

ThunderRidge High School Choir Handbook



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ThunderRidge High School Music Department

This handbook will contain the following information:

- Colorado Standards in Music
- Grading
- Classroom expectations and guidelines
- Concert Attire
- Concert Expectations
- Audition Information
- Lettering Information
- Event Information (including All-State, Continental League, CHSAA, etc.)
- Fundraising Information and opportunities

Communication

With all of the forms of communication available today, it is very important that we stay on the same page. My primary form of communication will be through Canvas, IC, and my website (trhschoir.com). My secondary form of communication will be email. You may also feel free to text message me at any time, just remember to include your name on the text message. After reading this handbook please fill out the google form in which you will provide your email address and verify that you have read all of the materials in this handbook. I would ask that this email address is one that you check regularly to ensure that you are appropriately informed.

Should you need to get a hold of me, try these in this order:

Cell: 708-308-5544 (can receive texts)

Email: ryan.wolterstorff@dcsdk12.org

Office: 303-387-2121

ThunderRidge High School Music Department

The mission of the ThunderRidge High School Performing Arts Department is to foster personal, intellectual, and affective growth through performance, and to promote leadership, excellence, community, and collective effort.

Colorado Music Standards

1. Expression of Music

The expression of music is the demonstration of human thought and emotion through the medium of performance, which is a product of knowledge and skills gained in the study of music.

2. Creation of Music

The creation of music is the demonstration of learned skills in the composition, improvisation, and arranging of music. Creating music involves writing music, fashioning new music from an existing piece of music, or forming an entirely new piece of music.

3. Theory of Music

The theory of music is the understanding of the distinctive language, conventions, mechanics, and structure of organized sound. Investigation of music theory allows for a more complete understanding of all aspects of the musical process, including musical performance and composition.

4. Aesthetic Valuation of Music

The value of music focuses on the knowledge needed to make an informed evaluation and to provide a well-thought-out critique about a musical piece. It also addresses the beauty, heart, and soul; the aesthetics of music. Valuing music will permit individuals to distinguish between a scholarly and an individual judgment of music.

Grading and Evaluation

Choir students are evaluated in the following areas:

- I. **Concert Attendance (30%)**—students are required to attend every concert. If there is a situation in which the student will not be able to attend, i.e. illness, then an email should be sent to the teacher by the parents/guardian of the student. The teacher will then decide if the situation is excused or not. Work will not be a valid excuse.

Protocol for students who miss the concert: In order to get 80% of the credit for the students who miss the concert due to unexcused reasons (determined by the director), the student will have to do a 4000 word I-search on a composer from any of the following time-periods -Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, or 20th Century Orchestral. This will be due two weeks after the concert date.

- II. **Sight Reading (30%)**—All Sight-Readings will be done through Sight Reading Factory (SRF). There will be 7 assigned Sight-Readings per semester and will be due every 2 weeks. Only Sight-Readings with an accuracy of 80% or higher will be accepted, and any sight-reading lower than that will be reassigned until 80% accuracy is achieved. There will be an unlimited amount of attempts until success is achieved, limited only by the length of the semester (success must be achieved within the semester timelines). Each choir will have Level-Appropriate sight-readings.
 - III. **Exams (10%)**—This will include 2 parts: 1. A cumulative Sight-Reading will be submitted and will be graded for accuracy of pitches, rhythms, and solfege (the “Do-Re-Mi’s”). This will be done through SRF. 2. Students will sing “My Country Tis of Thee” in front of Mr. W. The students should demonstrate: proper vocal technique; singing with proper vowels and increased tonality; increased vocal range; proper breath control. Students will be graded on Intonation, Tone Quality, and Breath Support.
 - IV. **Daily Effort (30%)**—ten points per week are given to each student. Points are taken away for the following: having food or beverages in the choir room other than water, failure to return folders to folder slots, disrespecting other students, disrespecting teacher, disrespecting furniture, or disrupting the education in the classroom for any reason. The motto is: show respect to teacher, others, and self.
- Missed Classes and Tardies**—an extra Sight-Reading must be submitted within 10 days of the missed class in order to receive the points for Daily Effort. Three Tardies will equal One Absence and will also require a submission of a sight-reading.

Choir Responsibilities

I. Folders—each student is assigned to a numbered folder. A lost or damaged folder will need to be replaced by the student.

II. Music—each piece of music has a number that corresponds to the folder number. Lost or damaged music will need to be replaced by the student.

III. Concert attire— See Below for the appropriate attire for each different choir.

THUNDERRIDGE TREBLE CHOIR OUTFIT MEMO

Dear Ladies and parents:

Welcome to ThunderRidge Treble Choir! This is a brief note explaining our ensembles this year.

The Ladies have chosen to wear Black Pants, Black Shoes and Socks, and White Shirts for the concerts. Pants, shirts, and shoes and socks can be found fairly easily (Goodwill and Savers have great selections for very little money). This is a nice, clean look and should be very little effort to put together!

Please plan accordingly, however, so you are not stuck running around at the last minute. My goal is to have the girls look great on stage with the least amount of anxiety to parents or pocketbooks!

THUNDERRIDGE MEN'S CHOIR OUTFIT MEMO

Dear gentlemen and parents:

Welcome to ThunderRidge Men's Choir! This is a brief note explaining our ensembles this year.

The Guys have chosen to wear Black Pants, Black Shirts, Black Shoes and Socks, and White Ties for the concerts. Pants, shirts, and shoes and socks can be found fairly easily (Goodwill and Savers have great selections for very little money). The White ties can be any style as long as it's white, and the guys in the past have had great luck finding them at any major department store (Kohls, Target, Walmart, etc.) or online at Amazon. I would check store websites before heading out, but the outfits should be very easy to find and inexpensive, and they look very flashy!

Please plan accordingly, however, so you are not stuck running around at the last minute. My goal is to have the guys look great on stage with the least amount of anxiety to parents or pocketbooks!

THUNDERRIDGE **SIRENS** DRESS MEMO

Dear ladies and parents:

Welcome to ThunderRidge Sirens! This is a brief note explaining our ensembles this year. We are going to use Cousin's Concert Attire as our vendor for choir outfits. This website can be reached by going to my website (trhschoir.com) or following this link (<https://thunderridgehschoirstore2025.itemorder.com/>)

We have created a Groups Store that will be open for a limited time at the beginning of each school year. Parents are asked to go to the store, gather measurements and place an order for the appropriate size of attire. The only items in the store are the ones that we will use for our Concert Attire (the Penelope Dress for girls). After the store closes, all items will be shipped to school and handed out to the individuals (this saves everyone a TON of shipping fees). You can always go straight to Cousin's Concert Attire and order the Concert Attire at a later date, but be aware that you will pay directly for the shipping fee that way.

The company cautions that their sizes may not be the same as your normal size and measurements need to be done and accurate to assure that you don't pay extra in return shipping cost.. There is a size chart available when you are on the correct dress type.

P.S. When the dresses arrive hemming will probably be necessary so allow enough time to have this done.

THUNDERRIDGE **CONCERT CHOIR** MEMO.

Dear gentlemen and parents:

Welcome to ThunderRidge Concert Choir! This is a brief note explaining our ensembles this year. We are going to use Cousin's Concert Attire as our vendor for choir outfits. This website can be reached by going to my website (trhschoir.com) or following this link (<https://thunderridgehschoirstore2025.itemorder.com/>)

We have created a Groups Store that will be open for a limited time at the beginning of each school year. Parents are asked to go to the store, gather measurements and place an order for the appropriate size of attire. The only items in the store are the ones that we will use for our Concert Attire (the Leonardo Package for guys, and the Penelope Dress for girls). After the store closes, all items will be shipped to school and handed out to the individuals (this saves everyone a TON of shipping fees). You can always go straight to Cousin's

Concert Attire and order the Concert Attire at a later date, but be aware that you will pay directly for the shipping fee that way.

If you have a shirt or pants already that look very similar to these, then you may purchase the other items individually. When you pull up the item, there will be a size chart on the page listed. Please have someone (adult) at home measure you using the chart found. Don't measure yourself. If you order the wrong size, you will have to pay shipping again to send it back and have it replaced.

P.S. If you purchase pants, hemming will be necessary so plan appropriate time to have this done

THUNDERRIDGE HONORS CHOIR ATTIRE MEMO

Dear ladies and parents:

Welcome to ThunderRidge Sirens! This is a brief note explaining our ensembles this year. We are going to use Cousin's Concert Attire as our vendor for choir outfits. This website can be reached by going to my website (trhschoir.com) or following this link

[\(https://thunderridgehschoirstore2025.itemorder.com/ \)](https://thunderridgehschoirstore2025.itemorder.com/)

We have created a Groups Store that will be open for a limited time at the beginning of each school year. Parents are asked to go to the store, gather measurements and place an order for the appropriate size of attire. The only items in the store are the ones that we will use for our Concert Attire (the Leonardo Package for all guys, and the Penelope Dress for girls). After the store closes, all items will be shipped to school and handed out to the individuals (this saves everyone a TON of shipping fees). You can always go straight to Cousin's Concert Attire and order the Concert Attire at a later date, but be aware that you will pay directly for the shipping fee that way.

The company cautions that their sizes may not be the same as your normal size and measurements need to be done and accurate to assure that you don't pay extra in return shipping cost.. There is a size chart available when you are on the correct dress type.

P.S. When the dresses and pants arrive hemming will probably be necessary so allow enough time to have this done.

Concert Expectations

Students are required to be at all of the concerts for the duration of the concert. If there is an extenuating situation it should be discussed with me before the day of the concert. Since the concerts only last for 45mins typically there should be no reason that the students cannot be there the whole time.

The Sirens Choir and Honors Choir also have additional concerts that require extra commitment. Since these are groups that go to competitions, these events are also required. Please consider this carefully before auditioning for one of these groups.

At the end of this handbook you will be directed to a google form with the concert dates in them. By selecting the dates you are confirming that you have reviewed the below concert dates and that you have made sure that they are on your calendar and there are no conflicts with them.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Choirs Involved</u>
Sept. 4	Tri-M Induction	Tri-M Members
Sept. 5	Tenor/Bass Choir Festival	Bro-Re-Mi's
Oct. 24	Treble Choir Festival	The Sirens
Oct. 23	Fall Concert	All Choirs
Oct. 24	Treble Choir Festival	The Sirens
Nov. 7	Metro State Choir Competition	Honors Choir
Dec. 9	Holiday Concert	RVMS Choir, Treble Choir, Bro-Re-Mi's, The Sirens
Dec. 10	Holiday Collage	Honors Choir, Wind Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra
March 9	Mid-Winter Concert	Treble Choir, Bro-Re-Mi's
March 10	Mid-Winter Concert	RVMS Choir, The Sirens, Honors Choir
April 23	TRHS Feeder Festival	Honors Choir
May 14	Festival Of Choirs	All Choirs
May 28	Graduation	Honors Choir

Choir and Audition Information

Treble Choir –This is a general admission Beginning Choir and is open to all female, or similar range, students. No audition is required to get into Treble Choir. Basic Choral Technique and Sight-Reading Skills will be taught by using music from various genres, historical periods, and voicings.

Bro-Re-Mi's– This is a general admission Beginning Choir and is open to all male, or similar range, students. No audition is required to get into Bro-Re-Mi's. Basic Choral Technique and Sight-Reading Skills will be taught by using music from various genres, historical periods, and voicings.

Concert Choir –This is an intermediate mixed choir. Typically, at least one semester of experience in a High School choir is required to be admitted into Concert Choir, as well as achieving a minimum of 20 Sight-Reading points (please see the link "Sight Reading" on my website for more info on Sight Reading Points). Only students who are accepted into Middle School All-State Choir will be allowed to audition for this choir as freshmen.

The Sirens –This is an advanced choir and all students must have at least one semester in a High School choir. Because of this there will be no freshmen allowed into The Sirens. An audition is required, and a minimum of 100 sight-reading points are required to be eligible to audition for this choir, which are achieved through Sight Reading Factory and based on the Sight-Reading guidelines (please see the link "Sight Reading" on my website for more info on Sight Reading Points).

Honors Choir –This is the top advanced group. Only the best choral members will be allowed in Honor's Choir, no exceptions will be made. A minimum of 150 Sight-Reading points are required to be eligible to audition (please see the link "Sight Reading" on my website for more info on Sight Reading Points). Since we compete at multiple competitions, some of which are governed by CHSAA rules, grades and attendance will be factored into admission. CHSAA requires that participating members be eligible for all competitions so it is important that all members maintain a good academic and attendance history.

Auditions for each of these groups will happen in May. The audition will consist of singing "My Country Tis Of Thee" individually in front of the director, and a Level 3 sight-reading. Please note that all Sight Reading point requirements must be met to audition for any of the choirs (based on the points mentioned above).

Auditions are graded as follows:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Method</u>
Tone Quality:	10 points	Recorded Selected Music in Canvas
Intonation:	10 points	Recorded Selected Music in Canvas
Work Ethic:	10 points	(factors in grades and attendance)
Prior Years in Choir:	10 points per year	

Once each student has completed the audition, the scores are added into a spreadsheet and then sorted by total points. The students are then placed into the appropriate choir.

Lettering Information

Students in Choir have the opportunity to earn a Varsity Letter! This is the same as someone who participates in a sport, and is the exact same letter and pins. It is a nice thing to include on College applications and a great way to prove that you have been very involved in extracurricular activities.

Earning a letter requires compiling 800 total House Points per year. See my website (trhschoir.com) for information on how these points can be earned.

Please allow 2-3 weeks for the info to be processed before receiving the letters.

Event Information and Forms

This Information is not for all choirs. Skip this if not in one of these choirs.

DCSD Festivals (Tenor/Bass Choir and Treble Choir)

– There are two festivals in DCSD that we go to. The first is the Tenor/Bass Choir festival, and the second is the Treble Choir festival. Both festivals involve most of the Douglas County Schools and we get to work on a couple pieces together, and also get to perform for each other. These festivals happen during the school day and require no after-school commitment. Please fill out the permission form and return them by the due date listed. Permission Forms and the Due Dates can be found on my website, and I also have hard copies in the Choir Room.

Metro State Choir Celebration (Honors only)

-This is a very formal festival, and a great opportunity to showcase our abilities. We get to perform 3 songs and get adjudicated on our performance based on the CHSAA rubric. We then get a 30min clinic with local Choir Directors (from various colleges and professional choirs in Colorado). We are also required to stay and listen to at least 2 other choirs perform. It's a great day! This event takes place during the school day and will not require any after-school time (unless notified well in advanced base on our performance time). Please fill out the permission form and return it by the due date listed. Permission Forms and the Due Dates can be found on my Google Classroom, and I also have hard copies in the Choir Room.

Continental League Music Festival (Audition only)

-CLMF is a choir festival in which all of the high schools in the Continental League send members to form an Honor's Group. The students are auditioned (much like All-State) and will be selected based on ability. These students then come together and work with a Clinicians on the selected music and hold a final Honor's Group Concert (always on the second Monday of January). This is a big honor and always a great time!

All State Choir Festival (Audition Only)

-All State Choir Festival is only open to Juniors and Seniors who audition. The Audition process is very rigorous, but provides a great start for kids wishing to apply for College Singing Scholarships (of which there are very many available). Students must have a song memorized to sing for the judges and must be proficient in Sight-Reading, Scales, Intervals, and Chords. Only the top 10% of all students in Colorado will be selected to be in this choir! The Auditions are in early October, and the Festival is in early February.

CHSAA Festival (The Sirens Choir and Honors Choir only)

-CHSAA happens in early April. The choirs are judged by 3 Adjudicators who are well versed in Choral Technique. This is a great way to hone our skills and get feedback in areas to improve. Please fill out the permission form and return it by the due date listed. Permission Forms and the Due Dates can be found on my Google Classroom, and I also have hard copies in the Choir Room.

WinterPark Ski Music Festival (Honors Choir only)

-This is an International Competition and the choirs are all very good making this a highly competitive Festival. Trophies are given to the Best In Class, and Best Overall! All students in Honor's Chorale will participate in the competition part, and everyone will be given the option to stay overnight and ski as part of a package deal (cost involved). Attendance at the Competition portion of this event is mandatory. We will stay in the condos at the base of WinterPark Resort (Founders Point/Frasier Crossing) and Lift Tickets and Ski Rentals are included in the cost (roughly \$550 for 3 days of skiing, lodging, rentals, and lessons if needed). It is usually the highlight of the year! There are many forms that will need to be filled out because this is an Overnight trip, so it is important that you fill out the google form indicating the desire to participate. All communication for this trip will be done through the email that you give me.

Fundraising Information and Opportunities

I have a philosophy here at ThunderRidge that music should be available to ALL STUDENTS regardless of economic standing. To ensure that this ideal is truly attainable I strive to eliminate as many costs to the students as possible.

I therefore do NOT charge fees for choir classes, field trips, auditions, concerts, busses, or competitions. Because of this, fundraising is vital to the TRHS Choir program and my ability to continue to offer so many great opportunities to all students.

The way that fundraising is accomplished is changing quickly in this age of Social Media, so there may be new methods arriving soon, but here are some of the methods that we have used in the past:

Supportfund.com –This has been our best and biggest method of raising funds for the program so far. This is a combination of a Donation Campaign and a Fudge/Taffy Sale. Students are encouraged to send out texts and supporters of the choir can either donate funds, or purchase an item.

King Sooper Cards –Families can get a King Sooper reloadable gift card and 5% of the money loaded on the card will be returned to the Choir program. If you shop or get gas at King Sooper often, then please consider getting and using one of these cards (there is also one available for Safeway). This is easy, safe, and requires very little effort.

ButterBraids –Every year in November we sell ButterBraids around the community. This is an easy fundraiser because so many people love them and want to purchase them (I know I do!)

If you have any other great ideas, I'd love to hear them! Like I said before, there are going to be major changes in fundraising coming due to social media so stay tuned.

Consent Form

Please click this link to acknowledge that you have read the Choir Handbook and you consent to all info therein.

Thanks,
Mr. Wolterstorff