



CHEEK
MIDDLE SCHOOL

CHOIR HANDBOOK

2025-2026

Mr. Zachary Rohwer, Director

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www.tinyurl.com/cheekchoir

Dear Cheek MS Choir Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Cheek Middle School *Charger Choir!* My name is Zachary Rohwer, and I have the esteemed privilege of being the choir teacher for the 2025-2026 year. Under the direction of Mr. Emilio Sanchez, the Cheek choir program has had a proven track record of success. It is my goal to continue that record and drive the choir program to even further heights.

Choir is a very unique class in terms of policies and rules, and thus it can be slightly confusing to understand all of the guidelines. This handbook is for the purpose of having the rules of the program **in writing** to refer to. The handbook will also be posted on our choir website and distributed electronically through email. This handbook and packet of information is being provided to you so you can understand the policies, rules, and procedures of choir. For the purposes of timeliness, I would greatly appreciate you/your student **returning the necessary forms and choir fees by September 13th.** If you need more time to turn in choir fees, please contact me so we can make arrangements.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns!

Sincerely,

Zachary Rohwer

Choir Director

Cheek Middle School

zrohwer@dentonisd.org

Class Schedule

Period 1 -6th Grade Treble Choir (8:15am - 9:00am)

Period 2 -7th/8th Grade Tenor-Bass Choir (9:03am - 9:47am)

Period 3 - 6th Grade Tenor Bass Choir (9:50am - 10:34am)

'CHARGE TIME' - (10:37am - 11:02am)

Period 4 - Partner Music (11:05am - 11:49am)

LUNCH - (11:52am - 12:24pm)

Period 5 - 6th Grade Treble Choir 2 (12:27pm - 1:11pm)

Period 6 -7th/8th Grade Varsity Treble Choir (1:14pm - 1:59pm)

Period 7 - 7th/8th Grade Non-Varsity Treble Choir (2:02pm - 2:47pm)

Period 8 -Conference (2:50pm - 3:35pm)

OVERVIEW OF ENSEMBLES

6th Grade Treble/Tenor Bass-Bass Choir (Choir 1)– This choir consists of 6th graders who may have had choir experience, but will learn proper vocal techniques, as well as sight-reading skills to prepare them to be strong, independent musicians. Additional rehearsals may be required in order to best prepare for performances and contests.

7th/8th Grade Treble/Tenor-Bass (Choir 2/3) – This choir consists of 7th and 8th graders who wish to train and develop their voices, and participate in vocal performances. This ensemble will acquire beginning vocal techniques and sight-reading skills and may participate in UIL and other competitions. Additional rehearsals may be required in order to best prepare for performances and contests.

SUPPLIES NEEDED DAILY

Students will need the following for class:(provided by Mr. Rohwer)

- 1+ sharpened pencils
- 1 inch black Three-Ring Binder

DONATIONS

The CMS Choir would greatly appreciate it if you are able to donate some items that are used extensively in choir! These items include

- A ream of Multi-Use Copier Paper (8.5" x 11") for handouts/music •
- Pencils
- Highlighters
- Expo Markers
- Pencil Erasers
- Monetary donations to help students in need

GRADING PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

Grades will be given according to the following scale

1. Major Grades 60%
 - Concert Performances
 - Sight-Singing and Ear-training Tests
 - Music Score Mark ups (solfege, vowels, rhythms, dynamics, etc.)
2. Minor Grades 40%
 - Sight-reading and Ear-training Quizzes
 - Written Quizzes (vocabulary, music theory, etc.)
 - Music Score Mark ups (solfege, vowels, rhythms, dynamics, etc.)
 - Rehearsal Skills (ability to follow rehearsal procedures and classroom expectations)

CONCERTS

The State Board of Education mandates that choirs be provided with performance opportunities. We have several REQUIRED performances throughout the year. These are designated as CURRICULAR activities, not extra-curricular, which means that all students are required to participate as designated on the calendar. If your student does not attend the concert, they will need to notify the choir director as soon as possible and schedule a time to perform for the director. Students will be graded based upon singing correct pitches, rhythms, intonation, posture, tall vowels, musicality, etc.

Failure to attend required concerts may affect students' eligibility to participate in optional off-campus performances/field trips.

Each of the REQUIRED concerts (see calendar, separate) count as test grades. Concert test grades are determined in the following manner.

1. Being an actively involved performer and singing concert literature with correct intonation, vowels, dynamics, diction, and posture.
2. Being able to be an actively involved listener while other groups are performing their concert literature.

Both of these skills are found within our Music TEKS and will be assessed at each concert. If a student is not present, I cannot fully assess a student for mastery of all these skills.

Concert attendance is very important to the CMS Choir program. Conflicts with other CMS events will be worked out by the other club/athletic sponsors and myself. It is your child's responsibility to notify the director as soon as possible if a scheduling conflict occurs. Non-school related activities will NOT be excused. THE KEY IS PLANNING AHEAD!

Other UNEXCUSED absences include, but are not limited to:

- Transportation
- Babysitting
- Doctor appointments
- Non-school related events

REQUIRED FEE FOR PCMS CHOIR

It is always my goal to make fees as little as possible for a student in choir. But with any fine arts program, there may be a fee required to be able to purchase certain items (dry cleaning for choir uniforms, music, supplies, etc.) The one, mandatory fee for all choir students will be \$35.00 to order the choir t-shirt, rental and maintenance (dry cleaning) for choir uniforms (for formal performances), music, choir binders, and other necessary supplies.

You can pay online using InTouch, or by paying with cash or cheques. Write out cheques to "Cheek MS Choir".

All required fees for choir must be paid before a student can pay for field trip fees.

NON-REQUIRED FEES FOR CHOIR

Choir trips, and other choir related events that cost money will NOT be required or mandatory, but those who take part will have to pay the necessary costs for those events when they are due. Students must be passing all classes in order to go on any trips. I will let students know when they must be passing classes in order to go on certain trips.

Fundraising

We will be participating in various fundraisers throughout the year. It is important that we have as much participation as possible in order to meet the needs of the choir.

This will aid in allowing us to keep costs low for various activities that we would like to participate in throughout the year, purchasing supplies and raising money for fun activities as well (buses for trips, choir parties, etc.)

UNIFORM/ATTIRE FOR CONCERTS

All choir members must purchase a choir t-shirt. Anyone who is unable to pay, or is needing to make special arrangements must contact the director. Students must be in complete concert attire in order to perform!!

For NON-FORMAL concerts, ALL STUDENTS will be wearing their choir t-shirt, jeans (no holes), and closed-toe shoes.

Formal Concert Attire

7th & 8th Grade Tenor Bass Choirs – The 7th/8th Tenor-Bass Choir will wear be wearing a white tuxedo shirt, black tux pants (not jeans), black dress shoes (NOT TENNIS SHOES), black dress socks, black vest, and a black tie. The tuxedo shirts, vests, ties and tux pants will be provided for students. They must provide their own black dress shoes and socks.

Drycleaning and maintenance of these items are included in the choir fee.

7th/8th Grade Girls' Choirs– **Concert dress. The 7th/8th Treble Choir will need to provide their own solid black closed-toe shoes - Black heels/wedges or Black flats, which are HIGHLY recommended, especially if the students are standing for a while during performances. They will be allowed to wear earrings of modest size. Hair must not cover the face when performing.

Drycleaning and maintenance of the concert dress is included in the choir fee.

****When the 7th & 8th Grade Choir students receive their choir uniform, they will also be given a Concert Uniform Agreement Form that explains information about the uniform. If a uniform returns damaged, students will have to pay for the repairs or the uniform. If a uniform is lost, it is the responsibility of the student to pay for the replacement.****

6th Grade Treble and Tenor-Bass Choir - 6th Grade Treble & Tenor Bass Choir will be wearing the choir T-Shirt, jeans, close-toed shoes/flats, and a belt.

--6th Grade students are responsible for providing the jeans, shoes/flats, socks, etc. Mr. Rohwer will provide the Choir T-Shirt only--

CHOIR EXPECTATIONS

Choir is an exciting and different experience from any other class. In order to be successful, we must work as a team in class. The following rules are for your benefit and the success of our choir. Your enjoyment of choir depends on adhering to these expectations:

1. Be on time. Class begins when the tardy bell rings. Students should have their folder, pencil, and any other supplies needed for class by the beginning of class. Students who are not in class with their materials by the tardy bell will be counted as tardy.
2. Do your best every class for yourself and for the group.
3. Be polite, positive, and supportive to your fellow choir members and all adults.
4. Do not leave your seat without permission.
5. Students are not allowed to leave the classroom for the first or last 10 minutes of class.
6. Food, drinks, and gum are NOT allowed unless permission is granted from the director. Water in a sealable water bottle is allowed and encouraged.
7. You need permission to touch classroom equipment (such as the piano, sound equipment, or computer) or to enter the practice room, storage area, or office.
8. Per state law, cell phones and other devices should remain in bags/backpacks on silent during class.
9. All DISD and CMS rules and policies are in effect when we go on trips. Students who consistently follow the rules and procedures in choir will be invited to go on field trips. Students who do not consistently follow the rules and procedures will not be invited to go on field trips.

Consequences for misbehavior may include but are not limited to the following:

1. Warning (DON'T GO ANY FURTHER THAN THIS!!)
2. Call/email to relevant guardians and/or coaches
3. Office Referral and parent contacted

4. Detention, served before/after school, lunch or at teacher's convenience, parent is also contacted, guidance counselor meeting

5. In the event of a student continually not working, replacing their concert with a hand written paper assignment

Eligibility

In order for choir students to fully participate in UIL sponsored choral contests and festivals, each choir member must pass ALL classes with at least a 70 average. Failure to do so will result in academic probation. If a student can bring all grades passing to the following progress report, they can become eligible again. During a students' time of academic probation, all choir members are still obligated to attend all rehearsals. Ineligible students will be able to perform in curricular activities in which a grade is given for participation, such as the required concerts.

All-Region Auditions (7/8th Grade Choir Students Only)

The 7th and 8th graders are encouraged to audition for the All-Region Choir. Students receive music and practice tracks and prepare audition music. They also receive specialized instruction with the director or private lesson teacher in order to prepare for the competition. If selected, students get to participate in a weekend event that culminates in the All-Region Choir Concert. All Region Choir members are also awarded a patch. This is the highest honor that a 7th or 8th grade middle school singer can earn and should be pursued by any 7th or 8th grader who has high musical goals and aspirations! Voice lessons are strongly encouraged for these students.

Solo & Ensemble (6-8th Grade Choir Students)

Students will also have the opportunity to participate in the Solo/Ensemble Contest. Singing a solo for competition will only be required for those students who are enrolled in private voice lessons but all dedicated choir students are strongly encouraged, especially if wanting to be a part of the advanced choirs. More info to come!

6th Grade Honor Choir Auditions (6th Grade Choir Students Only)

The 6th graders are encouraged to audition for the DISD 6th Grade Honor Choir. Students receive music and practice tracks and prepare audition music. They also receive specialized instruction with the director or private lesson teacher in order to prepare for the auditions. If selected, students get to participate in a clinic and Concert event with 6th graders all over the Denton ISD. This is the highest honor that a 6th grade singer can earn and should be pursued by any 6th grader who has high musical goals and aspirations! Voice lessons are strongly encouraged for these students.

All-Region choir auditions, All-region concert/clinic, 6th Grade Honor Choir, and field trips are where eligibility takes effect! Concerts are an assessment, therefore students are required to be at concerts, whether or not they are passing!

Cheek MS Choir Fee Form

Please initial and specify what you are paying for below!

THIS FORM & FEES DUE TO MR. ROHWER BY SEPTEMBER 13th! If you filled

out the T-Shirt form online, you do not need to fill out this form.

Student Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

****MANDATORY FEE (Choose 1)****

_____ 6th Grade Mandatory Fee - \$35.00 (includes choir t-shirt, choir binder & pencil pouch, and any other necessary choir items (music, etc.))

PLEASE CIRCLE STUDENT T-SHIRT SIZE (EITHER YOUTH OR ADULT SIZE)

(YOUTH): L

(ADULT): S M L XL 2XL 3XL

6th grade students will try on Performance Polos in class to get the correct size.

_____ 7th & 8th Grade Mandatory Fee - \$35.00 (includes choir t-shirt, school owned uniform maintenance/dry cleaning, choir binder, and any other necessary choir items (music, etc.))

PLEASE CIRCLE STUDENT T-SHIRT SIZE (EITHER YOUTH OR ADULT SIZE)

(YOUTH): L

(ADULT): S M L XL 2XL 3XL

NON-MANDATORY ITEMS (6th-8th Grade - OPTIONAL)

_____ Choir Hoodie(s) - \$35.00 each - Quantity: _____ Adult Size(s): _____

_____ Extra T-Shirt(s) - \$15.00 each - Quantity: _____ Adult Size(s): _____

MANDATORY CHOIR FEE (6th-8th Grade): \$35.00

+ NON-MANDATORY FEE(S): _____

= GRAND TOTAL _____

****Please contact Mr. Rohwer to set up a payment plan if needed**** We accept Cash or Checks made out to "Cheek MS Choir"



IF YOU PREFER TO PAY FEES ONLINE, SCAN THE QR CODE

PCMS CHOIR HANDBOOK

STATEMENT

Please fill out the following page and return to Mr. Rohwer no later than Friday, September 13th WITH your choir fee included! Please let Mr. Rohwer know if a student will need to pay the choir fee in payments.

Signed commitment of student and parent or guardian.

I have read the Cheek Middle School Choir Handbook (provided online/email) and I do understand and agree to abide by the policies that are outlined in the handbook. This includes the following items:

1. Supplies needed daily
2. Grading Procedures & Policy
3. Concert Performances & Attire
4. Choir Fees
5. Choir Classroom Expectations
6. Eligibility
7. PCMS Choir Calendar
8. PCMS Choir Handbook Statement

I understand that being a part of the PCMS Choir is a privilege, therefore if a student does not abide by these policies, schedule changes may take place and the student will be removed from the PCMS Choir.

Student Name (Printed) _____

Student's Signature _____

Date ____/____/____

Parent's Signature _____

Date ____/____/____