, 2024
Position Description: High School Choir Director
Posting Type: Internal/External
Application Deadline: Posted until filled

Mona Shores Public Schools is seeking a highly effective and impactful choir director for the high school.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in Music Education or related field (Master's degree preferred)
- Valid K-12 teaching certificate with either the JX or JQ endorsement
- Must meet State of Michigan Highly Qualified Standards

About Us:

Mona Shores High School boasts a prestigious choir program known for its excellence, creativity, and community engagement. With four distinct choirs, including the renowned Harbor Singers, our program provides a challenging yet rewarding environment for both students and educators. Our commitment to musical innovation is evident through signature events such as "America's Tallest Singing Christmas Tree," where over 7,000 enthusiastic audience members attend each holiday season. Additionally, our program features annual events such as Coffee House and Musical Theater Cabaret styled concerts. Our annual musical productions are a cornerstone of our program and are renowned for their high caliber and the immense talent showcased by our students. This aspect of our program is huge here at Mona Shores, attracting attention and admiration from the community and beyond. This position offers the added benefit of collaborating with a highly supportive and collegial K-12 music staff, creating an enjoyable and collaborative working environment. Our performing arts department has earned the NAMM award for Best Communities for Music Education every year since 2016. Under the umbrella of our school district's mission statement, "Inspiring excellence, building character, and impacting the future through academics, arts, and athletics...Mona Shores!", our choir's motto embodies the spirit of our program: "We aim to create transformative experiences that foster lifelong memories for our students, while nurturing their passion for music to reach its fullest potential." We enjoy the full support of our district's administrators and school board, feeling their appreciation on a regular basis.

Position Overview:

We are seeking an experienced and dynamic Choir Director to lead our vibrant program. The ideal candidate will have a strong background in choral education, a deep passion for musical excellence, and the ability to inspire and mentor students. This position offers a unique opportunity to contribute to a renowned program and make a lasting impact on the lives of our talented young singers. Coordinating large-scale concerts, back to back, throughout the course of the school year, the position is both demanding of your time and energies, but also exciting, rewarding, and constantly changing.

Responsibilities:

- Inspire singers to become their best selves, not only as performers, but as human beings as well. Teach each day with enthusiasm, joy, and a genuine love for music and let it be infectious.
- Continue to implement and further develop an engaging and innovative curriculum that challenges students to grow as musicians and performers and that meets their individual needs, interests, and abilities.
- Collaborate with other fellow music educators and school staff to coordinate performances and enhance the overall musical experience for students.
- Direct and oversee all aspects of the choir program, including rehearsals, performances, and special events such as “Coffee House” and “Musical Theater Cabaret” styled concerts. Three additional events last an entire week long, during the after school day hours (“Tree”, the annual musical, and “Pop Go the Sailors.”)
- Develop and maintain a program that is technically sound and upholds high individual and collective expectations while creating a supportive, positive, and inclusive environment where students feel empowered to express themselves through music.
- Use best practices and a variety of instructional techniques, technology, and other media to prepare students for various performances, competitions, and auditions, ensuring they are well-prepared and confident, in the locations and at the times designated to do so.
- Manage the many logistical aspects of all choir events, including scheduling, promotion, budgeting, and constant communication with students, parents, and community members.
- Maintain accurate, complete, and correct records as required by law, district policy, and administrative regulation.
- Oversee the Mona Shores Choir Association (MSCA), an extremely active, supportive, and vibrant choir parent organization.
- Manage the Choir Student Executive Board (CSEB), our student-run organization.
- Collaborate with our middle school Choir Director and continuously recruit enthusiastic singers.
- Work collaboratively with the full-time Collaborative Accompanist provided by the District, who also acts as the choir's part-time Secretary.
- Travel internationally for choir tours (we are touring South Africa this summer!), as it is an integral component of the position. The choir travels overseas every four years, with additional biannual trips to New York City and regular visits to Chicago most years.
- Ensure a focus on music literacy, emphasizing the importance of reading music.
- Foster a student-centered approach to teaching and learning, encouraging students to set and maintain standards of classroom behavior and overall success.
- All other duties as assigned.

Desired Qualifications:

- A deep, diverse, and extensive knowledge of appropriate high school choral literature encompassing all styles of singing (from classical to pop, gospel, jazz, world cultures, and beyond), as well as mass choral-orchestral selections
- Proven experience directing choral ensembles at the high school level
- Strong vocal and conducting skills
- Ability to inspire and motivate students of diverse backgrounds and skill levels
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Commitment to fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment
- Experience with musical theater productions is a priority
- Functional piano keyboard skills are necessary

Additional Information:

For the first year, the newly hired Director of Choirs will work alongside the school's current Director of Choirs, Shawn Lawton, in a team-taught/job shadowing situation as well as with his partner, Molly Lawton, who both directs and choreographs the annual musical. Shawn (and Molly) will be retiring at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, after 35 years in Music Education, 32 of them here at Mona Shores High School. They look forward to working together with you and then passing on the torch so you can confidently continue the legacy of this wonderfully vibrant and truly unique vocal music program here at Mona Shores!

OTHER SKILLS and ABILITIES: Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with students, staff, parents and the community at large. Ability to communicate clearly and concisely both in oral and written form. Ability to perform duties with awareness of all district requirements and Board of Education policies.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS: The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to stand, walk, sit, and talk or hear. The employee is occasionally required to reach with hands and arms and stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 10 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance vision, and the ability to adjust focus.

WORK ENVIRONMENT: The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

The noise level in this environment is quiet to loud depending upon the activity in the particular part of the day.

Terms of Employment:

Position is part of the Mona Shores Teachers Education Association; however, additional work days may be required in addition to the 183-day teacher calendar. These additional days will be compensated.

Evaluation:

Evaluation for this position will be done annually by the principal or designee.