

Twin Creeks Middle School

Choir Handbook

2025 – 2026

Jermaine Cenac-Williams

Angel Hickerson

Choir Directors



Contact Information:

jcenacwi@springisd.org

ahickel@springisd.org

(281) 891- 7880 ex.107880

<https://sites.google.com/springisd.org/twincreekschoir/home>

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Welcome to the Twin Creeks Middle School Warriors Choir!

Mission Statement:
The TCMS Choir program is dedicated to providing a safe environment that offers a challenging program , promotes high expectations, and prepares its students to become life-long learners and responsible citizens.

This handbook is a guide to our entire year. It will cover the following:

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Please look over this handbook carefully. The following will need to be returned to the choir room for a grade:

We hope that you will find this handbook a valuable resource for “all things choral” at TCMS, but should further questions arise, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jermaine Cenac- Williams and Ms. Angel Hickerson
Directors, TCMS Choirs

TWIN CREEKS MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORAL DEPARTMENT

PROGRAM GOALS

1. To present students at Twin Creeks Middle School with the opportunity to learn, sing, and perform music in our graded and leveled choir program.
2. To offer a quality musical experience through performance and competition of diverse choral literature.
3. To promote the cultivation of student relationships through teamwork and camaraderie.
4. To offer aspiring students opportunities for leadership.
5. To promote and develop good character in each student-including, but not limited to: self-discipline, creativity, self-esteem, and enthusiasm for learning.
6. To develop an aesthetic appreciation for choral music in students and in the surrounding community.

PURPOSE OF THE ENSEMBLE

Music performance teaches students to overcome anxiety to take healthy risks. They learn poise, composure, and the value of continued effort to achieve excellence. As a direct result of making music as a team, students have the opportunity to build and cultivate lasting friendships. Above all, music performance students know the satisfaction of the successful result of hard work, and this carries over into every other aspect of their lives.

TCMS CHOIRS

Varsity Treble

Non Varsity Tenor-Bass

Sub - Non Varsity Treble

6th Grade Beginning Treble

Non Varsity Treble

6th Grade Beginning Tenor

Varsity Tenor-Bass

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Leatherette choral folder or a heavy duty choir folder issued by TCMS Choir. These will remain in the choir room.
- Pencil(s)
- Highlighter
- Music (to be issued to students in class)

Students will be receiving music during the initial first weeks of school. The very first materials check (see “Grading” section) will be in class on **August 26, 2025**. By that point, the choral folder will be a daily requirement, along with a pencil. Students are certainly welcome to bring their materials **BEFORE** the official grade check.

Students are required to keep this folder in good condition, as it may be used for performance on stage. Writing, stapling, coloring, painting, drawing, and other things considered hazardous to the choral folder will not be permitted. **If at any time in the school year the director deems that a student’s binder is unfit and needs to be replaced another binder music must be purchased/replaced by the student. The cost of the leatherette folder is \$10.**

Regarding music, students will be issued copies of octavos throughout the year. This is so your student can make markings in the music with pencil and highlighter. After a concert is over, students will be required to turn their music in for destruction. All musical markings on the music must be made in pencil.

TCMS CHOIR FEE

Each student in choir is **required** to pay a ***one time annual fee***. Here is the breakdown of how the fee is utilized throughout the year:

1. Uniform Maintenance - \$10 (**7-8 grade ONLY**) - hemming and cleaning
2. Choir Shirt - \$20 - for informal performances
3. Transportation - \$10 - to cover costs not covered by SISD
4. Supplies - \$10 - to help cover costs for copy paper, pencils, highlighters, tissues, etc.
 - **New choir student fee:** \$40 (6th grade) \$50 (7-8 grade)
 - **Returning students fee:** \$30

Please pay this fee as soon as possible, or by **Friday, September 12nd**.

NOTE: Please make the directors aware if your family cannot pay the choir fee at this time. We will make every effort to set up a payment system so your child can participate in the choir

program. We do not want the cost of the program to determine whether your child can be a part of the choir program.

ADDITIONAL CHOIR COSTS

The following are anticipated choir costs for the remainder of the school year. These costs are subject to change and serve for budgeting and planning purposes only. Scholarships are always offered for students who need assistance. These are **NOT** required fees for all students, only students who wish to participate in the following events.

- Region Auditions - \$12
- 6th Grade Festival/Contest - \$7-\$10 (lunch costs)
- Girls Ice Cream Social -\$5
- Boys Pizza Party -\$5
- 7th/8th grade Solo and Ensemble - \$5-\$10
- End of Year Celebration field trip - \$50

Exact cost of these activities will be sent out closer to the date of the event because of cost variances. Please refer to the Choir Calendar.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE AND T-SHIRTS

Formal attire is the property of Spring ISD, and is loaned to the student. All pieces of the uniform must be returned immediately following a concert. 7th/8th grade students will be fitted for formal dresses and tux attire at the beginning of the year. These uniforms should not go home unless otherwise requested.

Male choir students will need to purchase black dress shoes and socks. Tux shirts (school issued) are required to be tucked-in and worn with a belt.

FORMAL ATTIRE REQUIREMENTS

Full formal attire for women (**6th grade**):

- Black Blouse
- Black skirt - Knee length
- Black dress pants
- Black dress - Knee length
- Black dress shoes (must be close-toed, can be heels or flats, but no tennis shoes or sandals)*

Full formal attire for women (**7th/8th grade**):

- Black choir dress (school issued)
- Black dress shoes (must be close-toed, can be heels or flats, but no tennis shoes or sandals)*

Full formal attire for men (**6th grade**):

- Black button down shirt
- Black collared shirt
- Black dress pants
- Black dress shoes

Full formal attire for men (**7th/8th grade**):

- Solid black slacks (school issued)
- White tux shirt (school issued)
- Black shoes(Solid black shoe no other colors with in the shoe)*
- Black socks (no white, brown, or navy socks)*
- Black vest (school issued)

*must be purchased, if not owned

Some dresses may need to be hemmed if the length is too long. The bottom of the dress should sit about 1 inch from the top of the shoe. **DO NOT HEM OR CUT THE DRESS.** We will have uniform fittings during the first 6 weeks of school. Your child must bring the shoes he/she plans to wear with the uniform so the length is correct. **TCMS will be responsible for hemming the dresses. Please do not alter them on your own.**

NOTE: No other alterations may be made on the uniform (taking in the waist, raising the shoulders, etc.) These types of alterations completely change the sizing of the uniform. The actual sizing will not correspond with the sizing on file. A fee will be charged if a student alters the uniform.

Failure to return any part of the uniform in good condition and at the appropriate time may result in a fine and/or replacement fee for the uniform.

CASUAL ATTIRE REQUIREMENTS:

6th/7th/8th grade choir students will all wear:

TCMS Choir Shirts will be ordered at the start of the year. Students will be required to purchase the choir polo to wear at certain TCMS Choir events. The price will be \$20 per polo, and is included as part of the Choir Fee. If you have a black TCMS polo from previous years, you may use it, as long as it still fits and is not too worn. This will only apply to 7-8 graders (or a sibling).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Click the link to take you to the Google Sheet with all the choir dates.

These dates are subject to change. Please make sure to check back with the calendar link for any changes. Information regarding these changes will be posted and passed out to your student.

[TCMS Choir Calendar 25-26](#)

DISCIPLINE AND ATTENDANCE

Grades in choir are earned by assessing each student's knowledge (classroom assignments, quizzes, and exams), skills (sight-reading and mastering repertoire), and participation in daily rehearsals and required performances.

Grades will be assessed on a **percentage system** as follows:

- Minor Grades - Classroom Participation , Homework, Do-now - 40%
- Major Grades - 60% Performance & Test

Choir Room Expectations

- Be respectful!
- Be on time!
- Work as a team.
- Do your best!
- Always TRY!
- NO GUM!

Discipline Policy

We follow the TCMS student handbook discipline policy.

- 1) Warning - first offense
- 2) Student conference and parent phone call - second offense
- 3) Referral - third offense

Attendance Policy

As a member of the TCMS Choir, students have an obligation to their ensemble to be at school, at rehearsals, and at performances on time, prepared, and with all necessary materials. Please read the following carefully:

1. All choir students are expected to have good daily attendance in school.
2. Attendance at rehearsals and concerts is **required and graded**. Students must make the director aware in advance if they will not be at a choir rehearsal/performance (due to a doctor's appointment, meeting with counselors, sporting event, transportation issues etc.) The exception is if the student is ill and advance notice cannot be given, **but a note must still be provided after the missed rehearsal has occurred.**
3. If a concert is missed due to an excused absence, a make-up assignment will be assigned and will be due within one week of the student's return to school (see "Make-up Work" section). A student's grade may be withheld until the assignment is completed.
4. Examples of unexcused absences include, but are not limited to:
 - Work**
 - Oversleeping
 - Babysitting**

***The TCMS Choir calendar is available the first weeks of school so you can plan your year accordingly.*

5. Chronic absenteeism from school, multiple unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances, and multiple tardies may result in:
 - Grade reduction
 - Loss of performance status (in concerts, in competitions, or in class)
 - Removal from TCMS Choir social activities
 - Removal from choir program

Make-Up Work

Students who miss a regular rehearsal (whether excused or not) must do the following:

1. Check in with their section leader about what selections or pieces were rehearsed
2. Update markings in their music that were made when they were absent

Students who miss a concert (for an excused absence) will be required to do an essay and presentation. Students who miss a concert for an unexcused absence will be allowed to make-up the grade, but only for reduced credit. Students who miss a concert and do not complete the corresponding assignment will be in danger of failing choir for the term.

CHOIR EXTRAS

The following are extra musical opportunities for your student. They are not mandatory and participation, or lack thereof, will not affect your child's grade in any way. Participation in these activities are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED and assist in placement for Varsity ensembles.

TMEA Region Choir

This experience is unforgettable and rewarding, but a definite challenge. Each student who auditions must use his/her own individual repertoire performance for placement into the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Region XXXIII Choir. Middle school and junior high choir students from all over the region compete for placement into this honor choir by preparing difficult music for a panel of judges. Students who are placed into this choir give a concert under a renowned clinician in January.

Solo and Ensemble

All students in the **7th and 8th** grade will compete in the **Ensemble** portion of this event. Students will prepare an ensemble chosen by one of the choir directors. Students who wish to compete in a solo event will prepare a solo that will be selected for them by one of the choir directors. Students will prepare their solo for a judge who will rate the performance based on memorization and execution of musicianship. Students who receive a high rating at this competition receive a medal. Please see the calendar for the corresponding date for this event.

CONTESTS AND TRIPS

Early Music Festival - Kemah Boardwalk

Pre-UIL Competition

UIL Concert and Sight Reading Competition

6th Grade Choral Competition

End of Year Celebration

In order to attend the End of Year Celebration, students are not allowed to have an unexcused absence or more than one excused absence from a mandatory concert/event.

CONNECT WITH TCMS CHOIR

X (formerly Twitter) - @tcwarriorchoir

Facebook - TCMS_WarriorChoir

Instagram - TCMS_WarriorChoir

Revtrak- <https://twincreeksms.revtrak.net/Choir/#/list>

Class Dojo : Download this app to communicate with us as well as receive updates and announcements about the TCMS choir. Intrusion will be given to your child on the first day of school or if you attend warrior night you can access there as well.

****Parents****

You will use the revtrak website to pay for all fees with a credit card. I strongly urge you to utilize this feature so as to cut down on cash transactions.

Student and Parent Signature Page

I _____ acknowledge that my student/child _____
have read and understand all of the contents within this handbook.

Student Signature

Date

Student Name (Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian (Print)

Phone Number