

– Red Oak Middle School –

Choir

Handbook

2025-2026



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Table of Contents

Welcome.....	3
Objective.....	3
Materials.....	3
Course Descriptions.....	4-5
Officers.....	6
All-Region	6
Solo and Ensemble.....	6
Media.....	7
Grading Procedures.....	8
Weekly Participation Grading Code.....	8
Performance Grading Code.....	9
Daily Rehearsal Expectations.....	9
After School and Sectional Rehearsals.....	10
Concert Expectations.....	10
Make-up Work Policy	10
Attendance and Eligibility Policies.....	11
Discipline.....	12
Concert Attire: Formal and Informal.....	13
Choir Fee.....	14
Voice Lessons.....	14-15
Choir Medical and Travel Release Form.....	16
Choir Handbook Form.....	17
Calendar	18



Welcome to ROMS Choir!

We welcome you to the Red Oak Middle School Choir Program! You have chosen to participate in a fantastic program that is growing fast! During the first week of school, we will be getting to know each other, getting to know the expectations, learning to mark our music, and learning the National Anthem. We will be working mostly on the fundamentals of singing, and will be singing the very first day of school!

Objective

Through a balanced repertoire of high-quality music representing diverse genres and eras, students will learn the versatility to perform music in a stylistically appropriate manner, with emphasis on accuracy, consistency, and the highest potential quality. A high emphasis is placed on music literacy, the backbone of any learned musician. The student will also learn to craft intelligent, critical evaluations of performances. Each student enrolled in ROMS Choirs will be challenged to develop his/her abilities to their fullest potential while learning and enjoying quality musical literature and developing personal qualities that grow through our quest for excellence together.

School-Supplied Materials

Students are responsible for the maintenance and accountability of all school-supplied materials, just as they are responsible for textbooks in other classes.

- All Music
- Sight-reading Materials
- Formal concert uniform
- Choir Binder and 2 Choir Pencils
- Highlighter
- Pencil Bag

Required Student Supplied Materials

- Calendar (digital or paper)
- Extra pencils if others are lost
- Formal Concert Shoes (black dress shoes and black socks for men, black flats for women)
- Choir Fee Payment-pays for Shirt and Trips

Recommended Materials

- Water Bottle



Course Descriptions

Beginning Choirs:

Beginning Treble-Bella Voce Choir-

Prerequisite: Departmental Selection Process, Director Approval

Course Length: 1 year

The Bella Voce Choir is a beginning-level choir for Treble Singers designed to introduce singers to proper singing techniques and to become more comfortable with their voices. They also learn basic music theory, sight-reading and work on concert and performance repertoire. This class requires time outside of school to remain enrolled, such as rehearsals, contests and concerts

Beginning Tenor-Bass-Cantori

Prerequisite: Departmental Selection Process, Director Approval

Course Length: 1 year

The Cantori Choir is a beginning-level choir for Tenor-Bass singers designed to introduce singers to proper singing techniques and to become more comfortable with their voices. They also learn basic music theory, sight-reading and work on concert and performance repertoire. This class requires time outside of school to remain enrolled, such as rehearsals, contests and concerts.

Intermediate Choirs:

Intermediate Treble Choir-Non Varsity Choir

Prerequisite: Departmental Selection Process, Director Approval

Course Length: 1 year

The Treble choir is an Intermediate-level choir designed for Treble Singers to introduce singers to proper singing techniques and to become more comfortable with their voices. They also learn basic music theory, sight-reading, and work on concert and performance repertoire. This class requires time outside of school to remain enrolled, such as rehearsals, contests, and concerts.



Intermediate Tenor-Bass-Vox Fortis-Non Varsity Choir

Prerequisite: Departmental Selection Process, Director Approval

Course Length: 1 year

Vox Fortis is an Intermediate-level choir for Tenor-Bass singers designed to introduce singers to proper singing techniques and to become more comfortable with their voices. They also learn basic music theory, sight-reading, and work on concert and performance repertoire. This class requires time outside of school to remain enrolled, such as rehearsals, contests, and concerts.

Advanced Choirs:

Advanced Treble Choir-Chorale-Varsity Choir

Prerequisite- 1 year in Choir program, Director Approval

Course Length: 1 year

The Chorale Girls' Choir is the Advanced-level choir for Treble Singers and is made up of students who have proved that their vocal abilities and rehearsal techniques are up to the task of learning more challenging music. All students are required to participate in Solo and Ensemble and All-Region. This class requires time outside of school to remain enrolled, such as rehearsals, contests, and concerts.

Advanced Tenor-Bass Choir- Varsity Choir

Prerequisite: Departmental Selection Process, Director Approval

Course length: 1 year

The Tenor-Bass Choir is the Advanced-level Choir for Tenor-Bass singers at the Middle School level, and the class is designed to help them through their voice changes and is made up of students who have proved that their vocal abilities and rehearsal techniques are up to the task of learning more challenging music. All students are required to participate in Solo and Ensemble and All-Region. This class requires time outside of school to remain enrolled, such as rehearsals, contests, and concerts.



Officers

Choir Officers are elected by class period, and each serve their choir in different ways. Every choir will have a Class Representative, Secretary, and Librarian. The Advanced level classes will also have a President or Vice President, and a Historian. Advanced classes will also have Section Leaders, and those are selected by the Director. Any student wishing to run for an officer position must turn in an application and schedule an interview with Mrs. Bowling before or after school. Applications are due no later than September 1. After all interviews are completed, names will be placed on a ballot and students will vote for officers on September 4, Choir President will be voted on September 5. Any student who is elected to an officer position is expected to represent the Choir Program in a positive manner and attend all monthly officer meetings. Excessive absences from meetings as well as behavior issues in and outside of the choir room are reasons to be dismissed from an officer position. Any position losses or changes are up to the director's discretion.

All-Region

All-Region is an opportunity for students to show off what they have learned and how well they can perform under pressure. All-Region is a required grade for Advanced Treble Choir. ROISD Mock Auditions are Saturday, October 11th, 2025. You must pass the mock audition to qualify to audition for All-Region. The auditions are on Saturday, November 1st, 2025. If you make the choir, the Pre-Rehearsal is Tuesday, January 20th, 2026 after school, and the Clinic/Concert is all day Saturday, January 24th, 2026. If you make All-Region, you must attend the Pre-Rehearsal & Clinic/Concert.

Solo and Ensemble

Solo and Ensemble Contest is an opportunity for students to show off their individual abilities and challenge themselves to perform individually. This activity is a required grade for some classes. All Voice Lesson participants will also be required to sing a solo in Solo and Ensemble as well as all Advanced Choir members.



Media

- Email, Canvas, and Skyward are the easiest ways to contact your teacher, see missing assignments, and plan for your choir events.
- The Red Oak Middle School Choir is now on Social Media! The Choir Department uses these to announce honors, promote the choir for public relations, and for recruitment. You will be able to visit our site and “follow” all of our social media profiles.
 - Facebook page is “Red Oak Middle School Choir”
 - Instagram is “redoakmschoir”



Grading Procedures

The diligent, hard-working members of the Red Oak Choir Department know that being in choir does not necessarily mean an “easy A”. Grades are an important part of choral music education. Tutorials are offered at a variety of times and can be arranged by making a morning or afternoon appointment. Grades will be determined by the following:

Class Contribution -Classwork and Homework Grades (60%)

- Daily participation and cooperation
- Required extra rehearsals
- Written and recorded work
- Binder checks

Evaluation – Test Grades (40%)

- Concert attendance (required for all students)
- Required extra rehearsals
- Aural and written tests
- Performance evaluations
- All-Region participation and Solo and Ensemble participation

EXTRA CREDIT

- Attendance at high school Choir concerts and other fine arts events

Weekly Participation Grading Code

All choir students will receive 100 participation points per week if the following criteria are met. Failure to meet these expectations on a daily basis will result in the loss of five points per offense.

- On time to class *on risers when the bell rings*
- Materials in hand: pencil, music, sight-reading, etc.
- On task during rehearsal
- No phones, watches, homework, books, gum, food, etc. during rehearsal.
- No discipline and/or behavior issues during rehearsal



Performance Grading Code

Failure to meet these expectations will result in the loss of twenty points, per offense, for the first performance; fifty points per offense for the remaining performances. All performances will be entered as at least one test grade, formal concerts will have one test grade per point below.

- Attendance: Being present, on time, in concert attire before call time, and staying for the entirety of the concert.
- Etiquette: Being respectful during other performances by not talking, not having any electronic devices out, and actively listening to the other performers.
- Performance: Stage etiquette, eye contact with the director, walking on and off the stage correctly, and singing during your choir's performance.
- Evaluation: Watching the performance video in class and evaluating your performance is done in class the day following a concert.

Daily Rehearsal Expectations

- 1) Respect your director & the people around you.
- 2) Follow directions and maintain a positive attitude throughout rehearsal.
- 3) Be on the risers by the time the bell rings. Being tardy will negatively affect your daily participation grade. Have your folder, music, sight-reading materials, and pencil, highlighter – in hand – every day!
- 4) No personal belongings on the risers... this includes books, backpacks, purses, phones, etc.
- 5) Take care of your folder & your music. If you leave your folder out and we have to pick it up, it will remain in "sad folders." The cost to bail out your folder is \$1 "Choir Dollar".
- 6) Make the appropriate markings in your music on a daily basis – pencil only! We encourage you to take your music home for practicing purposes, but please bring it back every single day. Missing music will result in a loss of daily participation points.
- 7) If you are sick or are unable to actively participate in class, notify your director before class begins so that your grade isn't affected, and remain focused during rehearsal.
- 8) No food, drink, or gum allowed on the risers (with the exception of bottled water). Having things in your mouth while singing is incredibly dangerous and continuing to eat or chew gum after warning will result in disciplinary action for your own safety.
- 9) Choir students are expected to be model citizens inside AND outside of the choir room.
- 10) Daily attendance is expected. An absence can be made up for grading purposes, but the rehearsal missed and progress made cannot be recaptured.
- 12) Stay informed! Update your calendar! Listen in class! Check Canvas! Read the boards daily for announcements! Check the calendar on the wall! It's super important that you know when, where, and what is going on in this program!



After School Rehearsals and Sectionals

Monthly sectionals are required for Advanced level choirs, and any extra rehearsals deemed necessary by the director are also required. Any and all after-school rehearsals and sectionals for any class are a grade.

Concert Expectations

The concerts are a Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) requirement of an extracurricular choir class. The students will receive 4 test grades for every concert and attendance is mandatory. Concert dates and times will be communicated well in advance. Students are expected to be present, stay for the whole concert to earn credit, participate fully and professionally on stage, and exhibit good audience etiquette while listening to other choirs.

Make-Up Work Policy

Any student who misses a written or aural test will have the opportunity to make up that test. Written tests can be made up during class, Aural test make-ups must be scheduled with their Director for a time before or after school. The make-up assignment for a performance is as follows: a written or emailed explanation for absence sent from or signed by the student's parent, **and** a two page (12pt times new roman font double spaced) biography of a composer. Ms. Bowling must approve the composer before the essay is turned in. Class time will not be given for concert, rehearsal or aural make-up assignments.



Attendance & Eligibility Policies

As a member of ROMS Choirs, students have an obligation to fellow choir members to be present for all rehearsals (during school and outside of school) and to participate in all concerts and performances. At this level, we are a team. If a member is absent from a rehearsal or performance, all students are affected.

Outside of School Attendance:

Students are informed of sectionals, rehearsals, and concert dates and times well in advance. These events are required and graded. Students are excused from these times only in the event of illness, family emergency, or conflicting school activity. It is up to the student to communicate other school conflicts to the director, with a cooperative spirit, as soon as the conflict is known. Excused absences may be made up for credit by scheduling outside of school make-up time with your director and possibly performing for your class. Unexcused absences from outside of school events will result in a reduction of grade, and possible removal from performance opportunities. Unexcused absences include, but are not limited to: work, transportation issues, Non-District activities, etc.

Eligibility:

Please note that eligibility for field trips and contests are determined by the previous grading period. Choir students must remain academically eligible in all classes throughout the school year to ensure full participation in all events and activities sponsored by the choral program to include UIL Competitions and Choir trips. A student who fails more than two six weeks of a year will not be eligible for membership in an Advanced Level Choir the next year. Students can also lose eligibility based on their behavior. Any student who is deemed ineligible for an activity based on their behavior will be made aware if they are unable to attend an event well in advance, as well as their parents. Remember all events such as field trips are privileges and if a student needs to be removed based on their behavior that decision will solely be made by their Director. Students do not have to be academically eligible to attend concerts, as they are graded and required for every choir student.



Discipline

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. As such, each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the Red Oak Middle School Choir. Any student who shows an inability to work effectively in class, with repeated or severe infractions, may be reassigned to another class at the discretion of the Choir director.

As a school group, Choir members are governed by school policies. Any student who violates school rules while with the Choir will be subject to all standard school disciplinary procedures. In addition, those students with repeated or severe infractions may be subject to dismissal and not continue to perform or travel with the Choir.

Communication is key when helping students be the very best that they can be. If there are ever any questions, please do not hesitate to call (972) 617-0066.



Concert Attire

FORMAL PERFORMANCE ATTIRE: Choir Tux or Choir Dress

*** All attire must be returned after the UIL contest in April, laundered, and in the same condition in which it was checked out (clean and hems removed).

*** Damages can include but are not limited to: broken zippers, missing buttons, rips and tears in the fabric, stains, cut hems, hem tape, etc.

*** Prices listed next to garments are the cost to REPLACE any missing or damaged items. The cost to rent is included in the yearly choir fee.

Men: Each Tenor-Bass choir member will be fitted for a tuxedo in class and given a white tuxedo shirt, bow tie, tuxedo pants and vest checked out to them in September.

- These are to remain in the student's possession until after UIL in April when they will be returned *in the same condition in which they were checked out*.
- Everything except the bow tie is machine washable.
- Men are responsible for purchasing black socks and black dress shoes.
- Tux Pants will need to be hemmed according to the height of the singer. They should just brush the top of the shoes. When hemming please keep in mind that the fabric should not be cut to hem. If the fabric is cut then the dress can never be worn by anyone taller, and will be considered damaged and need to be replaced. Hems should be sewn, not taped. Hem tape does not come out. Tux pants returned with hem tape or cut hems will be considered damaged and need to be replaced.
- Replacement cost of attire is \$65 if it is damaged or lost.

Women: Each Treble choir member will be fitted for the uniform black concert dress and given their dress to take home in September.

- These are to remain in the student's possession until after UIL in April when they will be returned *in the same condition in which they were checked out*.
- These dresses are machine washable.
- Women are responsible for purchasing black-solid color, closed-toe flat dress shoes that are appropriate for a formal dress - no sandals, flip-flops, or "chunky" shoes.
- Each dress will need to be hemmed according to the height of the singer. The dress should just brush the top of the shoes. When hemming, please keep in mind that the fabric should not be cut to hem. If the fabric is cut, then the dress can never be worn by anyone taller, and will be considered damaged and need to be replaced. Hems should be sewn, not taped. Hem tape does not come out. Dresses returned with hem tape or cut hems will be considered damaged and need to be replaced.
- Replacement cost of attire is \$65 if it is damaged or lost.



INFORMAL ATTIRE: Choir Shirt

There will be occasions where the choir wears an informal uniform. In such cases, each student is expected to wear the appropriate attire and dress in a dignified manner. All students are expected to sport their Choir Shirts on all concert days during school, competition days, and to all other specified events.

Choir Fees

In order to keep finances as simple as possible for our program's parents, we are charging a one-time "fee" instead of asking for different payments throughout the year. The Fee covers all meals and participation fees for field trips, and also their choir t-shirt. All fees can be paid online through SchoolCash. If you cannot pay online, please contact your director to work out another method of payment. If you have any questions at all regarding fee payments, please contact your child's director as soon as possible.

The amount of the fee is dependent on which Choir class your child is registered for. Choir fees are non-refundable.

- Beginner Choir fee- \$65
- Intermediate Choir fee- \$75
- Advanced Choir fee-\$95

Voice Lessons

We are privileged to offer a wonderful opportunity on our campus for your singer to receive Voice Lessons by an approved and degreed Voice Instructor on our campus during their choir rehearsal (or before or after school, if needed). The weekly 25-minute lessons are \$23 each, and your singer is required to pay monthly.

In their Voice Lessons, your singer will receive instruction in vocal techniques, healthy vocal hygiene, and sight-reading. The students are required to participate in any voice recitals held by the instructor, All-Region Auditions, and Solo & Ensemble contest.

If you are interested in having your student participate in this excellent program, please fill out the application in the handbook and return it to the choir director. Space is extremely limited and scheduling is on a first come, first serve basis. Return the form as quickly as you can to ensure that your student receives a spot.



Private Voice Lessons

(\$23 per lesson)

Student Name: _____

Parent Name (printed): _____

Parent Phone Number: _____

Parent Email: _____

Address: _____

Choir Class Period: _____

Grade in School: _____

Voice Part: (circle one)

Soprano Alto Tenor Baritone/Bass

_____ I am unsure if I can take Private Lessons. Please contact me with further information.

_____ I want to take Private Lessons this year. Please contact me to set up lesson times.

Parent Signature: _____



♪ 2025-2026 ROMS Choir ♪ Medical and Travel Release Form

Return by Friday August 29, 2025

Please notify the Choir office if any changes are made to the information on this form.

Student name _____
Date of Birth _____
Parent names _____
Home address _____
Phone _____
Another phone where a message could be left _____

Please list any ALLERGIES that the student has. Include any DRUG ALLERGIES in case treatment is needed:

List any MEDICATIONS that the student is taking, or might need to take:

Please list any MEDICAL CONDITIONS that could affect the student's level of participation:

I do hereby give my child permission to travel with the Red Oak MS Choir. I understand the method of travel may be by school bus, charter bus, and/or private conveyance. Further, I do hereby give Red Oak ISD Choir Directors or their designee the authority to seek medical attention for the above-named person in the event of emergency or in any situation that medical attention is necessary. I understand that while student safety is a high priority for the District, under State Law, the school is not responsible for medical costs associated with a student injury. I expressly waive all claims for medical expenses, loss of services, or other claims, and I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the District, its Trustees, employees, and agents from all claims made against it or them on behalf of my child. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the District, its Trustees, employees, and agents from all claims made by third parties against it or them which result from my child's actions on the trip. I have read and understood this release and sign it voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance.

Parent signature _____

Date _____



ROMS Choral Department Handbook Acknowledgement

Return by Friday, August 29, 2025

Student Initials

I understand the required materials I will need to bring with me to class.

I have entered all dates and deadlines in my personal calendar. I understand which out-of-school activities are required grades, and I have entered them in my calendar and informed my parents of my need to be at these events.

I understand that any after-school rehearsals and concerts are a required grade for me and that my parents and I are responsible for my transportation and prompt pick up time after school on those days.

I understand that if I am an Advanced Level Student, All-Region and Solo and Ensemble are required events for me, and I have cleared those weekends on my calendar.

I or my parents have followed at least one of the ROMS social media pages (Facebook or Instagram).

I understand what will be expected of me daily in rehearsal behaviorally and musically. I understand that my behavior in and outside of class at choir events can not only affect my ability to attend choir events, but also my placement in the choir program.

I understand the grading, make-up work, and attendance policies.

I understand that in checking out a choir uniform, I am expected to return it in the same condition on the assigned date. If it is not returned or if it is damaged, I understand that I will be charged and agree to pay to replace the garment, and agree to pay for it in full.

I have logged on to SchoolCash and paid my choir fees so I can get my choir shirt and participate in field trips and contests this school year.

I have read the ROMS Choral Handbook in its entirety and I understand the expectations and consequences outlined therein, and have completed all items on the checklist above.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Student T-Shirt Size (in adult sizes): XS S M L XL XXL



Choir Calendar

Dates may be changed, added, or removed in a timely manner. Each student is expected to stay informed, maintain a personal calendar with all additional dates! If there are conflicts already known, please report them to the director in writing immediately. Always communicate conflicts with your director as soon as they arise!

The Choir Calendar can also be found on the Choir website at www.redoakchoir.com/calendar and will have detailed information about all event times, locations, and which choirs are required to attend.

*means a required event for **all** choir students

<u>August</u> 14-First day of School 26-Choir Parent Meeting @ROMS Cafeteria 28-ROMS Open House 29-Choir Fees/Forms Due <u>September</u> 4-Officer Election 4-Sectionals Tenor-Bass Tenor 1 and Tenor 2 9-Sectionals Chorale Soprano 1 and Soprano 2 11-Sectionals Tenor-Bass Bass 13-Officer Leadership Camp 16-Sectionals Chorale Alto 18-Sixth grade Silly String War 23-Sectionals Tenor-Bass Tenor 1 and Tenor 2 25-Choir Pictures/Uniforms Go Home <u>October</u> 3-Parent Conferences 7-Fall Concert* 10-Homecoming parade 11-ROISD Mock All-Region Auditions 14-Sectionals Chorale Soprano 1 and Soprano 2 17-Men's Video Game Night/Early release 24-Middle School Night @ ROHS FB Game 30-Sectionals Chorale Alto and Tenor-Bass Bass <u>November</u> 1-All Region Auditions 3-Sectionals Chorale Soprano 1 6-Sectionals Tenor-Bass Tenor 1 10-Sectionals Chorale Soprano 2 13-Sectionals Tenor-Bass Tenor 2 17-Sectionals Chorale Alto 20-Sectionals Tenor-Bass Bass <u>December</u> 4-Sixth Grade Caroling Tour 5-Choir Movie Night 9-Winter Concert* 10-Band/Choir Winter Tour	<u>January</u> 12-Sectionals Chorale Soprano 1 13-Sectionals Chorale Soprano 2 15-Sectionals Tenor-Bass Tenor 1 16-8th Grade Event 20-All-Region Pre-Rehearsal 24-All-Region Clinic and Concert 26-Sectionals Chorale Alto 27-Sectionals Tenor-Bass Bass 29-Sectionals Tenor-Bass Tenor 2 30-7th Grade Event <u>February</u> 11-14-TMEA Conference (Directors out of town) 19- 6th Grade Solo Contest 20-Choir Video Game Night 23-All Chorale Rehearsal 24-All Tenor Bass Rehearsal 26-6th Grade event <u>March</u> 17-All Vox Fortis Rehearsal 19-Pre-UIL Field Trip 23-All Treble Rehearsal 26-UIL Parent Performance <u>April</u> 31/1- UIL Contest 7- Pride of Texas 6th Grade 9-Epic Waters Contest 7-8 Grade 14-All Chorale Rehearsal 21- All Tenor-Bass Rehearsal 24-Solo and Ensemble 7-8 Grade <u>May</u> 12 -Spring Concert* 20-Last Day of School
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