

2024-2025

**Woodrow Wilson High School
Choir Handbook**

**Mrs. Nicole Dickerson
Director**

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Dear Parents and Choristers,

Welcome (back) to the Woodrow choir program! I look forward to getting to know you and making music with you this school year. The WWHS choir program is a family, a safe space, and a place to make HIGH QUALITY music. It's a place to create and share musically as well as personally. Last year we were off to an excellent start, making Sweepstakes at UIL, serving up 4 fantastic concerts and learning how to sight read like champs! Let's continue the streak this year.

The 2024-2025 school year is upon us and with its arrival has come another year of exciting performances and opportunities for the WWHS Choir.

www.woodrowchoir.com Is our Choir Website and the Remind Codes for each class are as follows:

Chamber @wwhscham

Men's @wwhscoro

Women's @wwhswcoro

Bella Voce @wwhsbv

Variations@wwhsvari

Vocal Tech @wwhsvt

Email is the easiest and REMIND are the quickest ways to contact me. You may email me at tamcwilliams@dallasisd.org and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Please print, sign, and return the choir contract located at the end of this packet. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Nicole Dickerson, Choir Director
Woodrow Wilson High School

Choir Course Objectives

All choir classes at Woodrow are elective vocal music courses for high school students desiring to perform. The goal of this course is to teach students to become better singers and develop an appreciation for vocal music. The choirs offered in 2023-2024 are:

Chamber Choir- Auditioned, Classical Choral

Variations- Auditioned, Show Choir

Bella Voce- Auditioned, Women's Choir

Women's non-varsity, Not Auditioned, open to all levels

Mixed (men and women) non-varsity, Not Auditioned, open to all levels

Our objectives for this year include (but are not limited to) each student to:

1. Demonstrate the proper singing posture.
2. Demonstrate proper breath support.
3. Demonstrate correct tone production.
4. Demonstrate vertical vowel formation.
5. Demonstrate correct diction and articulation of consonants.
6. Sight-speak rhythmic excerpts of various difficulties.
7. Sight-sing musical excerpts of various difficulties, using solfege syllables and Kodaly hand signs.
8. Blend and balance with the choir when singing.
9. Demonstrate knowledge of musical terms and symbols, including tempo and dynamics.
10. Listen analytically to themselves and critique their performances.
11. Learn and demonstrate audition techniques and skills.
12. Demonstrate rehearsal and performance etiquette.
13. Demonstrate proper audience etiquette.

Materials Needed for Class

Students will need the following materials for choir class:

- Black Folder (used only for choir – supplied by the director)
- 2 pencils with erasers, to stay in the folder

Each student will be given music, paid for and provided by the choir department. Students are encouraged to take music home to practice, but the music must be back in the assigned binder slot by the beginning of the next choir rehearsal.

Choir Grading Policy

Choir Grades will be determined with the following rubric:

Homework/Classwork = Class Participation, Folder Organization	50%
Tests = Sight-Reading, Written Music Literacy, Recorded singing	35%
6 Weeks Test Grade = Dress Rehearsal and Performance attendance	15%

Class Participation in choir class is a requirement. This includes on time attendance, singing, paying attention, and respecting others. Class participation grades will be weekly and will include sight-reading participation and hand signing.

Class participation points will be taken away as following:

Cell phone out = -5	No folder or music = -10
Inappropriate talking = -5 to -10	No pencil = -5
Distracting others = -5	Other points at teachers discretion

Sight-Reading is a skill that will be learned and used in choir, every day. There will be formal and informal, written and aural assessments throughout each six weeks. Perfection of this skill is not required to receive full marks. This grade is about improvement and work ethic during sight-reading time.

Recorded Singing will be done multiple times throughout the year. This will happen using the Google Classroom, which students should have loaded on their phones/computers. These singing assignments will be songs that we are learning in class currently, to monitor individual progress in addition to the group progress.

Performance Participation is required for every student, as a requirement for the TEKS (see Music Standards section). To be excused from a performance, the choral director must have at least TWO weeks notice prior to the performance date (except in the case of sudden illness or emergencies). Notification must be made by the student's parent or guardian. For most grading periods, there is only one performance, and therefore missing a performance would result in a low grade.

Expectations and Guidelines

Respect should be the only necessary rule for the choir classroom – respect self, peers, teachers, and classroom.

Students are expected to arrive on time to class and to performances, ready to learn. On time means a student is seated when the bell rings, ready with their binder and water bottle. All other possessions (including backpacks, cell phones, food, and gum) should be along the wall of the room, out of reach, phones silenced (NOT IN POCKETS). Students are expected to use the bathroom before or after class.

Because music making is a collaborative process in rehearsal/class, attendance and participation are essential to the learning process. Every individual is significant in contributing to the overall success and experience of the entire choir. When one person is not present, whether physically absent or mentally absent, it affects the sound and learning process of the entire choir.

If for some reason a student is unable to participate, such as having an illness which makes singing imprudent or impossible, s/he must inform Mrs. Dickerson at the beginning of the class/rehearsal, but still should actively participate by taking notes and following along in her/his music.

Choir students will be expected to attend the occasional after school rehearsals in preparation for upcoming performances. Mrs. Dickerson will announce required rehearsals as needed, with at least one week advance notice. Attendance at these rehearsals will be noted. Notification of absence for these rehearsals must be made two days in advance by a parent or guardian.

Performance Attire

All students will be issued a choir dress or tux jacket. There may be casual performances throughout the year. Casual performance uniform is choir t-shirt, jeans, and closed-toe shoes. When at a venue (school or otherwise), choir members will remain fully dressed in uniform, with shirts tucked in, tie on, shoes on, make-up and hair ready, etc.

Women:

- Shoes: suggested-Capezio style 550 black character shoes with 1-2 inch heels and an ankle strap. Label shoes with your name on the inside, as they may be left at school throughout the year. (Sandy's Dance Wear, 2211 Gus Thomasson Rd, Dallas 75228) **OR black dress shoes/flats or heels**
- Trouser/Knee-high socks(to knees) or hose need to be worn
- Hair: Hair will be worn off the face.
- Make up: All make up for choir concerts should be subtle and neutral in color to bring out the natural features of the face
- Jewelry: No jewelry allowed except small stud earrings. (No necklaces, bracelets, hair ties, rings, watches, etc.)

Men:

- Shirt: white tuxedo shirt with wing collar and button cuffs, labeled with your name.
- Pants: black tuxedo pants without belt loops, satin stripe down legs. (Thrift stores, tux shops, JC Penney, etc.)
- Shoes: black dress shoes (not tennis shoes), labeled with your name.
- Socks: black dress socks.
- Hair: should be out of eyes. If it's in your eyes or distracting, Mrs. Dickerson will bring out the hair spray and gel. *You've been warned.*

Please see Mrs. Dickerson if you are having trouble finding any of these dress requirements.

Choir Fees

A yearly choir fee of \$40 per student is suggested for all students enrolled in a choir class. Please consider sponsoring others that may not be able to cover this fee.

This fee covers:

Cleaning of uniforms

Accompaniment fees

Choir t-shirts

Sheet music expenses

Food provided to students before concerts (we feed all students on the evenings of concerts)

The preferred method for paying fees is the PayPal link on the website. If you prefer to pay cash or by check, it should be made out to "Woodrow Choir and Theater Booster", placed in an envelope with the student's name, and delivered to the Booster Club Treasurer..

Once payment is received by the Booster Club, a confirmation receipt will be sent out.

Please contact Mrs. Dickerson if there are any questions or complications with this fee. Variations choir members have additional fees, and will be notified separately.

Calendar

Please mark these dates on your calendar now. I have included the entire Performing Arts Calendar (Choir, Theater, Band, and Dance) in case you are involved in more than one discipline. And also so we can support all of our performing arts groups! This is the complete Choir calendar and main performance dates for the other groups. There are no excuses for not knowing these dates. See Choir Grading Policy about missing performances. Any changes of dates will be announced as soon as possible.

Please refer to this link for the calendar or look at the one posted in Google classroom material.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10lOViAvjrU7-7DW6iJ9F4XOPXR9z3eXKaPD4qb3ng7k/edit?usp=sharing>

Lettering Criteria

TO EARN A LETTER (PATCH) IN CHOIR:

(NOTE: Jacket purchased by student separately)

A choir student must participate in both semesters of choir during an academic school year and participate in all Woodrow choir performances that year.

A student must earn a total of 100 points to receive each level of lettering.

POINTS AWARDED:

Audition for All-District Choir.....	5pts
Audition for All-Region or 9/10 Honor Choir.....	10pts
Audition for Pre-Area Choir.....	15pts
Audition for Area Choir	20pts
Perform in All-State Choir.....	25pts
Earn and perform a solo for a choir performance.....	15pts
Perform National Anthem at school activity.....	15pts
Perform a solo or ensemble at Solo and Ensemble Contest.....	15pts
Receiving 1's for solo or ensemble at Solo and Ensemble Contest	20pts
1 hour of volunteer time with Mrs. Dickerson (max 5 hrs/year).....	5pts
Serve as choir officer for the year.....	15pts
Audition for the musical.....	5pts

Note that the Choir Letter is not an automatic “given” to each student enrolled in the choir program, but is an honor to be earned by students through active and exceptional participation in the choir program.

Students are required to keep up with documentation of their earned points, and turn them in once they have earned all 100 points so that the letter may be awarded. Points can roll over from one year to the next.

Voice Studio

Meet our in-house voice lesson instructors who work with several of our students.

Heidi Burton 214-632-0773

Betsy Mills 512-779-9946

Isaiah Allen 361-799-0298

- All State Choir and 9/10 Honor Choir audition preparation (students who advance to the second round of All State are expected to take lessons)
- Solo and Ensemble preparation
- Musical audition assistance
- Bella Voce and Variations audition assistance
- Sight-reading assistance
- General vocal improvement

It is an expectation that if you are a member of a varsity/auditioned ensemble you will take part in private voice lessons here or outside of school. If tuition is a problem please speak to me privately.

Choir Handbook Agreement

I have read and understand the requirements and expectations for this course. I have reviewed the choir calendar and understand that rehearsals and performances are an integral part of the choral experience, are mandatory for all students, and count as state-approved standards based assessments.

This form and fees are due September 1.

Student's printed name

Student's signature

Date_____

Parent/Guardian's printed name

Parent/Guardian's signature

Date_____

Initial_____ I have paid my participation fee on line or delivered a check made out to Woodrow Choir and Theater Booster to the Booster Club Treasurer.



Consent and Release of Liability - Photo Release

I do hereby give the Dallas Independent School District and its employees, agents, representatives or employees of legitimate news organizations my full permission to photograph, videotape, copyright, broadcast, reproduce, telecast or cablecast, use on the internet or intranet, publish or otherwise use my child's works or my child's photo or likeness for educational, broadcast or news purposes. This is with the understanding that neither the Dallas Independent School District nor its representatives will reproduce said photograph or likeness for any commercial value or receive monetary gain for use of any reproduction/broadcast of said photograph or likeness.

I am fully aware that I will not receive monetary compensation for me or my child's participation. It is understood that Dallas Independent School District, its agents, representatives or legitimate news organizations may use this material with or without my name or my child's name at its discretion. I further release and relieve the Dallas Independent School District, its Board of Trustees, agents, employees or other representatives from any liabilities, known or unknown, arising out of the use of this material.

I certify that I have read the Consent and Release of Liability statement and fully understand its terms and conditions. I understand that the opportunity to participate is given by the Dallas Independent School District and I have full legal capacity to sign this Consent and Release for myself and/or my child.

_____ I DO give permission to use my child's photo or likeness as described above.

_____ I DO NOT give permission to use my child's photo or likeness as described above.

Student's Name: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian:

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian:

Date _____