

Auburn High School  
**Choral**  
**Guidebook**  
2025-2026



Kim Ladage, Director

## **Parents & Students:**

**Please read the sections that apply to you, mark all dates on your calendar, and return the signed contract at the back of the packet to school by August 22.**

Concert Choir meets every day of the week and earns a full credit. Swing Choir meets three times a week during zero hour for a quarter credit/semester. Swing Choir is a class and as such, all policies that apply to classes scheduled during the regular school day also apply to zero hour. **Students who have more than one unexcused or 3 or more tardies to Swing Choir may be removed from the class.**

### **Required Materials:**

- **Pencils:** Students must have pencils every day in order to write in their music.
- **1" Black 3-Ring Binder:** The school has provided black binders for all students—it is their responsibility to keep them in good shape in order to use them from year to year
- **Music & Theory Work:** Music and theory work should be kept in students' choir binders at all times.
- **Electronic Recording Abilities:** some vocal assessments will need to be submitted digitally. Students must have some way to record their voices and share that recording with Mrs. Ladage (Chromebooks work for this)
- **Headphones** that connect to chromebooks (won't be used every day)
- **Google Classroom:** We will use Google Classroom to assign and collect work, as well as to post instructional materials. Students must have access to Google Classroom either on their Chromebooks or another device.

### **Grading System:**

**Participation:** Includes attendance, effort, attitude and behavior in class and at performances. Students begin with 5 participation points every day that can be lost.

**Vocal Competency:** Includes assessment of vocal production and knowledge of the music, including intonation, breathing, tone, vowel production, choral blend, volume of sound, etc.

**Musical Competency:** Includes assessment of music theory, aural skills, sight reading, knowledge of literature, etc.

**Quizzes & Tests:** Includes all performance and written tests.

**Final Exam(Concert Choir Only):** A semester exam will count for 20% of the semester grade

### **Choir Classroom Expectations:**

1. Follow all directions the first time they are given.
  2. When Mrs. Ladage stops, you stop. (This includes singing and talking)
  3. Participation is required. In choir, we learn by doing. Everyone must sing and do their best at all times.
  4. Be on time and prepared (have your music, pencil, and any other needed materials)
  5. No gum, candy, food, or beverages besides water.
  6. Treat yourself, others, and the choir program with respect. We don't speak negatively about ourselves or about the efforts or abilities of other students.
  7. If you have a question, raise your hand and wait to be called on.
- Failure to follow these rules may result in: calls home, detentions, referrals, removal from the class or other disciplinary action.

### **Concert Attire:**

Each member of the Concert Choir will be provided with choir robe and stole, both of which are school property and should be treated as such. Under the choir robes, students must wear black on bottom (black dress pants/skirt, black hose/socks, black dress shoes). If the collar of a shirt shows above the robe, it needs to be white, unless that student is wearing a black shirt for Swing Choir. Ties must be worn with collared shirts. It is preferred that girls wear hose/dress shoes and boys wear pants under their robes.

**Hair & Jewelry:** All students must wear their hair secured back from their faces. Minimal jewelry may be worn. No big or sparkly jewelry.

**Swing Choir:** Wear a combination of black, silver, and royal blue dress clothes. Arms should be covered to the elbow and legs should be covered to the knee.

### **Attendance Policy**

Learning in musical ensembles is a group endeavor. Therefore, students' attendance in class and at performances is not only mandatory, but vital to the success of the ensemble.

### **Excused Absences from Concerts:**

\* *Illness:* Students who are absent from school the day of a concert may not participate in the concert.

\* *Death or serious injury in the family:* Students must bring a note from their parents/guardians when they return to school.

\* *Sports playoff, regional or state contests:* Students are responsible for notifying all instructors of conflicts as soon as schedules are posted. Schedule conflicts with regular season school games must be resolved between the director, coach, and the students in advance. Sports practices or club sports events are not excused absences from concerts.

\*\*\*\**If you know you are going to be absent from a concert, notify Mrs. Ladage as soon as possible, even if that is only a few minutes before the performance!*

**Alternate Assignment Policy:** If you have an excused absence from a performance you will be required to do an alternate assignment to make up the points you missed. Each performance will be worth a different amount of points, depending on the importance of the performance. I will tell you before each performance how many points it is worth. You must do an assignment that equals or exceeds that amount. For example, if you miss a 15 point performance you may do one 10 point assignment and one 5 point assignment OR you could do one 20 point assignment OR you could do three 5 point assignments. A list of Alternate Assignments will be available in the choir room and online. **IF YOU MISS A PERFORMANCE AND DO NOT TURN IN AN ALTERNATE ASSIGNMENT YOU WILL BE GIVEN A "0".**

### **Excused Absences from Class:**

Students are responsible for making up any work they missed. They have the number of days they missed to turn in the work. Work turned in after that will be late.

### **Unexcused Absences:**

**Class:** Work missed due to an unexcused absence cannot be made-up.

**Performances:** Points missed due to an unexcused absence from a concert cannot be made up.

\* *Part-time Jobs:* Points missed due to a work conflict cannot be made up because the choir schedule has been available all year.

## **Music with Sacred Texts**

The First Amendment of the Constitution does not forbid all mention of religion in the public schools; it prohibits the advancement or inhibition of religion by the state. The public schools are not required to delete from the curriculum all materials that may offend any religious sensibility.

It is the position of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) that the study and performance of religious music within an educational context is a vital and appropriate part of a comprehensive music education. The omission of sacred music from the school curriculum would result in an incomplete educational experience. One goal of the Auburn choral program is to expand the knowledge and experience of its students. To accomplish this, it is important that the school music curriculum include the study of music of all styles, forms, periods, and cultures. Since music with a sacred text or of a religious origin, particularly choral music, comprises such a substantial portion of music literature and has such an important place in the history of music, it should and does have an important part in music education. All music in the Auburn choral program is studied for educational, not religious, purposes.

If parents/guardians do not wish to have their student studying or performing music with sacred texts, a written objection must be submitted to Mrs. Ladage. Mrs. Ladage will then work with the parents/guardians in order to decide upon an appropriate course of action so that the student may be excused from the literature, and make-up work may be assigned.

## **Choir Awards**

**Choir Pin:** Awarded after 30 pts.

**Varsity Letter:** Awarded after 75

**\*\*Students are responsible for recording their award points on Charms**

**National Choral Award:** Awarded to the senior who shows outstanding musicianship and leadership. **Point Scale**

10 Each semester in Concert Choir with an A  
5 Each semester in Swing Choir with an A  
5 Each semester in Concert Choir with a B  
2 Each semester in Concert Choir with a C  
2 Each semester in Swing Choir with a B  
10 Perfect attendance in class for one semester 5 Serving section leader/officer for a semester  
10 Participation in Solo/Ensemble Festival  
5 Auditioning for an honor choir (e.g. ILMEA) 10 Selection and participation in an honor choir

**Key Chain:** Awarded after 50 pts

**Senior Trophy:** Awarded after 100 pts

10 Accompany choir or solo (points/ piece)  
5 Participation in each choir fundraiser  
5 Sing National Anthem at school event(outside of scheduled performances-max. 20 pts)  
1 Audition for a solo (in class)  
2 Attend outside vocal performances (max.20 pts.) 5 Perform a solo on a concert  
5 Private voice lessons (5 points for 8 lessons)  
10 Sing in a community or church choir (pts for year) 20 Participate in a summer music camp

## Contact & Website Information

**Phone:** 438-6817 (8:00am-1:30pm) Auburn Campus

628-3414 (1:55-3:40pm) Divernon Campus

**Email:** [kiladage@auburn.k12.il.us](mailto:kiladage@auburn.k12.il.us)

**Website:** <http://auburn.k12.il.us/vnews/display.v/SEC/Music%20Programs%7CMrs.%20Ladage> **Facebook:** Like “Auburn Music Department” and “Auburn Music Boosters” on Facebook to get updates on fundraisers, concerts, etc.

## Auburn High School Choir Department Events 2025/2026

**\*\*Bold Events are required. Other events are optional or by audition/nomination only.**

**\*\*Additional community performances may be scheduled**

Date	Event	Time	Who
Tues, Sept. 17	ILMEA Audition Clinic	8am-3pm	Optional HS Choir
<b>Fri, Oct. 3</b>	<b>National Anthem at Homecoming Game</b>	<b>Evening</b>	<b>HS Choir &amp; Swing Choir</b>
Sun, Sept. 21	Millikin Vocal Fest	PM	Select HS Choir
Mon, Sept. 22	Millikin Vocal Fest	All Day	Select HS Choir
Wed. Oct. 1	ILMEA Auditions Videos Due	n/a	Optional JH/HS Band/Choir
Fri, Oct. 3	Choir Float in Homecoming Parade (tentative)	3:30pm	5-12 Choir
<b>Wed, Oct. 15</b>	<b>5th &amp; HS Swing/Jazz Fall Concert</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>5th &amp; HS Choir</b>
Sat, Nov. 1	ILMEA Festival	All Day	Select HS Choir
Tues, Nov. 4	Youth in Harmony Barbershop Festival	9am-8pm	HS Choir
Sat, Nov. 15	ILMEA Jazz Festival	All dAy	Select HS Choir
<b>Wed, Dec. 10</b>	<b>7-12 Winter Choir Concert</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>	<b>7-12 Choir &amp; Swing Choir</b>
<b>Fri, Feb. 6</b>	<b>Sing National Anthem at Basketball Game</b>	<b>Evening</b>	<b>HS Choir &amp; Swing Choir</b>
<b>Fri, Feb. 13</b>	<b>Auburn Pops Concert</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>7-12 Band/Choir</b>
Sat, March 7	IHSA Solo/Ensemble Contest	TBA	Optional HS Band/Choir
Fri-Sun, April 24-26	AHS Musical: Once Upon a Mattress	7pm/2pm	Optional HS Students
<b>Fri, Apr. 17 or Sat, Apr. 18</b>	<b>IHSA Organizational Contest</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Concert Choir</b>
Wed, Apr 22	Prairieland Honor Choir	All Day	Select HS Choir
<b>Wed. May 6</b>	<b>AHS Spring Concert</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>All HS Bands &amp; Choirs</b>
Tues, May 12	Fine Arts Awards Night	6:30 PM	HS Band, Choir, Theater
Sun, May 17	Baccalaureate	6:00 PM	HS Band & Choir
Fri, May 22	Graduation	7:00 PM	HS Choir Seniors



# **Choir Policy Contract**

## **Students**

I have read the choir guidebook, and I agree to follow its rules and requirements. I have read about the mandatory events and will be in attendance at all of them.

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature

## **Parents/Guardians**

I have read the guidebook, and I understand its rules, requirements, and consequences. I have read about the mandatory events and will ensure my student's attendance at all of them.

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Signature