

So How Does This Competition-Thing Work?

Look at the program to see when Encore is performing.

Get in line at the auditorium doors before the show.

Doors are only opened for about 10 minutes in between shows. You cannot enter once they close the doors.

Normally the 1st, 2nd or 3rd rows are reserved for spectators from the performing school.

If you are already in the auditorium to watch other show choirs, sit anywhere, but when Encore is performing we are allowed to move up to the first few rows. After the performance, you have to leave these front seats for the next group.

We have glow sticks that we pass out to all Medina parents. Don't worry, we will get them to you. We break them at the end of Encore's performance and wave them to show our support.

After They Perform

Normally Encore will get a private viewing and critique of their show immediately following their performance.

We are not allowed into the critique room, but sometimes they view the show out in the open.

Then, they get out of their costumes, get final notes from Mr. Skidmore, and are told when they have to be back in the classrooms.

Now they are free to roam and spend time with you, and they will come out to see you (hopefully)! Some parents leave the building to get their own food--some don't like the menu selections in the cafeteria, and some just need some air.

How the Day Plays Out in General

All schools perform once during the Daytime shows (the schedule starts around 8:00am, finishes around 5:00pm).

Solo competitions are held during the day. If we have someone in it from our school, we all can go and watch. Check the program for location of the solo room – seating is limited but we still go.

Around 5:30pm, we all meet in the gymnasium or auditorium and sit together for Daytime Awards.

At the Daytime Awards, they give out trophies and announce who is in the Finals (5 or 6 schools).

If we are not in the Finals, we pack up and come home.

If we are in the Finals, we perform again sometime after 7:00pm and finish around 11:00pm.

About 11:30pm, they announce the winners and cheer, and then pack up and get ready to come home.

What I Have Learned...

There is a lot of downtime for parents. Make friends with each other.

If you can't stay all day, at least stay for the Daytime Awards. It is very high energy.

If you can, get in and watch the other shows choirs--most are very good and you'll develop an appreciation for all their hard work.

In the end, it is tiring, but it is still a good thing you are there.

No matter what, when you see your child, hug them and tell them what a great job they did.

They have been practicing since July, and they are very proud of what they are doing! We are too!

Go Home!

Get some coffee or caffeine. Make sure your shotgun person doesn't fall asleep. Sing to them if necessary!

Don't worry if its 2:00am and the students are not back yet. Buses move much slower than cars.