

### Audition and Contest Fees

During the school year, there are 2 opportunities for students to participate in activities as individuals that will help them improve their vocal talents, strengthen their self-esteem, strengthen their sense of commitment, and strengthen their community building skills. These 2 activities are optional but we encourage all of our students to consider taking part in both. We are extremely fortunate that our school district has agreed to pay all entry fees. However, if the student makes a commitment and the fees are paid, the student must participate. If a student does not attend the audition or contest, they must reimburse the school district for the fees.

#### **All Region Choir**

Audition Fee = \$15

Music Packet = \$5

#### **Solo/Ensemble**

Solo Entry Fee = \$9

Ensemble Entry Fee = \$9 per student

Fee for both if doing both = \$18

\*\*Please note that the student does not have to pay any of these fees unless they do not participate in the audition or contest after they have made a commitment to do so and has been entered for the activity.

*Welcome to  
Choir!*

*I am happy to have you sing with us.*

# Choir Handbook

## 2019-2020



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## Classroom Rules & Expectations

### **#1 - BE ON TIME (see Tardies)**

- \* In your place on the risers
- \* With your folder
- \* When the bell rings
- \* With NOTHING in your mouth

### **#2 - BE RESPECTFUL**

- \* Listen
- \* Raise your hand AND be acknowledged before speaking
- \* Do not talk to those around you without permission
- \* NO ONE is allowed in the Choir offices without permission
- \* If it is not yours, do not touch it!

### **#3 - BE PREPARED WITH ALL MATERIALS**

- \* Have your folder, pencil, music, and your brain
- \* Folders left out following rehearsal will indicate that you are ready to sing by yourself for the class at the next rehearsal

### **#4 - BE INVOLVED**

- \* A choir is only a choir if all of its members participate
- \* Don't aspire to be the best in the choir, aspire to be the best for the choir.

### **#5 - BE POSITIVE**

- \* In your attitude, behavior, speaking, and interaction with others

### **Consequences/Marks**

**1st Mark - Verbal Warning**

**2nd Mark - Teacher/Student Conference**

**3rd Mark - Parents contacted**

**4th Mark - Office Referral**

**5th Mark - Parent Conference**

**6th Mark - Removal from choir**

## Course Description

The Junior High Choir Program is designed to concentrate on:

- 1) Learning about choral techniques such as breathing, posture, resonance, and balance
- 2) Understanding choral music and the different style periods
- 3) The fundamentals of choral singing by using Kodaly syllables, basic theory, sight-reading, and maintaining good vocal health
- 4) The art of choral and individual performances and concert etiquette.

We also seek to teach good citizenship and community skills using the medium of choral music.

## Important Dates

**October 3rd**

**\*Fall Concert @ DJHS**

**October 5th**

**All Region Auditions @ Westover Park JH**

**October 19th**

**All Region Clinic & Concert @ Civic Center**

**December 5th**

**\*Christmas Concert @ FBC**

**January 25th**

**Solo & Ensemble @ Tascosa HS**

**March 26th**

**\*Pre- UIL Concert @ DJHS**

**April 2nd & 3rd**

**UIL Choir Contest @ St. Paul UMC**

**April 25th**

**\*Dumas Music Festival**

**May 7th**

**\*End-of-Year Concert @ DJHS**

**\*Students are required to arrive for pre-concert warm-ups no later than 30 minutes before our concert start time at the concert location.**

**\*\*\*Please keep this page in a place where you will look at it often or copy these dates to a commonly used calendar of your choice!\*\*\***

## Grading Policy

Students will be graded on classroom participation, personal improvement, classroom attitude, performance attendance, concert attire, and occasional folder checks. Tests or quizzes will be given occasionally. Evaluation of students will include a variety of testing methods including verbal responses, singing assessments, and written assessments.

### Daily Grade—20 points per day (100 points weekly)

**The full amount of points will be awarded when:**

- 1) Student actively participates in all aspects of classroom activities.
- 2) Student behaves in an appropriate manner and follows classroom rules.
- 3) Student attends class daily and arrives to class on time.
- 4) Student has proper materials for class (including pencil and music).
- 5) Student keeps their cell phone off and out of their hands.

### **Grades in Core Classes**

Grades in the students' core classes are important. If they are failing any class and become ineligible, they will not be able to participate in any UIL or TMEA events such as Solo and Ensemble, Concert/Sight-Reading Contest, Dumas Music Festival, or All-Region Choir auditions. The director will be monitoring grades to ensure every student knows their eligibility status.

### **Materials**

The school will provide all materials necessary for this class with the exception of shoes and socks. Students will be responsible for their supplies. If lost or destroyed, the student will be asked to replace the item in a timely manner.

Materials issued include: Music and Uniform. Polo shirts will be paid out of fundraiser money or purchased for \$15.

The cost to replace these is as follows:

Polo Shirt = \$15	Bow Tie = \$15	Vest = \$25
Dress = \$85	Tuxedo Shirt = \$25	Tux Pants = \$30

Original copies of music will be charged the cover price.

## Attendance Policy

Choir is a participation class, and excellent performances require a group effort. It is important that each student is on time and in class daily.

**Absences**— When you are not in class you cannot earn participation points. Excessive absences (truant or excused) in one grading period will be dealt with according to school policy. **Notice of field trips and other appointments should be given to the director prior to the absence, especially on days of concerts and/or contests.** It is understood that special cases of excessive absences, such as hospitalization or a student under a doctor's supervision will be considered excused and dealt with on an individual basis. Frequent doctor or dentist appointments during class time are discouraged. **Unexcused absences** will lose **all** of the day's 20 participation points.

**Tardies**— When a student is tardy, it disrupts the class and the tardy student misses out on valuable class time. Students who are tardy will lose 5 of their 20 daily participation points. School policy in the DJHS Student Handbook states:

- \* Tardies are tabulated by class period and are aggregated by six weeks.
- \* The penalties for being tardy are as follows per class per six weeks:
  - First tardy, no penalty
  - Second and successive tardies will result in disciplinary action

**Students are expected to be in their assigned seats with all materials when the tardy bell rings.**

## **Additional Information**

**Water**— Students must get water **before** class starts. Water bottles ARE allowed and encouraged in choir class.

**Missing Music**— Any original music that is missing or severely damaged when it is collected will be put on a fine list. You will be charged the replacement cost of the music. Folders will be distributed to each student at the beginning of the year to store the music.

**Restroom**- Students are encouraged to use the restroom before or after choir class. If restroom breaks become a distraction, it could result in loss of bathroom privileges.

**Perfumes and body sprays should not be used in class, right before entering class, or before any performance.**

## Performance Dress Code

Each student will be issued a choir uniform for performances, which is to be worn properly at all times. If the student fails to wear the complete uniform when required, it will result in a lower grade and may be asked not to perform.

**Gentlemen:** Tuxedo pants, white tuxedo shirt, black vest and bow-tie\*\* will be provided by the school.

**Ladies:** Black dress\*\* will be provided by the school.

**STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN BLACK DRESS SHOES AND BLACK SOCKS OR TIGHTS/HOSE. NO BOOTS, SANDALS, TENNIS SHOES, OR FLIP-FLOPS ARE TO BE WORN IN PERFORMANCE.**

Hair must be neatly styled and away from the face. Jewelry must be small and not overly distracting. The director may ask that distracting jewelry be removed in order to be allowed to perform.

\*\* Any alterations that need to be done will be the responsibility of the student. We will reimburse professional alterations up to \$20 if a receipt is provided by the student or parent and we see proof that the alterations were completed.

**IMPORTANT!!** Uniforms are dry-clean **ONLY!** **Please do not launder the uniform yourself.**

Uniforms will be returned to the school during the week of May 18-21. Please arrange for your uniform to be dry-cleaned and returned with the receipt attached. If you are unable to have the uniform dry-cleaned, you may be responsible for a small cleaning fee.

**Polo shirts** will be ordered for each choir member. Polo shirts will be worn with jeans for some informal concerts. If a student loses or damages his/her polo shirt it will cost \$15 to replace it.

## Fundraiser Information

In order to provide polo shirts and uniforms at no direct cost to the student, we do have to raise funds. Each student is asked to participate. If the student does not participate, they will be asked to purchase the polo shirt for \$15.

## Disruptions

**Discipline problems will not be tolerated. If you have trouble with following instructions, showing proper respect to all directors and fellow students, taking care of school property or equipment, and maintaining a positive outlook, then choir may not be the class for you.**

## Concerts

**Performance Grades count 6 times in the gradebook.**

**If you do not attend, you will fail for the Six Weeks!**

**The full points will be awarded on these 6 criteria:**

- 1) Student arrives on time for pre-concert warm-ups. An unexcused tardy will lower your points by 50.
- 2) Student wears complete uniform. This means: Black Choir dress or tuxedo, black dress shoes and socks/hose. Lack of correct footwear will lower your grade by 50 .
  - 1) Student demonstrates concepts learned in class.
  - 2) Student displays enthusiasm and a good attitude.
  - 3) Student stays for the entire concert. There are no exceptions.
  - 4) Student displays proper audience and performance etiquette. Appropriate behavior is expected.

\*\*\*The director needs to be notified as soon as possible if there is a problem that will prevent the student from attending a performance.

**Excused Absences:** illness, death in the immediate family, legitimate weather concerns, religious reasons, or some other emergency. **ALL absences must be verified with a telephone call or a note from home and are subject to director or administrator approval in order to be excused.** An alternative assignment may be assigned for excused absences for full credit.

**Visits from relatives, work schedules, unable to find a ride, quinceañeras, birthday celebrations, and babysitting are considered UNEXCUSED absences.**

Every effort is made by the directors to work with school coaches or other teachers so that a student will be able to participate in all school events. **Non school sponsored events will not be excused.**

Students will receive a calendar of events for the year so that these types of schedule conflicts can be avoided. An **unexcused absence** will result in **loss of all points** for that performance.

On an individual basis, the director may choose to assign an alternative grade for excused absences.