

Tamarchoirs.com

Choir Handbook

2017 - 2018

I. Classroom Rules and Materials

A. Rules

Membership in the Lamar High School Choir Program is not mandatory for students; therefore, selection for membership and participation in choir is a privilege. Students earn this privilege by demonstrating responsible behavior, dependability, musical excellence, and dedication.

- 1. Treat everyone as you wish to be treated. Rudeness will not be tolerated.**
- 2. Follow the director's instructions at all times. ***
- 3. Classroom behavior will be appropriate to the activities.**

*Following directors' instructions includes directions on posture, talking out of turn, attitude, respecting others, and all activity associated with each rehearsal. Failure to follow instructions with a positive attitude will result in a deduction from the weekly grade for each infraction. Continued infractions will result in parental contact, followed by appropriate disciplinary procedures.

If a student exhibits such behavior on a consistent basis, the student may be removed from the choral program at the discretion of the director.

All Choir Officers and Section Leaders are required by the District to sign a Leadership Form indicating their commitment to appropriate leadership as designated in the AISD Code of Conduct. Failure to maintain this high standard will result in removal from any leadership position.

B. Materials

- 1. Two #2 pencils**
- 2. It is requested that each student bring 1 box of tissue**
- 3. The choir program provides choir folders.**

II. Grading Procedures

A. Six Weeks Grade

Choir is a participation & performance discipline. Class rules are designed to ensure proper participation in rehearsal. Participation skills are essential to the rehearsal process and performances, and will be graded as such.

Each infraction of the classroom rules, in particular not following directors' instructions* causing the student to be off task, will result in a deduction from the weekly grade at the discretion of the director. Weekly grades are averaged with any performance or extra rehearsal grades for the student's six weeks grade.

*Following directors' instructions includes directions on posture, talking out of turn, attitude, respecting others, and all activity associated with each rehearsal. Failure to follow instructions with a positive attitude will result in a deduction from the weekly grade for each infraction. Continued infractions will result in parental contact, followed by appropriate disciplinary procedures.

B. Other grading procedures

The following list of choir disciplines can be used as daily grades, quiz grades, and/or major test grades at the director's discretion:

- 1. Sight-reading**
- 2. Individual tests of current choir repertoire**
- 3. Scheduled outside-the-school-day rehearsals**
- 4. All choir events (concerts, Honor Choir/All-State auditions, UIL, etc.)**

III. Rehearsals and Concerts

All concerts, as well as any extra rehearsals, are mandatory, requiring each student's attendance. Two major test grades, one apiece for technical and expressive ability, will be given for each extra rehearsal and for each concert. Unexcused absences from required rehearsals and/or performances will result in two (2) zeroes).

Conflicts with work schedule or transportation problems WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED as excused absences.

Excused absences will be granted per Lamar High School / AISD policy. However, students receiving excused absences WILL be given assignments to make up for each missed rehearsal or performance. Students missing tests in academic classes are required to take make-up tests upon their return to school; since performances cannot be duplicated, alternate work will be assigned.

'Attendance' includes the entire concert, not just the individual student's performance.

IV. Uniforms & Fees

A. Choir Performance Shirt – A Cappella Choir

The Choir Shirt for A Cappella Choir is a navy polo with gold embroidery. The cost is \$50. (new members only)

B. Men

Men will be required to have a white pleated tuxedo shirt with a wing collar, a black cummerbund and a black bow tie. These may be purchased from the choir. (Tux shirt \$15, cummerbund \$5, bow tie \$5; checks should be made payable to Lamar High School.) These purchased items will belong to the student.

In addition, men will wear a tuxedo coat & pants owned by the choir. These items are checked out at the beginning of the year, and are to be returned to the choir after UIL. These uniform items are the property of Arlington Independent School District. Replacement costs for lost/damaged items are coats \$75, pants \$50.

Men will also be expected to wear black dress shoes and black socks with the tuxedo. Black tennis shoes, Doc Martens, etc., are not appropriate.

C. Ladies

All female choir members will be provided a black choir formal. Formals will be returned to the choir after UIL. Uniforms are the property of Lamar High School. Replacement cost for a lost/damaged dress is \$100.

In addition, all ladies will be expected to wear black closed-toe dress shoes, and to have their hair pulled back, away from their faces, for performance. No large necklaces or earrings should be worn.

Under no circumstances will “flip-flops” or sandals be worn with the choir uniform in performance.

Each student will be charged an activity fee of \$65.

Students with financial hardships should inform the choir directors before Sept. 29th.

(Make all checks payable to Lamar High School)

ALL FEES ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 29, 2017.

V. LHS Choir Classes

A. A Cappella Choir (Varsity Mixed Choir) – 2nd period

The A Cappella Choir is composed of upper class men and women with choral experience, advanced sight-reading skills, and an outstanding academic record. Students who audition are placed in this choir at the discretion of the director. Several outside-of-class rehearsals will be required to adequately prepare for performances. This choir will compete in the HS Concert & Sightreading Contest (UIL).

B. Concert Choir (Non-Varsity Mixed Choir) – 8th period

This mixed choir is an auditioned group of experienced singers who will compete on the non- varsity level. They must have above average sight-reading skills and an exemplary academic record. Several outside-of-class rehearsals may be required to adequately prepare for performances. This choir will compete in the HS Concert & Sightreading Contest (UIL).

C. Cantabile – (Sub Non-Varsity Mixed Choir) – 9th Period

This is an auditioned choir of freshmen men and women with prior choral experience, above average sight-reading and vocal skills, and an exemplary academic record. Several outside-of-class rehearsals may be required to adequately prepare for performances. This choir will compete in the HS Concert & Sightreading Contest (UIL).

D. Music History Class – 7th period

Class for fine arts credit only. No singing/performances required.

E. Show Choirs (3rd Period / as scheduled; Non-Varsity & Varsity Show Choirs)

The Lamar Show Choirs are auditioned in May for the following year. Its members are men and women that specialize in pop, jazz and Broadway-oriented vocal music and choreography. The Show Choirs are active throughout the year, with many performances during and outside of school hours. Show Choir members are required to be in one of the other choirs offered at LHS, and must have an exemplary academic record. Several outside-of-class rehearsals may be required to adequately prepare for performances. Show choirs will compete at the Arlington Show Choir Showcase (UIL).

VI. Arlington Music Enrichment Program (Voice Lessons)

Each student in the Lamar High School Choir program has the opportunity to take individual voice lessons from one of our well-qualified voice faculty with extensive credentials and experience.

The voice teachers will have the necessary paperwork for participation. The cost, set by the district office, is \$17.00 for a 25-minute lesson. Students will be placed with teachers only after the parent forms have been signed and returned.

VII. Forms to be signed and returned

The following forms are found online on the choir website (lamarchoirs.com) and must be signed and returned to the choir by September 1, 2016. Students' grades are dependent on these tasks.

A. Parent / Student Signature Form

This form acknowledges that each student and their parent/guardian agree to abide by the choir rules and policies set forth in this handbook.

B. AISD Medical Authorization

AISD requires this form every year. It allows us to seek medical attention for a student in the event of an emergency. Two things to remember:

- 1. Many school organizations will require an original of this form.** This means **regardless** of whether you have completed one for baseball, cheerleading, Academic Decathlon, or any other organization, **the choir needs one, too.**
- 2. The parent's signature on this form must be notarized.** We have office personnel here at Lamar that will be happy to witness and notarize a parent or guardian's signature, however, you should check with the office to determine the best time for you to come.

C. AISD Permission to Travel

This form gives each student permission to travel with the choir to performances, festivals, contests, UIL, etc. A parent signature is required (notarization is not necessary).

D. AISD Volunteer Application / Texas Dept of Public Safety Criminal History

This form also must be completed every year by parents wishing to volunteer to work with students.

AISD requires an annual background check on every person who works with students in any capacity. This means if any person wishes to chaperone on a choir trip, help transport students to a concert, work at a fundraiser, or participate at any function in any capacity with the Lamar High School Choirs, that person must complete this form.

We strongly urge every parent of our choir members to go through this process. It provides us with a much deeper pool of volunteer help to draw on in every circumstance. This process, which is performed by AISD, is handled with complete confidentiality, and it helps insure a safe and secure environment for our students.

The completed form can be found on the AISD website: www.aisd.net. Click on the Parent menu at the top of the page, and then on the 'Volunteer' link. Volunteer status expires each year on July 1st.

VIII. Fundraisers

A. *Viking Cards*

The Viking Card is our official Choir Fund Raiser

Each choir student will be issued 5 cards to sell.

Show Choir students will be issued 10.

Each card sells for \$10.

Cards may be used EVERY day at EVERY location for the entire year!

B. *Chilis' Night*

The last Monday of each month in the school year (excluding December and May), the Lamar Choir family gathers at the Chili's restaurant on Copeland Rd to enjoy an evening of food, fun and fellowship. In return for the business we bring in, Chilis donates 20% of the bill of every table identifying themselves as being there for 'Lamar Choir Night'.

So, mark your calendars, invite your family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc., and join us for the festivities.

August 28
September 25
October 23
November 27

January 29
February 26
March 26