



Midway Middle School Choir
Handbook
2023 - 2024



Dear MMS Choir Singers & Families,

Welcome to the Midway Middle School Choir Program! Midway Middle School Choir has a long-standing tradition of choral excellence by maintaining high standards and encouraging dedication and hard work. Our mission is to provide students with high quality musical experiences, foster deep and meaningful relationships, and encourage growth and discipline during your time in the Midway Choral Program. We look forward to working with you and your child.

The MMS Choir Handbook is made available to you in order to outline the following:

1. The MMS Choir Events Calendar
2. MMS Choir Expectations & Policies
3. Uniform Information & Agreement
4. Fees, Materials, & Supplies
5. Additional Events, Practices and Communication for MMS Choir.

All singers and families are responsible for reading and adhering to the policies in place for the student's respective ensemble. Please read the handbook carefully and contact Kayla Torp or Hyeyoung Ku with any questions or concerns regarding the MMS Choir Handbook.

Can't wait for a fabulous, musical year!

Kayla Torp
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MMS CHOIR CALENDAR

[VIEW THE MMS CHOIR CALENDAR HERE!](#)

**events notated with an asterisk by them are required for the students' respective ensemble or grade level.*



Expectations & Procedures

I. Rehearsal Expectations

- Be in your assigned place when the bell rings with all daily materials.
- Listen and follow all directors' instructions.
- Use positive and appropriate actions and language.
- Be respectful of all classmates, directors, and guests.
- Only water will be permitted in rehearsals (no gum, food, or other drinks).
- Cell phones and iPads must remain in backpacks unless requested for class.

II. Performance Expectations

- MMS Choirs follow a performance based curriculum. **All dress rehearsals, formal concerts, Pre-UIL, and Pizzazz are considered curricular and, therefore, mandatory for all eligible students to attend and participate.**
- UIL Contest is required for all eligible 7th/8th grade choir students.** Students must meet a certain criteria in order to participate and a UIL form will be sent home in the early spring.
- Students receive two evaluation grades for formal concerts based on the Performance TEKS and [MMS Choir Concert Evaluation Rubric](#). Any and all conflicts concerning a students' presence at a concert must be communicated to the students' director in writing, well in advance of the date of the concert.
- Students must be on time, in proper uniform, participate fully, and stay for the duration of the concert to receive full credit for choir concerts.

III. Extra Rehearsals

- While directors and students work hard to achieve all musical goals during class time, additional rehearsals outside of class may be necessary. These rehearsals are imperative to the success of the choir.
- The frequency of extra rehearsals will be kept at a minimum.
- Students are expected to attend all required extra rehearsals.



Expectations & Procedures cont.

IV. Conflict & Makeup Policy

We work to create an efficient and effective schedule to honor those commitments while maintaining excellence in our program. As our schedule of events is given in advance of the events, students are expected to be at all scheduled rehearsals, events, and concert performances for their duration. Students needing to request a partial or whole absence for these dates must communicate with the students' director in writing, well in advance of the date of the conflict (two weeks or more notice preferred). Student absences will be *approved or denied via email as soon as possible.

**Absences will be approved in the following instances:*

- **Illness** - with an approved doctor's note
- **Emergency** - please communicate with the director via email or phone as soon as necessary absence is known.
- **School sponsored/UII events**
 - *This does not include practices. Often, we can make accommodations for students to attend multiple events when advance notice is given.*
- **Religious Observances**

V. Extra Curricular Opportunities/Events

- a. Students have the opportunity to participate in optional events such as social events, musical enrichment opportunities, leadership teams, and fundraisers.
- b. Students are given the opportunity to build relationships with their classmates outside of the daily rehearsal through **social events!**
- c. Students are also given the opportunity to grow musically outside of the choir day through opportunities such as **Region Choir and Solo Festival**. Students are encouraged to participate in these events as they benefit greatly from enriching opportunities like these.
- d. We will have **fundraisers** throughout the year. Proceeds from funds raised go directly to the MMS Choir Activity fund which supports MMS Choir students.

VI. Travel and Field Trips

- a. MMS Choirs will travel by bus to various locations throughout the year. This could include, but is not limited to, off-campus performances and field trips. Traveling with MMS Choir is an earned privilege. All bus travel requires a signed **Permission to Travel Form**. This is included in [MMS Choir Contract](#). Students that do not have a permission to travel form will not be permitted to ride the bus or participate in off campus activities.



Grading Policy & Makeup Assignments

Grading Policy

MMS Choir will strictly adhere to the [Grading Policy](#) adopted by Midway ISD. Please be familiar with these policies and read the following MMS Choir Grading System to better understand how we align with and enact these expectations in our classroom.

Grades are assessed in the following categories and percentages:

- **Practice | 30%**
 - Weekly Rehearsal Grades - assigned according to [Rehearsal Rubric](#)
 - Ensemble Informal Assessment
- **Application | 30%**
 - Individual Performance Assessments: sight reading, rhythm reading, etc.
 - Solfege and Rhythmic Identification
 - Musical Terminology Assessment and Utilization
- **Evaluation | 40%**
 - Concert Performance & Reflection
 - Vocal Evaluations

Make-Up Assignments

While there is no substitution for a choral performance or rehearsal, learners with absences from concerts and crucial rehearsals will be required to complete a make-up assignment with similar requirements, determined by the content of the missed event. **Students with unexcused absences will be graded under the reassessment criteria in the Midway ISD grading policy.**

Behavior Restoration Plan

Our goal is to support and encourage all students who choose to be a part of our program. In order to do this for students who may struggle to meet class expectations, we will respond in the following manner:

First Incident - Student/Teacher conference

Second Incident - Student/Teacher conference, detention

Third Incident - Student/Teacher/Guardian conference, athletic referral or detention

Fourth Incident - Student/Teacher/Guardian/Administrator conference

Parents will be notified of all documented incidences and disciplinary action. Further disciplinary action will be handled by administration according to MMS and Midway ISD policy.



MMS Choir Uniform & Dues

Uniforms

As members of the MMS Choir Program and as a symbol of professionalism, each choir student must wear a uniform outlined for their respective ensemble. Students will be expected to follow all following uniform guidelines, formal and informal, for performances.

Uniform requirements differ between performing ensembles. Please see the appropriate checklist for you/your singer's ensemble for the full uniform requirements, both formal and informal:

Treble Singers:
[-7/8 Treble Choir Uniform -](#)
[- 6th Grade Choir Treble Uniform-](#)

Tenor/Bass Singers:
[- 7/8 Tenor/Bass Uniform -](#)
[- 6th Grade Choir Tenor/Bass Uniform -](#)

**Any uniform or uniform piece returned at the end of the year with damages must be replaced at the expense of the student and/or their guardian(s). Please follow all instructions to appropriately care for these uniforms while in your possession.*

Choir Dues

All MMS Choir Members will have a one-time choir due at the beginning of the school year with the amount dependent upon the student's ensemble placement:

- Panther Chorale 7/8 | \$40
- Combined 7/8 Treble or Tenor-Bass Choirs | \$40
- 6th Grade Choirs | \$25

Dues must be submitted by Friday, September 1st through [online payment](#). Choir uniforms will not be distributed to students until payment is received. **We never want finances to limit student opportunities for participation in any choral ensemble or event. If a payment plan or financial aid is necessary for student participation, please contact Ms. Torp or Mrs. Ku.**

*See our [Choir Dues Breakdown](#) for more information on what these dues support.



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