Joshua High School Choir

2026-2027 Handbook

Director Contact Information

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Choir Webpage: JHS - Organizations – Choir



Parents and Students,

Welcome to the JHS Choir Program! We are excited to work with your student in choir during this school year. We look forward to hitting the ground running. Our conference/planning period is during 2nd period. Please schedule a time with the directors if you need to come and visit about any concerns. You may also call the school office to schedule an appointment. Communication is very important to us, and we want to make sure that we have multiple ways of getting information out to you. We communicate through emails, and Remind for mass text messages. If you have an urgent matter that needs to be addressed, email is the quickest form of communication. If you have questions, please email and you will receive a response within 24 hours. We will send Choir Handbooks with important information for the school year, including our Choir Calendar.

STUDENTS

- Be prepared for each day of class to work. There is a lot to learn!
- Be present at all performances AND extra rehearsals.
- Choir is about the TEAM of singers, not individual wants or preferences.
- Be excited about singing and it will show to your friends and family. Enthusiasm is contagious.
- Get involved in outside participation opportunities: Region / All State Choir, Solo & Ensemble contest, Community performances, serving on SLT (Student Leadership Team), parties and social events.
- Be willing to grow in character areas of work-ethic, self-discipline and musical aptitude

PARENTS

- Have your child at every rehearsal (including school-day) and performance. Our success depends on consistency with each being present to prepare and perform. Their grade depends on active participation and preparation.
- Be your child's biggest cheerleader. Your child needs your praise and support (even if they say otherwise), so make yourself visible and vocal about the work they are doing.
- Contact your student's director if you have questions. Read emails – they matter.
- School prepares them for life. Help them be successful in their classes and monitor grades so they can fully participate in all events in and out of school. All classes matter in UIL participation!
- Support the choir by volunteering to help. Your student will notice!
- **Stay informed through the Choir Website (see handbook cover)**



Syllabus

Grading Policy

Choir is a TEA (Texas Education Agency) credit for Fine Arts. It is not only an academic class (worksheets, quizzes), but also a performance-based course (singing, performances). Both elements of academic and performance will be graded this year. Failure to meet the requirements of the class will result in lowered grades. Active participation and preparation will result in higher grades. TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skill) requirements will be implemented for assessment of knowledge and demonstration through music reading and vocal technique.

Choir grades are based on the following criteria

Daily Grades - 20% : class participation; singing posture/technique; sight-reading learning
Quiz / Worksheets - 30% : music theory; sight-reading notation; music literacy
Assessment / Performance - 50% : performances; dress rehearsals; singing tests
**See Rehearsals/Concerts for more information on grades*

Materials

Music: JHS will provide music for your student. It is our “textbook”. Just as in other classes, our textbook (music) will be treated respectfully and with care so it can last for years. To put it into perspective, if we purchase one song for each choir student, we spend at least $135-150. A binder will be provided, and it should be with the student each day. Only music markings will be permitted in the music. Defacing music with drawings will result in financial &/or discipline consequences.



JHS Choir Syllabus – Addendum

Placement in Choirs

**No grades are based on choir placement*

JHS Choir is open to any student with a love for singing and a willingness to improve for the benefit of the singing community at JHS. Placing students into appropriate, skill-based ensembles is extremely important to the success of a choir program. Creating layers of skilled ensembles establishes a progression within the overall program and allows students to share their experience with students of equal skill. The decision of student placement is up to the choir directors. Through vocal evaluation and observation, directors will recommend the best skill-based ensemble to the counselors. The ability to fit that ensemble into each student's schedule may not always be possible. If that is the case, directors will discuss options with the student and counselor. Our desire is to retain students – even if it means the student being in a different ensemble of lower skill. In these instances, student leadership in that new ensemble is important and valuable!

If a student demonstrates a strong work ethic and their skill level has increased to be able to contribute in a higher ensemble, the counselor and student will be contacted about placement into a higher level ensemble. Additionally, if, at the end of the semester, a student has not progressed at the same rate as the other students in their ensemble, a request to move them into a lower-skilled ensemble will be recommended. Both vocal technique and music reading skill will be evaluated. This will apply to both virtual and in-school learners. So, virtual learners will have to work hard at home to keep improving their skills.

Current Choirs

Varsity Treble - (9-12th grade Varsity Treble Choir - Advanced)
JV Treble - (9-12th grade Intermediate Treble Choir)
Concert Treble - (9-12th grade beginner Treble Choir)
Concert Tenor/Bass (9-12th grade Tenor/Bass Choir)
Chorale (9-12th grade Mixed Choir advanced)
Choir 1 (9-12th grade)



Extracurricular vs. Co-Curricular

Co-Curricular: Any performance by the entire choir that fulfills the grading requirements of the class are "curricular". This means, student attendance is mandatory, as it is their assessment.
Extra-Curricular: Events that occur outside of class, that are optional for students to participate in individually. *Consideration for the new Music UIL participation rule has been considered by JISD leadership. Since UIL Concert & SR is an assessment rather than a competition, academic eligibility will no longer be a limiting factor to any student's participation.*

Rehearsal and Concert Attendance Policy

Each singer is an important member to our choir. We become a family of singers, and as such, every member must present their very best effort for the group. Others depend on you being present and prepared.

Daily Attendance - Students are expected to participate daily. Missed rehearsals (and the things taught), can't be replicated. If you are not singing or have lower participation, you are not doing your best work and your grade will reflect this. If you are absent, you can't sing. Please be at rehearsals.

Rehearsals - Students will earn grades for rehearsals in and out of school hours. Grades are taken for daily participation. **Participation in concert performances could be revoked at teacher discretion if there is concern over a student's lack of preparation due to excessive absences.** Consideration for whether an absence is "excused/unexcused" will depend on each circumstance. Failure to communicate will automatically mean "unexcused".

Concerts - Our end-result assessment for the work we do in class is our performance of music. We are a performance-assessed course. **All concert performances are mandatory and carry a 50% weight in the gradebook. The concert performances count as two test grades, as both the performance and audience etiquette are integral aspects of the choir class.** All choir students are expected to attend every performance in which they are slated to sing. A request to make up for an "excused" concert absence, prior to that concert, will be at the director's discretion. Failure to attend a performance, with no prior notification, will result in an "unexcused" absence and be subject to JHS grading guidelines for "unexcused" absences. A notification and "excused" absence, with a failure to make up the concert grade within the week will result in a "0" grade.

Excused Absences - including illness, death in the family or other school-related conflict of activities. A note from a parent, doctor or teacher/coach will be required. E-mail is fine.
If a note is not provided, the absence will be considered as "unexcused".

Unexcused Absences - including truancy, transportation, jobs, forgetting and other non-school conflicts. Any absence with failure to provide prior notice.

Tardies - Students are expected to arrive at rehearsals and performances ON TIME. Points will be deducted for all tardiness. If late arrival has been previously communicated and is "excused", no points will be deducted. Warm-ups prior to concerts are extremely important. Please place those times into your family schedule, not just concert start times.



CHOIR MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

"Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better". Coach Pat Riley

The success of any organization or team depends on each member taking ownership in their role/responsibility. Each voice in our choir matters for our unique sound. Each student's emotional connection to the music matters to our "in the moment" musical performance. The outcomes of a great performance are not coincidence and chance. It is achieved through consistently working hard during rehearsal so the performance can be enjoyable and rewarding to both singer and audience member. Be willing to give your best at every rehearsal and performance.

- Be on time to class, rehearsals and concerts. Be ready to learn and participate.
- Be responsible for your actions. Working as a team means putting aside your own wants/desires for the betterment of the ensemble.
- Follow directions and procedures. Your teacher is the manager of their classroom and will make decisions for the well-being of students and effectiveness of teaching. Observance of class rules and guidelines are to be followed.
- Be respectful to your fellow choir members, your directors and the facilities. Areas of disrespect would include, but not limited to: talking during class while your teacher is teaching; not singing when supposed to; not being prepared with music; speaking disrespectfully about or to a fellow choir member. No gum, food or drinks other than water will be allowed in the choir room.
- Expect the best of yourself. It is not your job to try and correct others. Your director is in charge of managing the classroom. If each person will expect the best of themselves, we will all have excellent rehearsals and performances!
- Follow JISD district and JHS campus guidelines; including turning in all required forms on time. Enrollment into the choir program means you will abide by all JISD & JHS choir handbook rules & regulations.

Fees and Fundraisers

The JHS Choir has an activity account which is used to support the work of the choir program. It is a cooperative account, meaning it is used for the program as needs dictate. Fundraisers are used to assist with the monetary needs of the choir to purchase items as well as providing students with funds for choir events. We are planning a Spring Trip this year! Families are asked to support JHS in its efforts to raise funds for the choir program. Limited scholarships might be available to assist students. Campus budget, organizational fundraising as well as family or business donations support us.
*If possible, please the pay choir uniform fee ($100) through: REVTRAK



Choir members are expected to pay the $100 uniform fee. Like any other team on campus (Football, Drill Team, ROTC, etc…), we want to look uniform in our appearance when we perform. The formal uniforms will be worn for various concerts and community performances. A less formal T-Shirt will also be worn to certain events as well as to promote JHS Choir around school and in the community. We encourage our parents to purchase one as well!

TMEA & UIL Activities

Both TMEA (Texas Music Educators Association) and UIL (University Interscholastic League) provide outstanding opportunities for personal growth as musicians. We highly encourage singers to participate at every level possible! A coachable singer, who has a strong work ethic to practice on their own, is a very significant member of a choir. Competition events require a student to be academically eligible by JISD, UIL / TEA guidelines. Grades are important!! Students should be passing all classes at the designated grade-check dates to participate in TMEA events. Students will be removed from the competition roster if not eligible, with no refunds for fees paid. *(A new UIL ruling is being adopted by JISD regarding grades and Spring UIL; refer to "extracurricular" section of the handbook)*

TMEA Region 30 All-State

TMEA Region 30 Choirs - There are 3 choirs students can audition to be selected. Individual singers will be chosen through a blind audition (judges are behind a curtain; can't see singers) based on knowledge of music, vocal technique and musicality. The best singers heard that day advance to round #2. At round #2, their audition rank places them into the Mixed or Treble.Honor Choirs for 9th - 10th is a parallel audition to make that choir.

Solo/Ensemble Competition

Students will have the opportunity to prepare a solo from a select list and sing for a qualified vocal judge or perform in a small ensemble for comments and a rating. 9th Grade students will sing a Grade 3; Students may not progress to the next level of difficulty till a "1" is achieved. Possibly qualifying for State Solo & Ensemble.

Great opportunity to receive constructive vocal assessment! Singer Fee: $30 (portion goes to pianist)

UIL Concert/Sight-Reading Assessment

This is a choir assessment that will show our level of skill in choral music from an objective perspective.
Qualified judges evaluate performance of music on stage and in sight-reading.
Singers will participate if their choir is being assessed. Academic eligibility is no longer required.

Student Travel

Any student traveling with Joshua HS Choir for any event is expected to be on their very best behavior as they represent themselves, their family, our choir and JHS. District and state guidelines apply if traveling out of district. If an overnight trip, strict guidelines about hotel rooms will be enforced (no boys in girls rooms, vise-versa), and room checks performed. Since our travel is calculated to the closest minutes, being on time is expected. Parents will meet students when buses return. A JISD form is required for students to travel in district vehicles. Students must ride the JISD provided transportation to any competition event, but may sign out and travel home with a parent. Student participation in choir trips are at the discretion of the directors. Students with behavioral issues may not have the opportunity to participate in off campus travel.

*****Students will not perform or travel for any JHS event until all forms are completed and on file.***



General Uniform Guidelines

Personal hygiene is important at all times. So, while wearing a JHS uniform, please make certain it is with a clean body and appropriate deodorant. Please do not wear heavy cologne/perfume, body lotion/spray or cigarette smoke that will permeate the fabric. Additional fees may be charged for uniforms that are returned with a strong smell or must be cleaned in a special manner. Uniforms are identified by size and number and must be returned.

Uniforms

In order to achieve uniformity, each student will be expected to pay a $100 Choir Uniform Fee:

1) T-shirt to be worn throughout the year. This is an informal uniform. We welcome our parents to also purchase a shirt to show off our choir pride in the community. Cost is approximately $20.
2) Rental/Cleaning fee to maintain uniforms provided by JISD for our formal performances. $80.
3) Students need to plan for appropriate black dress shoes to be worn for performances. Shoes need to be closed-toe with a small heel.

Women's Uniform - JHS dresses are to be hemmed with a simple-stitch hem that can be easily removed. Hems are to be floor length (approx. 1" off the floor with shoes on). At no time should fabric be cut as this is a borrowed garment that is property of JISD. Others will wear them in future years. Do not use staples, duct tape, or other items that damage the dresses. Damaged or lost uniforms will cost the student a replacement fee (Yes, even if your cat decides to sharpen her claws on the fabric, or you got nail polish on it getting ready). If a zipper needs replacing, please notify Ms. Hamilton ASAP. Follow the care instructions for cleaning the garment.

General Appearance for Women:

1) Keep hair away from your face. For concerts, hair must be pulled back or secured to not block any of your facial expressions. Simple, black headbands are permitted, but no bows or glittery hair accessories. Do NOT use heavy hairspray that will cause others to have allergic reactions and struggle to breathe.
2) Natural makeup for stage lighting without glitter or colors that would be distracting.
3) Simple jewelry is permitted, but no fabric or latex colored bracelets.

Men's Uniform – Men will wear tuxedos that belong to JISD. Men should wear black dress shoes and black dress socks. Pants should be hemmed with a simple stitch that can be easily removed. Tux shirts are to be washed after every performance.

General Appearance for Men:

1) Hair must be in accordance with JHS dress code and be kept away from the face.
2) Faces should be clean shaven
3) Use proper deodorant but do not use heavy smelling cologne/after-shave

Joshua High School Choir 2026-2027

HANDBOOK SIGNATURE PAGE

Please read and sign this page. Students will not be allowed to participate in choir until this page is turned in.

Deadline: September 3, 2026.

I have seen the Joshua HS Choir Policies & Procedures in ***the JHS Choir Handbook*** and understand expectations and membership requirements. I understand that participating in the choir is a privilege and that I am representing myself, my family, my choir program and my school. As a member of the Joshua HS Choir I will assume the financial obligations, submit required forms and adhere to responsibilities concerning attendance and behavior of the JHS choir.

Print Student Name _____ Date: _____
Student Signature _____

As a parent/guardian of the student listed above, I understand the financial obligations and responsibilities, the rules and the regulations of the choir program.

Print
Parent/Guardian Name _____ Relation to student:_____
Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____
Parent email : _____

Publicity Release : School Year 2026-2027

In order to Publish your child's name and/or picture on the JISD website, in newspaper articles, in concert programs, or any other type of publicity media, for awards, directories, officer lists, etc., we must have your permission. Please sign below to give us permission to publish your child's name and/or picture for publicity in these media types, so we can credit them for any honors they receive.

_____ _____ _____
Child's Name & Guardian Permission Signature Date



Parents Partnering with Us

As a valued parent and supporter of the JHS Choir, we depend on parents like you to assist us throughout the school year. This not only helps us accomplish our goals as an organization, but speaks volumes to your students by showing them your support in joining yourself with us!

Please indicate, below, the areas of volunteering you would be willing to share of your time, talent or resources to help us accomplish our goals for a great year.

TIME

___ - Assist with roll check and "crowd control" at concerts by serving as an usher
___ - Assist as a chaperone for contests/trips *(criminal background check required per JISD)*
___ - Assist with designing concert programs and other publications

TALENT

___ - Perform the following instrument _____ at the following skill level:
__ Beginner ___ Novice ___Advanced
___ - Have a special talent in: _____
(don't be bashful, and share……)
___ - Trained in sewing and can assist in hemming dresses, skirts, pants
___ - Choir Website; Graphic Design; Printing/Promotion: (specify)_____

RESOURCES

___ - Am willing to promote JHS Choir to local businesses for contributions of supplies, services or financial support.
___ - Am willing to make a personal financial contribution in support of the JHS Choir for supplies/music in the amount of _____.
___ - Am willing to make a financial contribution/scholarship to assist lower-income students in the amount of _____.
___ - Am willing to help coordinate special events for fundraising.

****

Parent Name: _____ Student Name: _____ Grade: ___

Contact Phone #: _____ Text: Y N (indicate)

e-mail (if used) : _____

Best means of communication from JHS Choir: (check preferred options)

___ email ___ website ___ Paper Copy
___ Facebook ___ Twitter ___ Remind

Thank You for considering ways that you can help!!