



# Midway High School Choir Handbook 2019-20

## Welcome

This handbook is designed to ensure the success of the MHS Choral Department by informing students and parents of the policies and procedures used throughout the school year. We are proud of our choir program and the respect that it has earned by 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. Please take time to read the handbook thoroughly and return the necessary pages on the due date, and please note that you are responsible for all information presented. If you should have further questions that are not answered in the handbook, please feel free to call the choir office at (254)761-5675, ext. 3. You may also access the choir website through [www.midwayisd.org](http://www.midwayisd.org).

## MHS Choir Program Objectives

The Midway HS Choral Department offers performance opportunities that focus on expanding student knowledge and use of basic music theory, music history, sight-reading methods, and vocal techniques. In addition to developing individual musical strengths, each choir within the department is designed to teach self-discipline, group unity, and commitment while working together toward a common goal of excellence and fostering an appreciation of choral music.

## MISD Choral Music Staff

Jeff Rice -- High School Director  
Jannifer Rice -- High School Associate Director  
Caleb Overstreet- High School/Middle School Assistant Director  
Tammy Benton -- Middle School Director  
Zachary Owens – Middle School Associate Director  
Whitney Wick – River Valley Intermediate 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Director  
Kayla Torp- Woodgate Intermediate 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Director  
Jonathan Pinto – MHS Choir Accompanist  
Julianne Best -- Private Voice Instructor  
David Guess – Private Voice Instructor  
Tina Hays- Private Voice Instructor  
Michael Skarke – Private Voice Instructor

Darrell Umhoefer -- MISD Fine Arts Coordinator

## Classroom Supplies

Each student will receive a choir folder and music to be used much like a textbook is issued in other classes. Students are financially responsible for the folder and the sheet music provided by the school. Directors will ask students to mark in their music frequently. Only pencils may be used to mark in MHS Choir issued music. Folders or music showing excessive wear must be replaced at the student's expense. Also, any music that is lost must be replaced at student expense. Any music found on the floor or out of folders will be considered "lost".

Students are welcome and encouraged to take music home to practice. However, it must be brought to class every day. Your grade will be penalized if you do not have your folder/music. Each student is expected to keep at least one pencil in their choir folder at all times.

## Choir Program Structure

Placement in the MHS choirs is based on sight-singing ability, choral music experience, musicianship, vocal tone quality, attitude, and academic eligibility. Placement auditions are at the end of each school year. All choirs participate in concerts at MHS and MISD choral activities. All students who demonstrate a mastery of skills and maintain academic eligibility participate in U.I.L. Concert and Sight-reading Competition.

**Concert Men**-- no audition is required for this ensemble; students of any grade level may be placed in this group to improve skills and gain sightreading experience. Non-varsity music.

**Concert Women**-- no audition is required for this ensemble; students of any grade level may be placed in this group to improve skills and gain sightreading experience. Non-varsity music.

**Select Men**—tenor-bass choir of intermediate and advanced choral students. Placement by audition only. All members required to audition for All-Region Choir and/or participate in U.I.L. Solo & Ensemble.

**Select Women**--treble choir of intermediate and advanced choral students. Placement by audition only. All members required to audition for All-Region Choir and/or participate in U.I.L. Solo & Ensemble.

**Meistersingers**--mixed choir of advanced choral students. Juniors and seniors may be placed in this choir. Placement by audition only. Advanced varsity level music. All members are strongly encouraged to audition for All-Region choir and participate in U.I.L. Solo & Ensemble.

**Chamber Singers**--mixed ensemble of advanced choral students. Placement by audition only. Advanced varsity level music. All members are required to audition for the All-Region Choir and participate in U.I.L. Solo & Ensemble. Many extra-curricular performances are scheduled during the year.

# Grading System

## Practice 30%

- Group and individual vocal development exercises
- Group and individual choral/vocal sightreading exercises
- Written assignments utilizing musical terminology
- Skill/technique exhibition/observation

## Application 30%

- Rehearsal technique involvement/observation
- Sightreading skill demonstration
- Choral/vocal skill demonstration
- Scheduled rehearsal outside of class

## Evaluation 40%

- Vocal/Choral/Sightreading skill quiz/test (group/individual)
- Public performance (concert/contest)

**Participation in scheduled sectional rehearsals and curricular concerts is a requirement of the MHS Choir curriculum.** Sectional rehearsals are generally before school at 7:00 a.m., after school from 3:55-5:00 pm, or evenings between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m. Students must attend all choir performances and remain for the entire performance.

## Eligibility

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

1. All students are eligible the first six weeks of school
2. At the end of the first six weeks, if the student is failing (below 70) or has an incomplete in one or more subjects he/she will not be permitted to participate in extra-curricular activities for the next three weeks or until the incomplete is cleared through the Student Services office, i.e. trips off campus, TMEA, UIL sponsored events, and other specified activities.
3. An ineligible student may re-gain eligibility status at the end of the third week of the six weeks grading period. If the student is passing ALL subjects, he/she will be eligible to participate in choir activities following a one week grace period. If he/she is failing any course, the student will continue to be ineligible for the remainder of the grading period.

All choir concerts (fall, winter, pre-UIL, spring) fall under the category of curricular (part of the course requirement), therefore, academic eligibility is NOT REQUIRED. However, the following choir activities are considered extra-curricular, therefore academic eligibility IS REQUIRED: Gotta Sing Gotta Dance, events associated with the TMEA All-State audition process, UIL Solo & Ensemble, UIL Concert and Sightreading, choir spring trip, etc...

## **Personal Conduct**

Midway Choir students are typically very involved on campus and in the community. It is important that the conduct and appearance of all choir students be exemplary. Choir members have the opportunity to participate in field trips and activities. As representatives of MISD and Midway High School our young people must reflect an image of positive leadership, character, responsibility, and great competitive spirit. All choir students are subject to the MHS Extra-Curricular Discipline Management policy.

## **Classroom Conduct**

Self-discipline is critical to the success of the MHS Choir Department. Choir students are expected to follow these rules:

1. Be On Time
2. Be Prepared (folder and pencil)
3. Be Respectful (people and property)
4. Be Musical
5. No Food, Gum, or Drink in the Choir Room. Clear water bottles only.

## **Discipline**

With the exception of the MHS tardy policy (described in MHS Code of Conduct), discipline infractions shall be handled as follows:

1. Warning
2. Teacher/Student Conference/Parent Contact
3. Discipline Referral to assistant principal

Students assigned to ISS or DAEP the day of choir activities are not be allowed to participate. Students may be allowed to participate in curricular activities, but not extra-curricular. In accordance with MISD policy, any student suspended from school for any reason will not be permitted to participate in any choir activities during the period of suspension.

## **Travel Conduct**

Rules for the Choir Classroom, MHS, and MISD are enforced on all choir trips. The penalty for violating these rules may be loss of field trip privileges and possible removal from the MHS Choir Program. When we travel we represent MHS and MISD. Our dress and behavior must maintain a high standard.

## **Private Lesson Program**

Private instruction in voice will be offered during the school day through the MISD Private Lesson Program (PLP). Student application forms must be submitted and lessons will begin the first full week of classes. There is a per lesson fee of \$18.00 and must be paid monthly in advance. Payment will be made directly to the instructor. Private students will be expected to commit to lessons for a full semester/year. Lessons will be taught during choir classes, lunches and before/after school. Lessons will be taught by qualified vocal instructors selected by the MISD Fine Arts Department. Information and Application Forms are available on the MHS Choir webpage and the MISD Fine Arts webpage. For more information, see Mr. Rice.

# Choir Expenses

All select choir members will have the following expenses:

1. Choir Fee – \$40. for ALL CHOIRS (MHS Choir t-shirt, uniform rental/maintenance, CDs, folders, class supplies, etc.) **Bring cash or check payable to MHS Choir by Friday, August 30.**
2. Spring Trip – Select Men/Women \$100. (NTCC/Main Event-Ft. Worth); Meistersingers \$1400. (New York City)
3. Boys – White, long-sleeved tux shirt (**lay down collar only**); black dress shoes & socks (These items must be purchased on your own)
4. Girls – Black, low heeled, closed toe dress shoes (purchased on your own)

Optional expenses:

1. 9-12 All-Region/All-State audition music (\$25.00)
2. 9/10 All-Region audition music and entry fee (\$15.00)
3. Solo & Ensemble Entry Fee (\$5.00 per Class 2/3 event; \$9.00 per Class 1 event); Texas State Solo & Ensemble Entry fee (\$20.00 for a solo and \$10.00 for an ensemble)

## Performance Attire

Choir uniforms create a professional look for concerts. All choirs will wear uniforms provided by MISD. These uniforms are the property of the Midway Choir Department.

### *Choir Performance Dress Expectation:*

1. All women will wear a MISD-issued black formal dress for performances. Black, low-heeled, closed-toe dress shoes must be purchased by the student.
2. All men will wear a MISD-issued black tuxedo jacket, black slacks, vest, and long tie. Long-sleeved, white tux shirt (lay down collar), black dress shoes and socks must be provided by the student.

**Each choir member will receive their uniform in a black vinyl hanging bag. This bag is part of the uniform and must be returned when the uniform is returned. During the year, students are expected to store and maintain the uniform on their own. Uniforms must be returned the day after the spring concert.**

**MHS CHOIR TUXES AND DRESSES MAY NOT BE WORN FOR NON-CHOIR FUNCTIONS WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM DIRECTOR.**

## Midway Choir Booster Organization

Parents of choir members are invited to join the MHS Choir Boosters at the beginning of each year. This organization is the primary support group of the MHS Choir Department. Parents may volunteer to assist in a variety of ways. Individual and Business Membership Forms are available on the MHS Choir webpage. **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED!!!**

# Fundraising

Fundraising projects afford students the opportunity to earn money needed for choir expenses. Individual profits are placed in a designated account for each student. All students are expected to participate and make an effort in fundraising. No student will be denied participation due to lack of funds, however, students must make every effort to raise money to pay their expenses. Students who make little or no effort at fundraising will not travel on special trips.

The following fundraising projects are scheduled for this year:

1. Yankee Candle (Sept)
2. Poinsettia (Oct-Nov)
3. Gotta Sing! Gotta Dance Tickets (Jan/Feb)

# Choir Leadership

**President** -- Junior or senior member of Meistersingers. Duties include, but are not limited to, providing enthusiastic leadership for class, making announcements, coordinating class activities, and acting as liaison between choir and directors.

**Vice-President** -- Meistersingers will have a junior VP and a senior VP. Duties include, but are not limited to, providing enthusiastic leadership for class, assisting directors in assigning and collecting uniforms, planning social activities, and recognizing choir birthdays and special achievements.

**Secretary** -- Duties include, but are not limited to, assisting with checking roll daily in class and at all concerts, meeting with other officers to plan social activities, assisting other officers and directors in organizational needs.

**Historian** -- Duties include, but are not limited to, taking pictures and creating photo walls. Also, creating a video slideshow for the choir banquet.

**Representative** -- Each grade will have representatives to serve on the MHS Choir Officer Board. Duties include, but are not limited to, serving as a liaison between directors and students, providing leadership during class each day, meeting with other officers to plan social activities, assisting other officers and directors in organizational needs.

**Section Leader** -- Appointed at director's discretion. Duties include, but are not limited to, assisting secretary with roll check (in class and at concerts), keeping section on task during rehearsal, assisting directors with taped testing, and communicating with directors about musical issues.

**Student Director** -- Appointed at director's discretion. Duties include, but are not limited to, leading warm-up and rehearsal (both full class and sectional rehearsal) when necessary and meeting with officers and director on a regular basis for discussion and planning.

**Student Accompanist** -- Appointed at director's discretion. Duties include, but are not limited to, playing the piano for full group and sectional rehearsals as needed.

All choir officers must be academically eligible and maintain a satisfactory conduct grade in all classes. Students not meeting this standard may be replaced. Any choir officer placed in ISS or suspended from school may be removed from office at the director's discretion.

# Midway High School

## Choir Award Jacket Criteria

One of the privileges of choir membership is the right to wear an Award Letter Jacket. A student must earn 20 points within a school year to receive a letter jacket. A music student moving in to MISD from another Texas public school will have points assigned. A second letter may be earned, but you will not receive another jacket. Senior students earning jackets through participation in a particular organization must fulfill all obligations pertaining to that organization throughout the entire senior year, or forfeit their award jacket.

**Measuring and ordering: Students earning letter jackets will be measured in late August. Point totals will be calculated prior to each date.**

<b>Honor Organizations</b>	<b>Points</b>
Auditioning for All-Region Choir (9/10 or Mixed)	3
Making and performing in All-Region Clinic/Concert	3
Auditioning at Pre-Area	3
Making it to Area Auditions	4
Auditioning for All-State Choir	4
Making and performing in the All-State Choir	5

### Individual Music Awards

#### Regional UIL Solo & Ensemble

Class 1 Solo	3
Class 2 Solo	2
Class 3 Solo	2
Class 1 Small Ensemble	3
Class 2 Small Ensemble	2
Class 3 Small Ensemble	1
Medium Ensemble	1

#### State UIL Solo & Ensemble

Solo	3
Ensemble	2

### Participation

Select Men's Choir/Select Women's Choir	2
Meistersingers/Chamber Singers	3
UIL Concert/Sightreading Contest	3
Gotta Sing! Gotta Dance!	2
Working at audition/contest (Max. 8 hours)	.5 per hour
Individual Projects (at director discretion)	2
MEP Voice Lessons	2
Musical	2

**MIDWAY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MIDWAY HIGH SCHOOL  
FIELD TRIP PERMISSION FORM**

I hereby give permission for my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_, to go on trips with the Midway High School Choir Department during the current school year. The trips will include, but are not limited to, TMEA and UIL activities. Some of these choir activities will involve out-of-town and/or out-of-state travel.

I understand all trips will be by school vehicle or chartered bus and under the supervision of Midway Independent School District personnel. I hereby relieve the Midway Independent School District of all responsibility beyond that of normal supervision. Parents will be notified in advance of all choir trips.

As parent/guardian of the above named student, I authorize the school to take my child to a doctor for treatment of accident or sickness and to administer first aid as deemed necessary by proper officials of MISD. I assume all responsibility for bills incurred for medical expenses in excess of any insurance coverage on the student. (Parents will be notified of any injury as soon as possible.)

**STUDENT INSURANCE INFORMATION**

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Group Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Policy: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Physician: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone/Evening Phone

**THIS FORM IS DUE TO BE TURNED IN BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 30 AT 4:00 PM.**



# Midway High School Choir Contract 2019-20

## Student/Parent Commitment Form

All parents/guardians of Midway Choir students are asked to sign this form and return it to school by the end of the first week of school. Signing this form acknowledges both student and parent/guardian have read the MHS Choir Handbook. The handbook can also be found on the choir webpage ([midwaypantherchoir.org](http://midwaypantherchoir.org)). You may also go to the MISD Fine Arts Webpage and navigate to the choir page.

**\*\*\*Students must also turn in a completed Field Trip Permission Form and pay their Choir Activity Fee (\$40.) All MHS Choir Students should have completed the Extra-Curricular Discipline Management Form through the MHS online registration process.**

I have received and read the Midway High School Choir Syllabus. I agree to abide by the policies stated in this book. I realize that failure to follow the policies in this handbook will result in disciplinary action and will affect my standing in the MHS Choir Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Parent Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

Date Turned In \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS FORM IS DUE TO BE TURNED IN BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 30 AT 4:00 PM.**