

Clark & Fowler Middle School

Choir Handbook
2026-2027



Vanessa Glover
Director

Hello, Clark and Fowler Choir parents and students!

Welcome to the Clark/Fowler Choir program, for the 2026-2027 school year. I'm delighted to sing with you in choir, and I look forward to another exciting and successful year. You have chosen to be a part of an organization that can offer you many opportunities for growth and provide experiences in music that you will remember for a lifetime.

This handbook is designed to introduce you to the many facets of the Clark and Fowler Choir program, and to answer as many questions as possible. In an active program like ours, your cooperation helps ensure a successful experience for all. I know that parent support and involvement in the choir program is the greatest asset we have.

Thank you in advance for your support of our choir program at both Clark and Fowler Middle Schools. I am excited to work with you, and I look forward to many enriching musical experiences throughout this school year.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Glover, M.M.
Choir Director
Clark/Fowler Middle School
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(469) 635-5068

Please review the Handbook, and submit the Handbook Acknowledgement Google Form, located [HERE](#). I am asking that all Handbook Acknowledgement Forms be submitted by Monday, August 17th.

CHOIR ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Unlike individual activities such as an academic class, *it is impossible to make up activities that occur in a choir rehearsal or concert.* Unexcused absences will have a negative impact on the students grade.

An unexcused missed concert performance can only be made up by attending another FISD Choir Concert, submitting a program/photo of the student at the performance, as well as 3 paragraph review of the performance for the highest possible grade of a 70.

Additional Rehearsals/Activities

Students will be given adequate notice of all additional rehearsal and activities outside of the regular class period. These rehearsal and activities are course requirements and are vital to the success of our choral program. Every effort will be made to minimize the amount of out-of-class time required; therefore, unexcused absences from these activities may affect the students grade. Please see the director ahead of time if you anticipate that this will be a problem.

In the event of a conflict with another scheduled school activity, it is the responsibility of the student to notify BOTH sponsors of the activities.

The sponsors will then determine the students obligation.

Concert Attendance

Concerts are the ultimate evaluation of many weeks of preparation and classwork. This is a presentation of the culmination of the work that they have done in that particular grading period (similar to a unit test in math, science, etc). Choir members are expected to be present for ALL required concerts, and to stay for the entire concert. I also encourage parents and family members to attend and support your young musicians!

ABSENCE POLICY

- Written/Email notice, received in advance, from a parent/guardian is required for any absence from a rehearsal or concert. Please check calendars carefully. It is your responsibility to avoid scheduling conflicts with the planned calendar. Students with an excused absence will have the opportunity to make up this grade with an alternate assignment. Unexcused absences from concerts will count as a zero on a major grade.
- Verbal or written excuses from students are not accepted.
- Excused absences include:
 - Personal illness
 - Family emergency

- Other extenuating circumstances. In cases of legitimate prior commitments, the instructor must be notified NO LATER than the sixth week of school. Religious obligations are excused if a parent emails/writes a note to the teacher at least 2 weeks in advance.
- Extra-curricular and school club events will never take precedence/priority over a co-curricular event such as UIL Concert and Sight-Reading and concerts. Additionally, babysitting, tutorials, doctor's appointments with no prior notice, and transportation issues do not justify an absence and will result in an unexcused absence.
- If you have an athletic conflict, please contact your choir director and your coach at the beginning of the season. As choir is a co-curricular subject and a grade on students' report cards, we ask students to attend concerts (test grade) before sports practices. If our concerts conflict with a game (we do our best to avoid this), we expect students and parents to communicate weeks in advance before the conflict. If a student chooses to attend their game instead of the concert, they will be expected to complete an alternate assignment by the day of the concert to make up for missing the concert.
- *Please Note: during weeks leading up to a concert or contest, Mrs. Glover may ask students to attend extra rehearsals before or after school.

Excused Absences: Death in the family, medical emergency or personal illness, religious holiday, school activities (with prior discussion and approval). We must have a written note/email from the parent BEFORE the event unless the absence is due to an emergency situation.

Unexcused Absences: family trips, personal business or entertainment, not having a ride, and "I forgot." These are absences that probably could have been avoided with careful planning, communication, and/or effort. An absence (not due to family emergency or personal illness) that has not been communicated with the director at least a month in advance is considered an unexcused absence.

GRADING POLICY

Each student's nine-weeks grade will be derived from:

1. Assessment of Learning (Weighted) - Concerts, contests, performances, part assessments, sight-reading assessments, score analysis.
2. Progress Check for Learning (Non Weighted) - Solfege checks, rhythm checks, part checks, rehearsal/performance evaluations, text analysis.
3. *The FMS policy regarding late assignments and re-testing will be followed.

CHOIR REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

The most important factor in overall success of any choir is the work it accomplishes during its rehearsals. In other words, great choirs have great rehearsals. Students will be learning the following rehearsal skills and will be expected to demonstrate these skills each day:

Clark/Fowler Choir Rehearsal Expectations

In order for us to have a productive and positive choral experience, these ARE (Accountability, Respect, Effort) our musician expectations:

- Be prepared for each rehearsal. Bring the proper supplies (binder, music, class book, pencil) to every rehearsal. Practice your part so that you are ready for the rehearsal both mentally and physically. You should be ready to go at the beginning of rehearsal (not needing to grab something from your backpack). (accountability)
- Turn all work in on time (accountability and respect)
- Stop when the teacher stops and wait for feedback or further instruction (respect)
- Ask a teacher for permission prior to getting up and/or leaving the classroom (respect)
- Be respectful of school and others' property. You will be sharing a rehearsal space with everyone. If you take/borrow any supplies, please make sure to put them back where it was neatly. (respect)
- Take care of the room. Always help care for our rehearsal room and be intentional about putting things back to where they were at the end of class. Students not currently taking choir are not allowed in the choir room. (respect)
- Keep hands, feet and other objects to yourself (respect)
- Be POSITIVE. We are a team and a team supports each other. This means no negative attitudes and no negative comments. (respect)
- Actively listen and stay engaged. Be ready to sing ALWAYS (respect and effort)
- Put forth your best EFFORT (effort)

Gum has been an increasingly prevalent issue the past few years. Chewing gum is not conducive to singing, and is not allowed in the Choir Room. Students that arrive to class chewing gum will be given ONE warning, and will need to dispose of their gum. After the first warning, the student will be issued a C-Hall, and parents will be notified.

ACTIVITY FEE

Each student is asked to provide a \$50 activity fee that covers the cost of their choir t-shirt and uniform rental for the school year. All fees are due by Friday, September 4th, and are payable via onlineschoolfees.com. *Mrs. Glover will notify when fees are 'live' and have been loaded into onlineschoolfees.com accounts.

FUNDRAISING

Clark and Fowler Choirs will be working this year to raise money for additional uniform needs, clinician fees, instrumentalist fees, and additional needs of the choir program. Participation by all students is not only encouraged, but vital to our growing program, as every student benefits from these efforts. We will partner with Schoolfundr, and use their digital text-donation fundraiser option.

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE GRADES

In addition to choir concerts, students will be required to participate in one of the two following options for a weighted grade. These performances are separate from choir concerts, and additional morning/after school rehearsals may be required.

1. **All-Region Choir (April 9 - Auditions @ Evans MS (McKinney, TX)**
7th and 8th grade choir students will audition for the TMEA (Texas Music Educators Association) All-Region Choir. Students will prepare three pieces plus sight-reading for this audition. The highest ranked singers from area school districts earn a spot in the choir. This prestigious choir then performs once during our All-Region Clinic/Concert date.
2. **Solo & Ensemble Contest (April 24th - Frisco HS)**
6th, 7th, and 8th grade students participating in the UIL (University Interscholastic League) Solo & Ensemble contest will prepare a memorized vocal solo from a prescribed music list and will be scored by a judge. The choir director will assist in music selection. A small ensemble may be chosen for this contest.
3. **Pre-UIL (February 23rd - Heritage HS: Bella Voce, Chamber Choir, Tenor/Bass Choirs)** Pre-UIL is a mandatory performance for ALL students in choirs participating in UIL. It is considered an extension of the classroom. If you do not attend the Pre-UIL performance, you will not be allowed to participate in the UIL evaluation. If you do not participate in the UIL evaluation, an alternate assignment will be given to you to complete for that grade.
4. **UIL (March 3-5 - FISD VPAC)**
Because UIL (Concert and Sight Reading Evaluation for all choirs except Beginners (Bel Canto/Chamber Choir) has moved away from the “no-pass, no-play” rule, eligibility is no longer required to attend the UIL Evaluation. However, each students’ participation will be at the discretion of the director. Participation will be judged on contribution to and during the class (attention, focus, and preparedness), mastery of assessments (higher than 85%), and, when applicable, sectionals and rehearsals. THIS IS ONLY FOR UIL. UIL is a curricular activity and your participation is expected and mandatory (per the above points). Your participation will take precedence over involvement in any other extra-curricular activity.

CHOIR UNIFORM CONTRACT

FORMAL UNIFORMS

Formal choir gowns and uniforms are property of FISD, and are rented to the student on a yearly basis. The rental fee will be \$30, and is included in the choir activity fee via onlineschoolfees.com

Singers in Concert, Bel Canto (Fowler Beginner), and Bella Voce (Fowler Advanced), Concert Choir (Clark Beginner), and Chamber Choir (Clark Advanced) choirs will rent a long black choir gown. You must provide your own solid black closed-toe dress shoes. Flats or small 2" heels are acceptable. You are encouraged to have the garment hemmed, if needed, but you MAY NOT cut, or alter the dress in any way other than hemming. All singers must have their hair pulled back into a bun for all formal concerts.

Singers in the Tenor/Bass Choir will rent a tux shirt, vest & tie combo, but are still asked to wear their own black dress pants, dress socks, and black dress shoes.

Uniforms should not be worn outside of choir events. Please wear deodorant at all times when you have your uniform on, but DO NOT wear perfume or cologne, as some students are allergic. These scents do not always wash out. Also, make sure that you are clean while wearing the uniform (do not put it on right after athletics!). Items that do not meet requirements (not hemmed, improper shoes, badly wrinkled, etc.) are not considered to be the proper uniform and the student might not be allowed to perform at director discretion.

Uniforms must be dry-cleaned only and must be returned in a dry-cleaning bag at the close of the school year. Should you damage or fail to return the uniform, you are responsible for the full price. If you wish to purchase and own your own uniform, you are also responsible for the full price. At the end of the students' time in choir, you may choose to donate the uniform, sell it to another student, or keep it.

CHOIR T-SHIRT

Our Choir T-Shirt is the required uniform of all choir students for most informal choir concerts and events. Additionally, there will be designated days throughout the school year in which students may wear their Choir T-Shirt to school that day.

Cost of T-Shirt is included in the Choir Activity Fee

Please indicate your shirt size on the Handbook Acknowledgement Form.

I do not wish for the uniform requirement to prevent a student from participating in choir. If this requirement poses a problem or creates a financial difficulty, please contact me as

soon as possible so that we can work together to find a solution (delayed payment, financial assistance, etc.)

Fowler Handbook Acknowledgement Form

Clark Handbook Acknowledgement Form

Due Monday, August 17, 2026