



# Nolan Ryan Junior High School Choir Handbook

James Park, Director

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We are the music makers,  
We are the dreamers of dreams,  
Wandering by the lone sea-breakers,  
And sitting by desolate streams;  
World-losers and world-forsakers,  
On whom the pale moon gleams;  
We are the movers and the shakers  
Of the world for ever, it seems.  
-Arthur O'Shaughnessy, *Ode*, 1974

...in a world of political, economic, and personal disintegration music is not a luxury but a necessity - not simply because it is "therapeutic," but because it is the persistent focus of man's intelligence, aspirations, and good-will.  
-Robert Shaw, *"This Is Why"*

A performing group is a microcosm of society. In addition to well documented skills related to music reading, self-expression, self-discipline, and concentration, performers become interdependent. There is no more important skill required in a democratic society than that of sharing common goals with others and working together to achieve them.

-Sally Schott, Texas Music Educators Association President,  
*Texas Music Educator*, 1984.

Music has the power of producing a certain effect on the moral character of the soul, and if it has the power to do this, it is clear that the young must be directed to music and must be educated in it.

-Aristotle, [Politics](#)

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# Why do we teach music?

*(from the Music Educator's National Conference)*

## Music is a SCIENCE

It is exact, specific, and it demands exact acoustics.

A conductor's full score is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody and harmony all at once with the most exact control of time.

## Music is MATHEMATICAL

It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

## Music is HISTORY

Music reflects the environment and times of its creation, connecting to the past on an emotional level .

## Music is a FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French; and the notation is certainly not English but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language.

## Music is PHYSICAL EDUCATION

It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheek and facial muscles in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach and chest muscles which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

Music is all of these things but most of all -

## Music is ART

It allows a human being to take all of these dry, technically boring but difficult techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate; human feeling, emotion, call it what you will.

## *That is why we teach music!*

Not because we expect you to major in music. Not because we expect you to play or sing all your life.

But...

...So you will be **human** ;

...So you will recognize **beauty** .

...So you will be **sensitive** .

...So you will be **closer to an infinite beyond this world** .

...So you will have something to retain for **enrichment** .

...So you will have more **love** , more **compassion** , more **gentleness** .

...In short, **more LIFE!**

*Of what value will it be to make a prosperous living unless you know how to live?*

**THAT IS WHY WE TEACH MUSIC!**

# *The Handbook*

The handbook below is designed to foster the success of the NRJH Choral Department, inform the students and their parents, and address questions and concerns that may arise throughout the school year.

I am excited to lead a choir program that will continue to earn the respect of the larger community through the diligent efforts of students, parents, directors, and administrators. As a choir student, each of you accepts membership into an organization built upon that same pride and commitment to excellence. As a choir parent, each of you accepts the responsibility of understanding the expectations of your child in this successful choir program and supporting his or her endeavors to the fullest extent.

Please take time to read the handbook thoroughly and complete the signed document by the due date acknowledging that you have read the entire handbook, and please note that you are responsible for all information presented, *including the schedule as presented on the Choir Calendar and all graded participation requirements*. If you should have further questions that are not answered in the handbook, please feel free to call the choir office 281-245-3210 or email Mr. Park. You may also access the choir's website at [NRJH Longhorn Choir \(google.com\)](http://NRJHLonghornChoir.google.com), the best resource for students and parents to refer to.

NRJH Choir has such a long history of success, and I look forward to continuing that success as we look to a new year with new possibilities.

Sincerely,

James Park, Choir Director  
jpark@alvinisd.net



# Nolan Ryan JH Choral Department

The Nolan Ryan JH Choral Department offers a variety of performing organizations to meet the needs of all students interested in singing. Each choir caters to the specific strengths of each student with regard to their musical ability. All choirs offer performance opportunities and focus on expanding the student's knowledge and use of basic music theory, music history, sight-reading methods, artistic expression and interpretation, cultural significance, vocal techniques, and ensemble singing. In addition to developing individual musical strengths, each group is designed to teach self-discipline and commitment while working together toward a common goal of excellence and fostering an appreciation of choral music.

## Concordia (First Period 6th Grade Tenor-Bass Choir) - *Concordia* was the ancient Roman goddess of harmony

This choir is open to all 6th grade tenor-bass singers. An audition is required for voicing purposes only. This choir will perform a variety of literature and will sing on all concerts, may sing with the Elementary One Voice Choir concert, may compete in a Spring Festival Competition, and have the opportunity to participate in all choir activities. This choir is not eligible to participate in UIL events or TMEA (All-Region) competitions. A strong desire to sing and a positive attitude are the only requirements.

## Harmonia (Third Period Intermediate Tenor-Bass Choir) - *Harmonia* was the ancient Greek goddess of harmony

This choir is open to all 7th and 8th grade tenors and basses. An audition is required for voicing purposes only. This choir will perform a variety of literature and will sing on all concerts, may compete at UIL Concert & Sight Reading and/or a Spring Festival Competition, and have the opportunity to participate in all choir activities. Members are eligible for and encouraged to participate in all solo competitions. A strong desire to sing and a positive attitude are the only requirements.

## Floreat (Third Period Advanced Tenor-Bass Choir) - *Floreat* is a Latin term used to express a hope that something will flourish

This choir is open to all 7th and 8th grade tenor-bass singers. A competitive audition is required for placement into this choir. This choir will perform a variety of literature, will sing on all concerts, and will compete at UIL Concert & Sight Reading and/or a Spring Festival Competition. Significant musical skills, a strong desire to sing, and a positive attitude are minimum requirements. All students in this choir are highly encouraged to audition for the All-Region Choir.

## Bellissima (Fourth Period 6th Grade Treble Choir) - *Bellissima* is Italian for "beautiful"

This choir is open to all 6th grade treble singers. An audition is required for voicing purposes only. This choir will perform a variety of literature and will sing on all concerts, may sing with the Elementary One Voice Choir concert, may compete in a Spring Festival Competition, and have the opportunity to participate in all choir activities. This choir is not eligible to participate in UIL events or TMEA (All-Region) competitions. A strong desire to sing and a positive attitude are the only requirements.

## Caelestis (Fifth Period Advanced Treble Choir) - *Caelestis* is Latin for "heavenly"

This choir is open to all 7th and 8th grade treble singers. A competitive audition is required for placement into this choir. This choir will perform a variety of literature, will sing on all concerts, and will compete at UIL Concert & Sight Reading and/or a Spring Festival Competition as the NRJH Varsity choir. Significant musical skills, a strong desire to sing, and a positive attitude are minimum requirements. All students in this choir are highly encouraged to audition for the All-Region Choir.

## Cantilena (Sixth Period Intermediate Treble Choir) - *Cantilena* is a type of a melody written in a smooth, lyrical style

This choir is open to all 7th and 8th grade treble singers. An audition is required for voicing purposes only. This choir will perform a variety of literature and will sing on all concerts, may compete at UIL Concert & Sight Reading and/or a Spring Festival Competition, and have the opportunity to participate in all choir activities. Members are eligible for and encouraged to participate in all solo competitions. A strong desire to sing and a positive attitude are the only requirements.



# Goals of the Nolan Ryan JH Choir Department

- Develop a sense of the importance of music in the life of each student.
- Develop self-confidence, self-discipline, responsibility, and social interaction skills in each student through positive interaction with teachers and peers.
- Develop the musical potential of each student to the fullest.
- Develop the musical skills of each student, including fundamentals of music theory & sight reading, mastering the use of solfège syllables & hand signs, and singing well in an ensemble.
- Develop a greater understanding and appreciation of our own culture and different cultures through different styles and genres of music.
- Develop an understanding of stylistic traits of different periods of music.
- Develop self-expression through practice and performance during class, rehearsals, and concerts.
- Learn proper concert etiquette through participation in and attendance of live performances.

## Choir Room Rules & Student Expectations

All choir students will...

...be respectful to everyone.

...give 100% every day.

...ask the director when they do not understand something.

...stand or sit using a superior singing posture.

...always use solfège hand signs.

...have their supplies. (Two pencils, folder, music, and sight-reading materials.)

...always know where in the music the director is rehearsing, **even when he is not rehearsing another section.**

...write rehearsal notes the director says in their music.

...not chew gum, eat food, or drink any drinks in the choir room. **Immediate consequences will be given for chewing gum...NO WARNINGS.**

...not use cell phones for any purpose. The directors will follow AISD guidelines for misuse of cell phones.

...not play the classroom pianos or write on the markerboard without the director's permission.

...clean up after themselves and help keep the choir room neat and tidy.



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@NRJHLonghornChoir

# Classroom & Rehearsal Expectations

- It is the student's responsibility to read and follow all of the classroom rules.
- A note signed by a parent, doctor, or the school nurse will be the only excuse accepted for not singing on any day. If you are sick and cannot sing, you will still be expected to participate in the class by standing and joining the class when requested, writing instructions in music, lip-synching lyrics, performing the solfège hand signs, and otherwise participating in non-verbal activities. In short, when you are well enough to come to school but cannot sing for some reason, you are participating in class in every way except for actually making sound with your voice. If a director looks at you, he should be able to forget that you are not singing that day because it appears on the outside to everyone that you actually are participating to the fullest.
- No personal notes or work from other classes may be worked on during class.
- When a director or any other adult is giving instructions, directions, or information, in front of the class, talking must stop!
- Facial tissues may or may not be provided depending on supply. If you anticipate needing facial tissues, you should bring some from home.
- We follow the 10-10 rule for restroom passes. Passes out of the class for bathroom breaks, visits to the nurse, or trips to other areas of the building are available upon request. If it is an emergency that cannot wait (like, you gotta leave NOW!), then do what you need to do to take care of yourself, and Mr. Park will send down a pass to the bathroom or nurse with another student. Other than emergencies, please ask at an appropriate time and in an appropriate manner. If too many students are leaving the classroom for various reasons, passes will be suspended at the discretion of the director except for emergencies.

**BORED DURING REHEARSAL?** Instead of talking, use the time to practice solfège hand signs, silently memorize songs, practice contest music, or do other silent choir work. *Strive to use all of the rehearsal time as effectively as possible! There is ALWAYS something to do!*



## About Your Folder and Music

You will not be issued an academic textbook in choir class, but your music is considered to be your "textbook" for the class. It should be treated with respect and care. You are responsible for the following regulations regarding folders and music:

1. Students will provide their own choir binder and pencils. Students must put their names on the inside of their folders in permanent ink. The folder must be a black, 1-inch or smaller 3-ring binder with sleeves on the inside, and you must have blank pieces of notebook paper on the inside for notes and reminders. Keep two pencils inside the folder sleeves.
2. Students are financially responsible for their folders and all contents provided by the school.
3. Students are financially responsible for the music provided by the school. Loss or damage to music can result in a replacement fine that can be anywhere from \$1.00 on up (usually not more than \$10) per piece, depending on what music it is.

PLEASE NOTE: It is never proper to mark in your music with pen - even erasable pen. Always use a pencil. Writing in music in pen will result in a replacement fine.

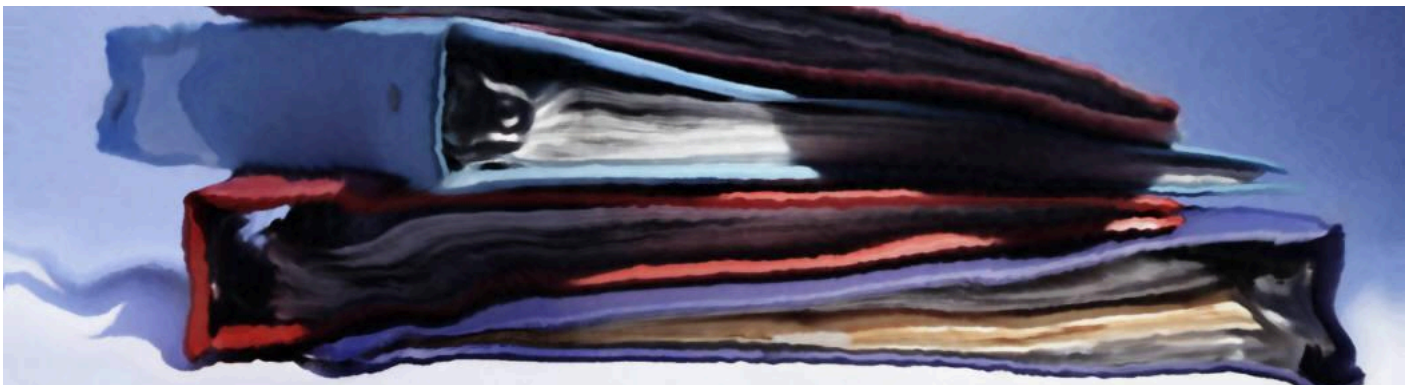
**4. Students should NOT take folders with them home or to other classes. All folders are to be returned to the folder cabinets in the correct assigned folder slot after each rehearsal. Students may return to the choir room after school to take their folder home for study and practice. The folder should be returned to the folder cabinet before classes on the next day.**

5. Any folder left out will be collected by Mr. Park. The folder will then be held ransom by Mr. Park until he can think of the most gruesome punishment appropriate and legal. :) OK, not really but you get the point. In all seriousness, please keep track of your folder so you're not fined for missing or damaged music. If you continue to leave your folder and music out, you may be assigned Choir Room Cleaning Duty which will have to be completed after school.

6. If for some reason you do not receive a piece of music, check the extra music shelf and grab a copy. If there are none, share with your neighbor for the day. See Mr. Park after class and tell him the title of the piece you do not have. He will get you a copy as soon as possible.

7. If you lose your non-photocopied music, replacement copies will be available after paying a fine. A fine for losing non-photocopied music is the cost of the piece plus postage. If you lose for photocopied music, there may be an extra copy available. If not, borrow another student's copy and photocopy it yourself.

8. Students must treat any student librarians with courtesy and respect. A librarian's job can be a thankless one.





# Grading

Grading for the choir program reflects the importance of daily participation and performance. Because of the unique nature of performance ensembles like choir, band, and orchestra, there are not many daily written assignments or tests that make up the grades of the academic core courses. Learning music is a progression that occurs over time -- choirs improve because they build on skills that were learned the day before. This process makes the daily responsibility of the individual student important. Our rehearsing culminates in one or more performances that exhibit the hard work that the students have completed *together*. Therefore, students are graded heavily on their daily participation in the classroom rehearsals and involvement in the concerts.

A student's grade will be determined using the following formula:

Daily: 50%

Performance: 50%

Daily grades are the grades based on daily work such as participation grades (individual and ensemble singing), informal assessments, quizzes, or daily work. Performance grades are any grades that relate directly to a performance such as attendance at in-class performance assessments, concerts, dress rehearsals, or any required before-school or after-school rehearsals.

Because of the importance of performing in the concert, participation in required before- and after-school rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and concerts is required. This policy is supported by the State of Texas (click [here](#) to read the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, or TEKS, standards adopted by the Legislature).

Occasionally, it is unavoidable that the student must miss a rehearsal or concert. A missed concert in choir is treated just like a missed test in math - the student will need to make up the performance grade within a reasonable, defined amount of time by demonstrating mastery of the skills displayed in the concert. The policy on a student's absence from a rehearsal or concert follows:

All students are required, as part of their nine-weeks grade, to participate in any mandatory extra rehearsals and performances outside of the classroom setting. Participating in the required rehearsals and concerts are 50% of their final grade. "Participating in the required rehearsals and concerts" means that the student arrives on time to any rehearsals, stays for their entire portion of the rehearsals, arrives at the concert site on time, stands on stage with their choir, sings all of the songs in an appropriate manner, represents their school and program positively, stays until the end of the concert, and displays proper audience etiquette during the concert. If the student participates in the rehearsals and concerts in the manner described here, they will have a 100 for the rehearsal and concert portion of their grade. Not completing makeup work from absences, arriving late to or leaving early from required events, or inappropriate behavior during a rehearsal or concert may result in lower grades.

If, for any reason, a student is prevented from attending any rehearsals or concerts for any reason - excused or unexcused, school-related or not - a phone call *and* a letter (e-mail is fine) to the student's director from a parent or guardian as soon as possible explaining the reason why the student cannot or did not attend the rehearsal or concert. Regardless of whether an absence is excused or not, the student will be expected to complete a makeup assignment as follows:

For a missed rehearsal, the student will be given a makeup assignment upon arrival back in class that will detail what was covered in the rehearsal. Mr. Park will schedule a time for all makeup singing assignments to be performed together. The student must attend that makeup grading session before or after school to sing what was covered in the rehearsal for Mr. Park. If the student has a scheduling conflict that cannot be avoided, they must contact Mr. Park before the scheduled makeup session to set up an alternate makeup session. The student will be graded on all aspects of musicianship including but not limited to tone quality, rhythmic accuracy, pitch accuracy, vowel production, tone production, and breath support. More specifically, any musical or vocal details taught in the missed rehearsal must be demonstrated by the student to receive full credit. Mr. Park will follow AISD grading procedures in regards to the timeline for makeup assignments.

For a missed performance, the student will be required to make up the grade in two parts: performance and written analysis of a recording of the concert.

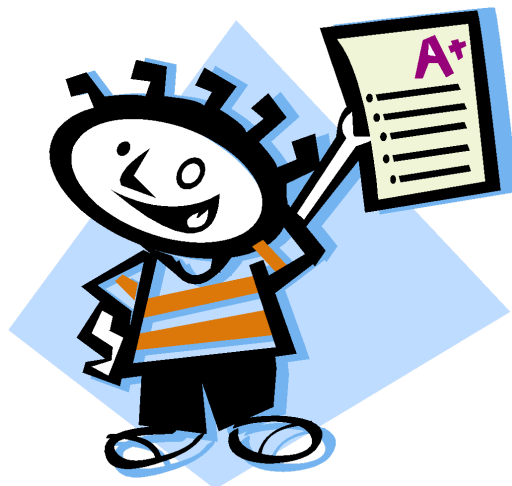
1) For the performance component, Mr. Park will schedule a time for all makeup singing assignments to be performed together. The student must attend that makeup grading session before or after school to sing for the director what was covered in the rehearsal. If the student has a scheduling conflict that cannot be avoided, they must contact Mr. Park before the scheduled makeup session to set up an alternate makeup session. During this session, the student will perform the concert music exactly the same way as it was performed in the concert and, if available, by singing along with a recording of the concert. The student could sing as a soloist if they are the only person making up the assignment or with a small group of other students making the grade up. The student will be graded on all aspects of musicianship including but not limited to tone quality, rhythmic accuracy, pitch accuracy, vowel production, tone production, breath support, and interpretation. While it is the hope that the student will sing along with a recording of the concert, at the discretion of the director, the student could sing solo a capella or with piano accompaniment.

2) For the written portion of the assignment, the student will be given a recording and program of the concert. The student must write an academic review of the entire concert (not just their choir's performance), speaking in a detailed manner of the performances of all choirs, using musical terms and ideas explored in class, including but not limited to aspects of tone quality, blend, intonation, ensemble, interpretation, musical expression, breath support and phrasing, and other musical and artistic ideas. The paper should be 2-4 pages long, 12-point font, one-and-a-half spaced paragraphs, one-inch margins on top and bottom, and 1.25-inch margins on the sides. Pictures or clip art may be included but does not count toward the 2-4 page amount. All makeup work should be completed by the due date given unless an alternate due date has been worked out ahead of time with the director. If the student does not promptly set up a make-up schedule upon his/her arrival back to school, the grade may remain a zero.

Please note that these make-up assignments are given for excused and unexcused absences. They are not meant to be punitive. They are intended to reflect the importance of the concert preparation and performances as well as give the director a chance to assess the 6-9 weeks' worth of classroom preparation that occurs before a concert. The concert is a major grade, so the makeup work reflects that.

In the past, some students or parents have gotten very upset regarding this makeup assignment. You are free to contact Mr. Park to discuss the matter, but please keep in mind that there are many music programs that have no makeup assignment for missed concerts and rehearsals. Many of his music colleagues says that if a student misses a concert, it is a ZERO for that major grade with no opportunity to make the grade up, and it often results in students being demoted to a lower choir or simply being asked to leave the music program altogether.

Occasionally, there will be a choir student who decides to "work the system" and will take advantage of this system, purposely missing rehearsals and performances without a valid excuse, opting to complete the makeup assignment instead of coming to the concert. Please note that this system is not an "option" for choosing to miss a concert. It's a way to make up a major grade that was missed for a valid reason. Choir is an ensemble performance activity, and performing with their ensemble is a required part of mastering the material and gaining credit for the class. To discourage this type of activity, as a general rule, Mr. Park will only allow makeup assignments to be completed in this manner once per year. If an absence from a graded event occurs more than once in a school year, there will be no makeup opportunity allowed, and the grade(s) will remain as a zero. If you have an extenuating circumstance, please contact Mr. Park to discuss the matter.



# Communication

Students are given ample notice of scheduled rehearsals, performances, and activities so that conflicts are minimal. The calendar is set before school starts, and any updates are communicated as early as possible. As students continue their quest to be responsible adults and perfect the art of balancing and organizing activities and calendars, it is their responsibility to inform parents, employers, coaches, sponsors, and other teachers of choir activities. The choir director will encourage and expect the student to communicate with the various sponsors and generate their own solution to the conflict. Simply stating that, "I won't be at the rehearsal because I have a dance practice," is neither adequate nor appropriate.

Instead, something along the following lines will be outstanding and show maturity and understanding: "I have spoken with the dance teacher and have spoken with you, and I have worked out that my participation in the dance rehearsal in two weeks is more vital than this week's because our show is the following Friday. Is it OK if I come to this week's choir rehearsal but miss next week's so I can attend the dance dress rehearsal? That's OK with the dance instructor, and I realize that I will have a make-up assignment for choir."

**Never, ever go up to Mr. Park and just say, "I can't be at the concert tonight."** It shows a disrespect for your team and what the group is trying to accomplish together. **Would you ever go to your coach and say, "I can't be at the game tonight because I have..."??? NO! So why would you do that to your choir director?**

Instead, a better thing to say would be, "Something came up that is a conflict with the concert tonight, and I need some help in finding a solution," or "There's a conflict with tonight's concert, and I can't figure out how to solve it." Those types of approaches show that you care about the conflict's resolution and respect your director, your fellow choir members, and the choir's goals enough to try to work something out.

When conflicts arise between two organizations, students should try to work out the conflict well in advance by communicating with both directors/sponsors. If the student is unable to work out a solution, the parents and directors will **then** get involved and work out a solution. Mr. Park is *very* willing to find solutions to conflicts after a student's attempt to resolve the issue fails. Learning to work conflicts out through proper means of communication is an essential life skill, and it is one that the NRJH Choir wishes to encourage its students to develop.

# Participation

As a member of NRJH Choir, you are expected to perform in class, before- and after-school rehearsals, concerts, and other programs. It is your responsibility to attend tutoring and **maintain your grades** in order to participate. Frequent academic ineligibility could affect placement in the following year's advanced and after-school choirs as well as preventing participation in numerous events throughout the year such as singing the National Anthem at games, pep rallies, and many contests, trips, competitions, and our pop show. All student officers and any student in any advanced choir could be removed from their office and placed in an intermediate choir if repeated academic ineligibility occurs. At all choir functions, students will be expected to be a true ambassador of NRJH and AISD, displaying manners, following school rules, meeting deadlines, and always representing NRJH and the choir with pride and dignity.

# Attendance

Students should make every effort to be in class each day as participation is the essence of the grading structure. Because of the importance of daily participation, the director may implement a performance-based recorded daily make-up assignment for any excused or unexcused absences from class if absences are excessive. Students who expect excessive absences are encouraged to consider a different elective that is based on paperwork or individual accomplishments (instruction that can more easily be accommodated through private tutorials) instead of our choir class which is based almost solely on ensemble participation. *One person can change the blend and sound of an ensemble. That means that, truly, every student counts every day, so please make every reasonable effort to not miss choir classes unless absolutely necessary.*

If Mr. Park determines that there are significant and consistent attendance issues with an advanced choir, he will institute an attendance policy that will require students to make up daily work. In doing so, he will follow all school and district rules regarding makeup assignments and timetables.

# Eligibility

Choir students are responsible for maintaining high academic standards. Eligibility rules for participation are as follows:

1. Please note that throughout the year, curriculum-based performances (Fall Concert, Winter Concert, Spring Concert, and Pop Show) that are a performance grade for the choir do NOT require eligibility to participate. Students must perform on these concerts as part of their choir grade regardless of academic eligibility.
2. All students are eligible the first six weeks of school.
3. At the end of the first six weeks, students with a failing grade in any class (69 or below) will become academically ineligible and may not participate in many activities (trips off campus, participating in singing at pep rallies, participate in any activity that requires admission, or compete at any TMEA events.)
4. Every nine weeks, if the student fails (69 or below) one or more subjects on a report card, they will not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities for the next three weeks.
5. Every three weeks, an ineligible student may regain eligibility by passing ALL subjects. They will be eligible to participate in choir activities following a one-week



grace period. If they are failing any course, the student will continue to be ineligible for the next three weeks.

6. Please note that, with the exception of the second progress report of the year (given out at the six-week mark), a student can only LOSE eligibility from Report Cards. A student who passes everything on a report card stays eligible for the next 9 weeks regardless of any progress report grades. A student cannot lose eligibility based on a progress report grade, but failing a class on a progress report can KEEP a student ineligible.
7. Choir officers and any members of an advanced choir must maintain their eligibility status throughout the year. Any student in these groups who becomes ineligible will be on probation for the rest of the year. If a probationary student is ineligible a second time during the year, the student may no longer be an officer and could be moved to an alternate choir, thus allowing the student more time to focus on their academic needs.

Please note that some non-UIL events require eligibility due to Texas Education Agency rules. These include but are not limited to any event that charges admission (like National Anthems at sports events), pep rallies, any competition (Shadow Creek Choral Festival), and some other performances. Mr. Park will allow ineligible students to participate in any event where he is allowed to do so as long as the student does not have excessive absences and has contributed positively to class rehearsals, so if he says that ineligible students may not participate, it is because the state legislature, the AISD school board, or campus administration has dictated thus, not because he chose to limit participation.

Any student receiving an incomplete (I) on his/her report card is considered "ineligible" until the incomplete is cleared and passing. An Incomplete on a progress report is considered a failing grade.

Students are encouraged to notify their director as soon as possible if they suspect that a grade is less than acceptable. It is sometimes possible to offer suggestions and/or locate appropriate tutors from within the choir program. Remember, we are here to help, but we can't help once the grades are posted.



# Uniforms

Please note that improper or incomplete uniforms may result in students receiving lowered grades for performances.

## Formal Uniforms - shirt and tie

The school district provides a black dress shirt, black slacks, and tie. Students will be responsible for the following items:

- Black dress shoes (no patent leather, canvas, or suede)
- Black socks

This is the standard attire for our advanced 7th and 8th grade tenor-bass choir Floreat. Caelestis students may wear this uniform with written parent permission.

## Formal Uniforms – formal dresses

The school district provides a formal dress. Students will be responsible for:

- Black closed toe pumps, 1" - 2" heel. Black character shoes are recommended.

NO BLACK BOOTS OR "CHUNKY" SHOES - plain, closed-toed heels suitable to wear with a formal gown are REQUIRED

This is the standard attire for our advanced 7th and 8th grade treble choir Caelestis. Floreat choir students may wear this uniform with written parent permission.

All students will sign a uniform contract when issued uniform pieces provided by the school. Students will be responsible for their uniform until it is turned in at the end of the year. Damage or loss of uniforms will result in replacement fines that could easily exceed \$100, and these fees must be cleared before the end of the year so no consequences are implemented. Please also note that uniform cleaning fees are paid at the beginning of the year, so students do not need to turn in uniforms already laundered.

## Alterations

The hemline of the choir formal should be exactly 1" off the floor. Care must be taken in hemming the dress or pants. Note that all hems **MUST** be temporary!! **DO NOT CUT THE DRESS OR TUXEDO PANTS!!! DO NOT USE STAPLES, SAFETY PINS, OR TAPE!!!** It is the responsibility of each student and his/her/their parents to see that the necessary alterations are made on pants or dresses in order that it fits properly. If major alterations are necessary, they must be approved in advance by the choral director.

### Hair and Jewelry

For all genders, long hair should be worn back and away from the face. Shoulder length hair or shorter may be worn down, but must be away from the face. Avoid bows in the hair. Hair clips and accessories should be nondescript and blend with hair color. No visible jewelry, such as watches, necklaces, and excessive rings. Post earrings, studs, or small hoops must be worn in concert whenever possible. Remember, the concert attire is enforced because the choir performance is about us, not you. Any attire that brings attention to a single person takes away from the group, so just as we like to sing in a blended manner that de-emphasizes the individual's voice, we also strive to appear in a blended manner that de-emphasizes the individual's appearance.

\*\*\*Improper concert attire (inappropriate shoes, wearing bows in hair, hair covering face, excessive jewelry, missing items, etc.) will result in a lowered test grade for that concert!!!!\*\*\*

### Choir uniforms for 6th grade and intermediate choirs

Students will wear our choir shirts with appropriate bottoms (could be black pants or jeans) and nice shoes and socks. Please be aware that if we are singing on a playing field that is grass, heels may not be allowed because they damage the playing field or can get stuck in the dirt/turf while walking on the field.

For things like in-school pep rallies, choir students will wear their choir shirt with school-appropriate bottoms.



# Choir Expenses

The following is an anticipated list of choir expenditures that may occur throughout the year. They are listed to help you plan your budget. Please note that in some cases, fees are approximate. This list is simply an estimate, not a contract! Required expenditures are indicated.

**1. NRJH Choir fee (includes choir t-shirt and uniform cleaning fee): \$30.00 (Required)**

**2. Shoes for formal uniform (Required, purchase on your own)**

3. Region Choir Audition fee: \$10 per student (participation optional)

4. Solo Festival fee: \$35.00 appx. (participation optional, but all 4th and 6th period students will have to do at least Region Auditions OR Solo & Ensemble)

5. Trip fees: varies based on destination (participation may or may not be optional based on which choir is going on which trip. Details will be reviewed in advance during class or through e-mail.)

Other expenses might include other choir T-Shirts, Secret Santa Gifts, choir trip expenses, and professional performances, all of which would be optional.

## *REFUND POLICY:*

Most fees charged to the student involve advance payment for a service or item. In such cases (i.e. accompanist fees, trip fees, game tickets, etc.), the choir has a deadline for receiving reimbursement from the supplier. Because of this, the following policy will be strictly followed: There will be no refunds in any case where a student has paid for an activity or supply but is no longer able to participate. This policy applies no matter what the reason is for withdrawal and specifically includes but is not limited to the situations of ineligibility, illness, unexpected family travel, or withdrawal from the NRJH Choir.





# Code of Conduct

The AISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct can be found at the following link. All choir students must adhere to the AISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

<https://www.alvinisd.net/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=8256&dataid=52612&FileName=19-20%20ECCoC%20.pdf>

Additionally, students must adhere to our Nolan Ryan Junior High School Choir Code of Conduct. Students who are not in compliance with our Code of Conduct may receive the consequences below.

## *Choir Student Code of Conduct*

1. Students will treat all other people respectfully. Any form of bullying, name calling, threats, hate-speech, volatile and directed language, sexual harassment, or unwanted intimate advances will not be tolerated, including interactions in online, text-based, social media, or other formats.
2. Students will respect other students' physical space and not touch another student without their permission. Any amount of physical violence against another student will not be tolerated.
3. Students will not commit any acts that would be considered illegal or against AISD guidelines. Any amount of theft, use of illegal drugs or paraphernalia, physical altercations, or any other inappropriate or illegal activity will not be tolerated.

Consequences of breaking the Choir Student Code of Conduct:

*If a violation of the Code of Conduct is confirmed to be against another person, the teachers will hold a conference with the student against which the offense has occurred, and the severity of the infraction will be determined by the teachers using a student-centered approach and philosophy.*

1. For minor infractions, the teacher will have a conference with the student who has broken the Code of Conduct. If appropriate and mutually desired, the student against whom the infraction occurred could also be in the conference in order to facilitate healing, self-advocacy, and good communication practices.
2. For more significant infractions that still fall under "minor" infractions, any of the following could happen (listed in no order, and this is not an exhaustive list): student conferences, student-parent conferences, parent notification, administrative notification, administrative disciplinary actions, campus formal write-up (disciplinary referral), or a consequence to be determined.
3. For major infractions (even first-time), any of the following could happen (listed in no order): loss of involvement of specific choir event (not getting to participate in an event, for example), demotion of choir class (moving down a level), being removed from any after-school choirs or events, removal from choir officer, or future non-advancement to a higher choir.
4. For the most egregious infractions (even first-time), removal from the choir program could be applied (it could be immediate, or it could be delayed until the next grading period depending on the nature of the infraction). Examples of infractions that would warrant immediate removal from the program include (but are not limited to) stealing money from a choir colleague's purse during class, showing up to a choir event drunk or high, or physically fighting with another choir student.

*Note that consequences that result from major and egregious infractions would be discussed with and supported by NRJH administration before they were implemented.*

*By signing the page that acknowledges you have read and understand the NRJH Choir Handbook, you are agreeing to this NRJH Choir Student Code of Conduct and AISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct.*