

# VINES HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR HANDBOOK

2024-2025



***VINES WILDCAT CHOIR***  
**#GROWINGFORWARD**

**Eunice Marrero, Director**

**[Eunice.Marrero@pisd.edu](mailto:Eunice.Marrero@pisd.edu)**

**469.752.7930**

**[www.vineswildcatchoir.com](http://www.vineswildcatchoir.com)**

# Vines High School Choir 24-25 Handbook

## Disclaimer

The information contained in this handbook is intended to be accurate at the time written, and is subject to change. Please contact the director if you have any questions.

## Calendar

Below is a copy of the Vines Choir 24-25 Calendar. A digital/live copy can be found [HERE](#). Please note the last column which indicates whether the event is mandatory. Please make the dates on your calendar now and reach out to [eunice.marrero@pisd.edu](mailto:eunice.marrero@pisd.edu) if a conflict arises. If adjustments are made during the school year, the director will provide updated information to students and parents as soon as possible.

Vines Choir Calendar Fall 2024						
Date		Event	Location	Time	Grade	Mandatory
August	1	Officers Leadership Day	Vines HS	9:00 am	Choir Officers	YES
	13	First Day of School	Vines HS	9:00 am	ALL	YES
	17	PISD All State Camp	Plano Senior HS	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	All-State/ Region Candidates	
	22	Choir Parent Meeting	Google Meets	7 pm	ALL	YES
	24	Back to School Pool Party	Plano Aquatic Center	6 to 8 pm	ALL	
September	5	Ice Cream Social	Vines HS	4:25 to 5:00 PM	ALL	
	14	District (Region) Auditions	Wylie HS	8:30 to 3:30 PM	All-State/ Region Candidates	
	21	Uniform Pickup Day	Vines HS	10:00 am to 12:00 PM	ALL	YES
	23	Breakfast Club	Vines HS	8:15 am	ALL	
October	1	Region Auditions	Princeton HS	4:30 PM	All-State/ Region Candidate	
	8	Central Cluster HS Fall Concert	Robinson Fine Arts Center	7:00 PM	ALL	YES
	23	8th Grade Visit	Vine HS	10:00 to 1:00 PM	ALL	YES
	25	10th Grade Visit	Plano Senior HS	10:00 to 1:00 PM	10th	YES
	26	Fall Festival	Vines HS	6:00 to 9:30 pm	ALL	YES
	29	Region Rehearsal	Wylie East HS	5:30 to 8:30 PM	Region Singers	
	30	Halloween Social	TBD	TBD	ALL	
November	2	Region Clinic & Concert	Allen HS PAC	8:30 to 5:00 PM	Region Singers	
	14	Friendsgiving	Vines HS	5:00 to 7:00 pm	7 to 10th	
	19	Pre-Area Auditions	Plano Senior HS	4:30 to 8:30 pm	All State Candidates	
December	5	Winter Concert	Messiah Lutheran Church	7:00 PM	ALL	YES
	6	Holiday Tour	Various Plano Locations	All Day	Pop Choir	YES
	12	Secret Santa Drawing	Vines HS	All Day	ALL	
	TBD	Sing at Mavericks Game	American Airlines Center	7:00 PM	ALL	

Vines Choir Calendar Spring 2025						
Date		Event	Location	Time	Grade	Mandatory
January	11	Area Auditions	TBA	4:30 PM	All State Candidates	
	27	Breakfast Club	Vines HS	8:15 am	ALL	
February	4	Solo & Ensemble	PSHS	5:00 PM	ALL	
	10	Friendship Social	Pinstack	6:00 to 8:00	ALL	
March	10	UIL Retreat	Vines HS	ALL DAY	ALL	YES
	13	Pre UIL	Robinson Fine Arts Center	5:00 PM	ALL	YES
	31	Breakfast Club	Vines HS	8:15 am	ALL	

April	3-4	UIL	Robinson Fine Arts Center	TBA	ALL	YES
	28	Breakfast Club	Vines HS	8:15 am	ALL	
May	1	SING	PSHS	7:00 pm	Pop Choir	
	8	Pop Show	Vines HS	7:00 PM	ALL	YES
	12	Spring Trip	Epic Waters	All Day	ALL	
	15	EOY Banquet	Rooftop Event Spot	6:00 to 9:00 PM	ALL	Not mandatory but you have already paid for it! :)
	20	Signing Party	Vines HS	4 to 5 pm	Next Year Choir	

## Communication

Follow us on [Instagram](#) @vineschoirofficial

A weekly email will be sent throughout the year to remind parents and students about upcoming dates.

Students must join the Vines Choir [Google Classroom](#) for announcements and school work:

- X Period: Cantabile Google Classroom code: **pd2lrrou**
- X Period: Tempo Pop Choir Google Classroom: **wbdip27**
- X Period: Bella Voce Google Classroom code: **yb3bz3a**
- X Period Bel Canto Google Classroom code: **x3mixtm**
- Vines Choir Officers Google Classroom code: **2kkydq5**
- All Region/All State Choir Google Classroom code: **ymhfvag**

**REMIND** is our preferred method to receive text message reminders. To join a class on Remind, participants text the class code to 81010. Can't add your number? Email [eunice.marrero@pisd.edu](mailto:eunice.marrero@pisd.edu)

- 3rd Period Cantabile Choir: **@ctb3p**
- 5th Period Temoo Pop Choir: **@tempopc**
- 6th Period Bella Voce Choir: **@bvt6p**
- 7th Period Bel Canto Choir: **@bct7p**
- Choir Officers 24-25: **@vofficer**
- All Region/All State Choir: **@vhsarasc**

## Uniform

Students will pick up their formal uniform from the Choir Department on **Saturday, September 21st from 10 am to 12 pm**. These must be returned in the spring, a week after UIL, no later than April 11, 2025. The informal uniform consists of our Vines Choir shirt (included in the choir fee) & Jeans.

**MEN:** To complete the formal uniform, students are responsible for black dress shoes, black dress socks, and standard wing tip white tux shirt. Plano ISD provides a tuxedo, pants, bow tie, and cummerbund.

Students who do not return their uniform will incur the following charge per item: Cummberbund: \$15; Bow Tie: \$15; Tuxedo: \$80; Pants \$50.

**WOMEN:** To complete the formal uniform, students are responsible for black closed-toe ballet flats (no other type of shoe will be accepted). PISD provides a black formal dress.

Students who do not return their dress will incur a \$65 charge.

The dress should be hemmed to fall one inch from the floor in your performance shoes. Do not cut any fabric or make permanent alterations to the dress. Hem tape may be used as long as it is removed before returning the dress.

## VHS Choir Booster Organization

Parents! This is your chance to get involved in your child's high school life! These first few years of high school are so important, and you and I have a common goal of keeping them interested in school so success can ultimately be achieved. As a choir parent you are automatically part of the booster club. Throughout the year, we need your time, your donations, and your assistance in any way you can support us to be a valuable part of your child's High School Choir experience.

The Booster club :

1. Supports the Vines Choir program.
2. Is an essential part of the high school arts and athletics experience.
3. Is self-funded with donations and fundraisers.
4. Is solely operated by parent volunteers.

## Materials

All Vines Choir students will be provided the following free of cost:

- 1 Black three-ring binder- 1 inch
- 2 pencils
- 1 pencil pouch
- 1 highlighter
- Sight reading materials
- Sheet music

## Choir Fee

Our Choir Booster Organization is asking that each Vines Choir student pays a \$35 fee. This fee will cover: a choir shirt, a banquet ticket, formal uniform dry-cleaning cost, and snacks throughout the year. We want everyone to experience the joy of choir, so if this fee places an undue financial burden on your family, please let us know at [eunice.marrero@pisd.edu](mailto:eunice.marrero@pisd.edu).

Please use the following link to pay the \$35 fee for your student:

<https://secure.affinipay.com/pages/vines-high-school-choir-boosters/payments>

Optional fees students may be responsible for throughout the year:

- Solo Contest fees and accompanist (Entry Fee, \$10, Accompanist Fee \$30 if needed)
- All Region Choir entry fee \$20
- Private lesson fees \$22. [Click HERE to sign up](#)
- Other misc. expenses & social events

## Parent Volunteers

We could never make it without your help! If plan to volunteer at any time this year, please complete the district's required Volunteer Application at: <https://oea.pisd.edu/volunteer/EntryPointHomeAction.do>

## Behavior Expectations

1. **Be honorable.** Stay on task and show self-discipline during rehearsals. Follow instructions the first time they are given. Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak. Social talking and blurting out are distractions that prevent others from learning.

2. **Be mindful.** Be supportive, courteous, and encouraging of your fellow choir members. Be respectful of their property and personal space. We work together as a team for greater success.
3. **Be safe.** The choir room is no place for arguing or horseplay. This room is both my and your home away from home!

## Rehearsal Expectations

Success in performance is directly proportional to success in rehearsal. The following are special guidelines for rehearsal efficiency:

**Always be in the right place at the right time with the right materials and the right attitude.**

- Always have your materials collected and ready.
- Be punctual and focused.
- Do not talk during instruction, even if the instruction is directed toward other students.

## Consequences

Misbehavior will be handled according to district and campus policy. Students are reminded that choir is most enjoyable when everyone is participating and collaborating. If a student fails to follow one or more classroom rules, the director will assume they have “temporarily forgotten the rules”. The director will then remind students of what they have forgotten. However, if the problem persists the following action steps will be taken:

First infraction – warning/time away and student conference

Second infraction – detention and write up on Review 360

Third infraction – parent contact

Fourth infraction – parent & teacher conference

Fifth infraction – team conference with parent

**\*SEVERE OFFENSE WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC OFFICE REFERRAL.\***

Severe offenses include: fighting, teacher insubordination, offensive language, commits or threatens to commit physical harm to others or self, damages or destroys property of another or self, refuses to participate or engages in activity that prohibits classroom function.

## Tardy Policy

A student is considered tardy if they are not in their seat with their materials when the bell rings. Walking through the door when the bell is ringing is considered tardy, and appropriate consequences will apply. Three tardies equal one absence. Tardies go back to zero at the beginning of each marking period. If a student is 10 minutes late or more they will be marked absent.

## Social Events

Social events are celebrations of a successful performance. Students who fail to meet our behavior expectations in class may be excluded from social activities as deemed appropriate by the choir director or campus administration. Information about social events will be sent home in advance of any scheduled activity.

**The 15-Minute Rule:** Students who are not picked up within 15 minutes of the end of an event will not be permitted to attend the next social event.

## Grading

Choir is a curricular course. As such, students will be graded on all activities pertaining to the established curriculum for the course in which they are enrolled. The [PISD grading policy](#) will be followed in regards to make-up work and retests.

Grades in choir are calculated on a 100-point scale. A grade of 70 or higher is required to pass each nine-weeks grading period. Grades are calculated in the following manner:

Major (Test) Grades – 60%	Daily Assignments – 40%
Formal Performances	Rehearsal Skills
Required Extra Rehearsals	Supply checks
Progress Checks	Informal Singing Assessments

## Concerts and Rehearsals

According to the state of Texas, because choir is a performing organization, concert and rehearsal attendance is essential and required. Concerts/rehearsals are considered curricular, not extra-curricular; therefore, attendance is mandatory. Concerts are an extension of what is taught in class and the culmination of your everyday rehearsal. ONE TEST GRADE will be given based on attendance, punctuality, performance and adhering to all concert/rehearsal guidelines.

## Academic Eligibility

Although choir is a curricular course, choir members participate in several extracurricular activities throughout the year. These include events such as off-campus performances, contests, and individual student competitions. According to the Texas Education Agency, students must pass all classes (70% or above) for the nine weeks grading period in order to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities for the subsequent nine weeks period. Required rehearsals and school concerts are curricular events and are not affected by eligibility restrictions.

## Absence Procedures

Please understand that, just like any sports team, we need all the members of the group to be present for our performances. Unlike most other academic classes, it is not possible to make up missed content in performance-based choir classes. Alternate assignments will be given to students who are absent in order to satisfy grade requirements, but there is no substitute for the information presented in class. Therefore, students are expected to attend all scheduled choir rehearsals and performances. If it is absolutely necessary to miss a performance, a written note signed by a parent must be presented to a director at least one week prior to a scheduled rehearsal and at least two weeks prior to any performance. The signed note must include the specific reason for the absence or it will be automatically considered unexcused. Unexcused absences may result in a lowered grade, loss of privileges, and/or reassignment to a different role within the choir.

In the event of a sudden illness or family emergency prior to a rehearsal or performance, the parent should call the director's school number and leave a message. A written note meeting the same criteria as in the previous paragraph may then be brought to the director following the performance.

### Excused Absences:

- Illness (must present a doctor's note)
- Death in the family or other serious family emergency (does not include working late – if this is a potential problem, please have a back-up ride in place for your child)
- Conflict with another **school-sponsored** activity or sport

(Every effort has been made to avoid conflicts. However, if there is a conflict with another Vines High School event, Mrs. Marrero will coordinate with the sponsor of that activity and work out a compromise. In this circumstance, it is **the student's responsibility** to inform the director as soon as they become aware of the conflict)

### **Unexcused Absences:**

Never assume an absence will be excused. Although it would be impossible to include a complete list, the following are some examples of unexcused absences.

- Lack of transportation (if this is a potential problem, please have a back-up ride in place)
- Forgot about concert/rehearsal
- Music/dance lessons/recitals
- Sporting events not sponsored by PISD (practices, games, etc.)

## **Fundraising**

All fundraisers are optional - the money raised is used for the benefit of the students in the Vines Choir program. Donations are also gladly accepted in lieu of participation for those who are interested. More information about fundraising procedures will be sent home at the start of our fundraising drives.

## **Extra Rehearsals**

It is not possible to produce a quality performance without ample preparation. There will be times when rehearsals outside of class are necessary. In order for the entire group to benefit, all must be punctual in attendance. Advanced notice will be given if extra rehearsals need to be added to the calendar. An unexcused absence from rehearsal will result in grade reduction and may result in the student's suspension from the next performance.

## **Off-Campus Travel**

There will be occasions when we will travel as a group off-campus. Detailed information regarding the event as well as a consent form will be sent home in advance of these trips. Students who fail to comply with the rules, expectations, and/or director's instructions will receive appropriate consequences. Once the student leaves campus with the choir, they must remain with the choir until the group returns to the campus. If parents desire their child to travel by alternative means to or from an event where school transportation is provided, an Alternative Transportation Form must be on file with their director before departing for the event. A handwritten note or verbal authorization cannot be used in place of an Alternative Transportation Form.

## **Cultural and Ethnic Music**

Performing a variety of musical literature, that was composed and performed across our musical history, is a vital portion of each student's musical education. The director chooses each piece of literature with the purpose of enhancing each student's musicality and musical knowledge. From time to time, choir students may perform music relevant to cultural, seasonal, historical, or patriotic events. Students are encouraged to appreciate both the musical and cultural value of such music, but will not infringe upon the rights of students. It is requested that any parent with a concern about any programmed music discuss the matter with the director prior to the rehearsals or performance of the music. Additionally, song texts can easily be made available to any parent upon request. In addition, the wealth of choral literature which represents and reflects peoples, cultures, and traditions of all lands and compositional styles of all eras includes much music in which the composer has utilized a sacred text. Because of this, a quality repertoire will invariably include music with a sacred text but should in no way be interpreted as an attempt to indoctrinate a particular religion. If you have any questions about music selection, please do not hesitate to contact the director.

## Practice Room Guidelines

There are seven practice rooms in the performing arts area, which are shared among all students in the choir, orchestra, and band programs. Private lesson teachers always have priority for room usage and may ask students to vacate a practice room if necessary. Students wishing to use a practice room must obtain director permission.

## Schedule Changes

Choir is a full-year course. Students who sign up for choir are making a commitment to participate for the entire academic year. Students may not drop choir unless there is an extenuating circumstance as specified by the counselors or principal. Students may be changed from one level of ensemble to another if such a change is academically appropriate or to balance the size or voicing of the ensembles.

## Contest Requirements

In order to participate in UIL contest or the Collin County Festival, students must meet the following criteria:

- The student has no major grades below 70 in choir all year
- The student has no unexcused absences from any performance
- The student has received no office referrals in choir
- The student is academically eligible for the event
- The student has maintained a positive, cooperative attitude throughout the year
- The students has attended all necessary rehearsals for the event or has otherwise proved competency to perform

## Questions?

If you have any additional questions, please contact Mrs. Marrero via e-mail at [eunice.marrero@pisd.edu](mailto:eunice.marrero@pisd.edu) or phone at 469-752-7930.