



River Valley Choir Department

Whitney Wick, Choir Director
(254) 761-5690 x4810

♪ Parent/Student Handbook ♪ 2019-2020

Welcome to the choral program at River Valley Intermediate School! I am dedicated to making this program a positive experience for all of the students involved as well as an exciting time of accomplishment and success through hard work. In order for this to occur, I ask each parent and student to take an active role in helping to achieve these goals.

This handbook contains a great deal of information concerning the responsibilities and privileges of being a member of the River Valley choral program. It contains everything you will need to know for the school year. Should anything change, I will inform the students and parents in writing as soon as possible. Please read this entire packet carefully and sign the last page by September 6th, 2019.

I am excited that you have joined us this year! I am here to help you have fun, work hard, and experience tremendous musical growth and success. I hope you're ready for a great year!

Sincerely,

Whitney Wick
Whitney.Wick@midwayisd.org



CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT PLAN

The rules and procedures used in choir are designed to create a supportive and positive environment that encourages student learning and success. These rules also enable our choir classroom to run smoothly and effectively to maximize active musical growth. In addition to the MISD Code of Conduct, all choir students are to adhere to the following:

Choir Room Rules:

1. Stay focused on the director during the lesson.
2. Have **ALL** your supplies in choir EVERYDAY!
3. Be ready to sing when the bell rings.
4. Be Respectful to yourself and others.

If You Choose to Break a Rule (CONSEQUENCES):

First Time:	Non-verbal or Verbal Warning.
Second Time:	Student will sign the behavior log located on cart next to piano.
Third Time:	Student will sign their name again on the clipboard. Parents will be notified (via email or phone call), and a Student-Teacher conference.
Fourth Time:	Student will sign the clipboard and Parents will be notified (via email or phone call). A detention of some kind will be assigned.
Fifth Time:	Student will sign the clipboard, Office Referral.

(The students will be able to start over each report card grading period, meaning every six weeks.)

***ANY VIOLATION OF THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT WILL IMMEDIATELY RESULT IN AN OFFICE REFERRAL AND/OR POSSIBLE REMOVAL FROM CHOIR.**

REWARDS:

Praise (daily)
I Love Choir Stickers!
Competition with other class periods
Enrichment Activities (classroom games and outdoor activities)
The joy of learning (each day of the school year)

TARDY POLICY:

Students are considered tardy to choir if they are not in their assigned seat with the appropriate materials when the bell rings (Rule #2). Tardies will be treated with the consequences outlined above. Every fourth tardy will be reported to the attendance clerk.

GRADES

Choir Grade:

A student's six weeks grade will include:

- ***Evaluation**: Attendance and participation in ALL required concerts/performances
(in bold print on the attached calendar) **40% OF THE OVERALL GRADE**
- ***Practice**: Class participation in ALL activities **30% OF THE OVERALL GRADE**
- ***Application**: Periodic quizzes on essential musical elements,
learned music, and individual sight-reading evaluations. **30% OF THE OVERALL GRADE**

A grade of 90%-100% (A) indicates that a student is participating consistently and performing well in most or all areas of choir. A grade lower than 90% should indicate to you that a problem exists in one or more areas of the student's performance or participation. At any time during the six weeks period, you may contact me (email is the best way) concerning your son/daughter's grade in choir.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES:

- ♪ 1 inch binder for choir music
- ♪ At least 2 different color highlighters
- ♪ other supply list will be sent via Sign-up Genius

***All supplies must be turned in on or before Friday, August 30, 2019.**

The Choir Department will provide students with a pencil bag, a pencil, and all required music for the year. It is important that the student has the binder within the first two week because we will begin learning music.

OPTIONAL SUPPLIES:

Students may bring a bottle of water to choir class; this will eliminate sending students to the drinking fountains during a lesson. Many other teachers do not allow water bottles to be brought into class so make sure your student is aware this is for choir ONLY!! I recommend students keep an empty water bottle in their locker and fill it up on the way to choir. (This way, water will not get spilled on textbooks while in the locker.)



UNIFORMS

6th Grade Choir Members

***All 6th grade choir members will be required to purchase the choir t-shirt as their uniform for all required concerts throughout the year. The cost of the choir t-shirt is \$10 and must be turned in to Ms. Wick no later than Friday, September 13th, 2019. Please make checks payable to Midway ISD. (Cash is also accepted.)

***Additionally, all 6th grade choir members will be required to purchase on their own a pair of black slacks, a black belt, and a pair of black closed-toe shoes. Girls may choose to wear either flats or a small heel. There is to be absolutely **NO** tennis shoes. This uniform is to be worn for all concerts and other official choir activities.

***If there is a financial need, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Wick. Please make sure to do so prior to September 13th, 2019 in order to ensure proper arrangements can be made.

***PARENTS, want to show your support of RV Choir? Order a T-Shirt as well! ☺

Please cut off and return the following form for T-Shirt Orders.



Choir T-Shirt Order Form

Student Name: _____

Class Period: _____

Please circle t-shirt size(s) needed: (Y stands for youth sizes)

YL

S

M

L

XL

XXL

(XXXL is available if needed)

Choir T-Shirts are \$10.00 each

I have my money attached I need help with payment I have included extra \$ to help another student

If using a check: Check #:

Checks need to be made out to "Midway ISD"

Parents are welcome to order t-shirts for themselves as well. ☺

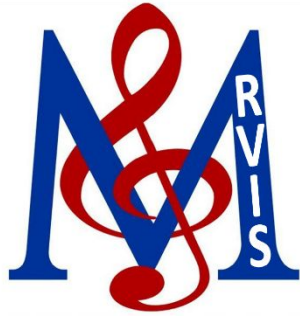
PLACE ORDERS TO MS. WICK NO LATER THAN SEPT. 13th!!!

CONCERTS

The students will be working each and every day on music-reading skills as well as learning a varied repertoire of music. Our daily work comes to fruition at our concerts and various performances throughout the year. The concert dates on the next page are considered curricular and are, therefore, **required for your student to attend to receive their Evaluation Grade.**

Students may receive an excused absence for their illness or family emergency. *If a student has to miss a required concert, a phone call, text message, email, or written notification to me BEFORE the concert is required!* For grading purposes, a written alternative assignment will be given to those who have an excused absence for a concert. **An unexcused absence receives a grade of 0.**

Concert schedule on reverse side! Please put these dates on your calendar **immediately!**



2019-2020 CONCERT SCHEDULE

Fall Concert

River Valley - Tuesday, October 15th, at 6:30 pm @RVIS Cafeteria

Christmas Caroling Trip-TBA @Heartis and Admin Building

Winter Concert

Combined - Tuesday, December 17th, at 6:30 pm @Midway PAC

Spring Concert

River Valley- Thursday, February 25th, at 6:30 pm @RVIS Cafeteria

Solo Festival

Saturday, March 21st, 8am-12pm @ MHS Choir Room

Midway Choral Festival

During/After School, Tuesday, April 7nd @Midway PAC

End of Year Concert

River Valley - Monday, May 4th, at 6:30pm @RVIS Cafeteria



Choir Concert Rubric

(TEKS)	Possible Points
My singing posture was tall and open, and my hands & arms stayed to my side. (2A, 2C)	20
My mouth/jaw was relaxed and open with excellent vowel formation. (2A, 2C)	20
I performed with the proper dynamics, phrasing, diction, and breaths as discussed in class. (2B)	20
I watched the director 100% of the time while I was singing. (2C)	15
I followed instructions and did not talk during the concert (including while I was on stage and while other groups were performing.) (6C)	15
I performed all of my songs from memory. (2B)	10
Total	100

*** Please note: Students who arrive more than 15 minutes after the announced Call Time, as well as students who are not wearing the proper uniform will NOT be allowed to perform on stage.

*** If a situation arises on the day of an event, please let Ms. Wick know by calling her at 512-948-6107. A student (or parent) who communicates will never be penalized.



Money Turn in Procedures

ALL money and order forms **MUST** be turned into the Choir Room Mailbox. Each student will place their money and forms in an envelope and put it in the locked Choir Room Mailbox. Once the money has been logged and accounted for, I will give each student a receipt. If a student never receives a receipt, I have not received the payment. Please be advised that I submit deposits to the bank about every other week on Fridays. Thank you for helping make this process easy and organized!

www.midwaypantherchoir.org/rivervalley

The Choir Website is going to be the number one center for information. There you will find:

- Required Forms to fill out - Choir Contract and Travel form **DUE SEPT 6th**
- Other important documents
- Links to social media accounts and YouTube
- The Choir Weekly Update blog
- Entire Choir Program Calendar.



**Social Media? We got that
@RVISChoir**

Follow RV Choir on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram to stay up to the minute with news, updates, and other fun from the choir room!

Don't have an account? Now is a perfect time to get one!

RIVER VALLEY CHOIR SIGNATURE PAGE

Student Last Name

Student First Name

Choir Period

Parents, Please read and INITIAL in each box and then SIGN the bottom of this form.

Choir Handbook Statement of Agreement

I have read with my student and understand the River Valley Choir Handbook and agree to abide by its policies, procedures, rules, and fees described therein.

. -These include; required materials and expenses, grading and discipline policy, attendance policy, student responsibilities and expectations, and all performances and contests. -The student understands that their failure to abide by this agreement may result in appropriate action including, but not limited to: teacher/student conferences, teacher/parent conferences, grade penalization (as stated in the grading and conduct policy), discipline referrals, and restriction from any choir events. -The parent/guardian, agree to support their child in his/her participation in choir, and to help foster a sense of pride, teamwork, and success that s/he can acquire through such participation. (The handbook and a copy of this form are available at midwaypantherchoir.org/rivervalley. you may scan and email this page to Ms. Wick at Whitney.Wick@midwayisd.org)

Choir Calendar

I have read the Choir Concert Schedule and put all events in my calendar
my student understands that failure to attend a concert will result in a zero on evaluation grade.

Uniforms

I have completed the t-shirt order form earlier in this packet and have attached \$10 (cash or check made out to Midway ISD) If there is a financial need, let Ms. Wick know via email. I understand the rest of uniform includes black pants, black belt, and black dress shoes. I understand I must purchase these items.

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Student Signature

Date