



Midway HS Choir

Choral Music

Course Syllabus/Handbook 2023-24

MHS Choir Program Objectives

The purpose of the choral music program is to encourage and develop skill, understanding, and deep appreciation for the art of choral music. To achieve this goal we will utilize basic fundamentals and advanced concepts of singing and choral performance, which include the study of vocal production, music literacy, music history, and artistic interpretation.

MHS Choral Music Staff

Jeff Rice – MHS Head Director

Jannifer Rice -- MHS Associate Director

Caleb Overstreet- MHS Assistant Director

Julianne Best – Private Voice Teacher

David Guess – Private Voice Teacher

Tina Hays – Private Voice Teacher

Kate Bishop – Private Voice Teacher

Alissa Ruth Suver – Private Voice Teacher

Communication

Mr. Rice

Jeff.rice@midwayisd.org

Mrs. Rice

jannifer.rice@midwayisd.org

Mr. Overstreet

caleb.overstreet@midwayisd.org

Emails will be answered between 7:45 am – 4:30 pm. Email received after the school day may be answered the following day.

Classroom Supplies

Students will receive a choir folder and music to be used daily in class. Students must bring their choir folder and pencil to class every day. Students are responsible for the folder and the sheet music provided by the school. Only pencils may be used to mark in MHS Choir issued music. Folders showing excessive wear must be replaced at the student's expense.

In addition, students must bring their fully charged iPad to class every day. The iPad will be used in daily lessons and assessments.

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 (whether virtual or in-person) is a requirement of the MHS Choir curriculum. Sectional rehearsals are generally before school at 7:30 a.m., after school from 4:05-5:00 pm, or evenings between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m. Students must attend all choir performances and remain for the entire performance.

Choir Expenses

All select choir members will have the following expenses:

1. Choir Dues – \$50. for ALL CHOIRS (MHS Choir t-shirt, uniform rental/maintenance, folder, class supplies, etc.) **Due Friday, September 1. Bring cash/check (payable to MHS Choir) and drop in the choir room drop box. Pay online at MySchoolBucks.**
2. Spring Trip – Select Tenor-Bass/Treble \$150. (NTCC/Ft. Worth); Meistersingers \$1500. (NYC)
3. Boys – black dress shirt, shoes & socks (shoes/socks must be purchased on your own. Shirt group ordering information will be provided.)
4. Girls – Black, low heeled, closed toe dress shoes (purchased on your own)

Optional expenses:

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

Eligibility

Choir students are responsible for maintaining academic eligibility. 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, events associated with the TMEA All-State audition process, UIL Solo & Ensemble, UIL Concert and Sightreading, choir spring trip, etc...

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, iPad, and pencil)
3. Be Respectful
4. Be Musical
5. No Food, Gum, or Drink in the Choir Room. Clear water bottles only.

Travel

MHS Choir trips are a privilege that comes with responsibility. Class/rehearsal attendance (no more than 10% absences), behavior, attitude, and work ethic are all factors considered when establishing student travel eligibility. 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. Student travelers are representatives of MISD, MHS, MHS Choir, and their family. We expect the best of our students when on a trip.

Private Lesson Program

The MISD Private Lesson Program (PLP) is an important part of the success of the MHS Choir program. Lessons are held during choir classes, lunches and before/after school. Lessons are taught by qualified vocal instructors selected by the MISD Fine Arts Department. Lessons are 22-30 minutes depending on the class period length. There is a per lesson fee of \$1.00 per minute (\$22.-\$30.) and must be paid monthly in advance. Payment is made directly to the instructor. Private students will be expected to commit to lessons for a full semester/year. Information and Application Forms are available on the MHS Choir webpage, Parent Square Resource Hub, and the MISD Fine Arts webpage. For more information, contact your choir directors.

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, black dress shirt, and long black tie. Black dress shoes and socks must be provided by the student.

Each choir member will receive their uniform in a MHS Choir 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 at <https://www.midwaypantherchoir.org/boosterclub.html>. Payment may also be made online through this webpage. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED!!!

Fundraising

Fundraising projects afford students the opportunity to earn money needed for choir activities and trips. Individual profits are placed in a designated account for each student. All students are encouraged to participate in fundraising projects. No student will be denied participation due to lack of funds, however, students must make an effort to raise money to pay their expenses.

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 at the beginning of the next school year. Point totals will be calculated prior to each date.

Honor Organizations	Points
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 Tenor-Bass Choir/Select Treble Choir	2
Meistersingers/Chamber Singers	3
UIL Concert/Sightreading Contest	3
Gotta Sing!	2
Working at audition/contest (Max. 8 hours)	.5 per hour
Individual Projects (at director discretion)	2
Private Voice Lessons	2
Musical (when scheduled)	2
Choir Officer	1