

- Red Oak Middle School –

Choir Handbook 2023-2024



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Table of Contents

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

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! 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

- All Music
- Sight-reading Materials
- Formal concert uniform
- Choir Folder and 2 Choir Pencils (7th grade only)

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

Required Student Supplied Materials

- Calendar (digital or paper)
- Extra pencils if others are lost
- Folder with pockets (6 grade only)
- Black pants for concerts (6 grade only)
- Formal Concert Shoes (black dress shoes and black socks for men, black flats for women)
- Official Choir Polo (Paid for with Choir Fee)
- Choir Fee Payment

Recommended Materials

- Red Pencil
- Highlighter
- Pencil Bag
- Water Bottle

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 it arises!

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 required event for all choir students

August

- 16-First day of School
- 24-Choir Registration night @ROMS Cafeteria

September

- 1-Officer Election
- 1-Choir Fees/Forms Due
- 16-Officer Leadership Camp
- 22-Sixth grade Silly String War
- 28-Choir Pictures/Uniforms Go Home
- 28-Hispanic Heritage Program
- 29-Parent Conferences

October

- 6-Homecoming parade
- 17-Fall Concert*
- 20-Men's Video Game Night/Early release

November

- 3-Middle School Night @ ROHS FB Game
- 4-All Region Auditions

December

- 1-Women's Winter Movie Night
- 5-Winter Concert*
- 8-Sixth Grade Caroling Tour
- 15-Band/Choir Winter Tour

January

- 19-8th Grade event
- 20-Daddy/Daughter Dance Fundraiser
- 23-All-Region Pre-Rehearsal
- 27-All-Region Clinic and Concert

February

- 6-Black History Month Program
- 8-11-TMEA Conference (Directors out of town)
- 15- 6th Grade Solo Contest
- 23-7th Grade event
- 27-Pre-UIL Field Trip

March

- 1-6th Grade event
- 5-UIL Parent Performance
- 21-22- UIL Contest

April

- 5-Epic Waters Contest 7-8 Grade
- 12- Pride of Texas 6th Grade
- 20-7/8 Grade Solo and Ensemble

May

- 14 -Spring Concert*
- 22-Last Day of School

Course Descriptions

Bella Voce Choir- Beginning Choir

Prerequisite: Departmental Selection Process, Director Approval

Course Length: 1 year

The Sixth Grade choir is a beginning level choir for girls 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

Treble Choir-Sub Non Varsity Choir

Prerequisite: Departmental Selection Process, Director Approval

Course Length: 1 year

The Treble Girls' choir is a beginning level choir 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.

Bel Canto Choir-Non Varsity Choir

Prerequisite- 1 year in Choir program, Director Approval

Course Length: 1 year

The Bel Canto Girls' Choir is an intermediate level choir designed to reinforce proper singing techniques, basic theory knowledge and improve the singer's vocal abilities. Students are encouraged 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.

Chorale Choir-Varsity Choir

Prerequisite- 1 year in Choir program, Director Approval

Course Length: 1 year

The Chorale Girls' Choir is the Varsity level choir 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.

Cantori Choir- Beginning Choir

Prerequisite: Departmental Selection Process, Director Approval

Course Length: 1 year

The Sixth Grade choir is a beginning level choir for boys 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.

Men's Choir- Beginning Choir

Prerequisite: Departmental Selection Process, Director Approval

Course Length: 1 year

Cantori is a beginning level choir for boys 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.

Tenor-Bass Choir-Non Varsity Choir

Prerequisite: Departmental Selection Process, Director Approval

Course length: 1 year

The Tenor-Bass Choir is a Varsity level Choir for boys at the Middle School level, and the class is designed to help them through their voice changes while still building necessary skills to move forward into High School. 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 and a Secretary, and Librarian. The Varsity level classes will also have a President, Vice President, Historians and Social Officers, and the Advisory class will have a Circle Leader. Any student wishing to run for an officer position must fill out the application form, turn it into Mrs. Bowling, and schedule an interview with Mrs. Bowling before or after school. After all interviews are completed names will be placed on a ballot and students will vote for officers on September 2. 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.

Choir Booster Club

The Choir Booster Club is comprised of parents who support the choir program and its directors. They are willing to get involved in one of a variety of ways to assist us! There is a place and a need for all parents with students in all choirs to lend their talents and ideas. The Choir Booster club is made of both ROMS and ROHS parents, and all work to benefit both campuses!

All-Region

All-Region is an opportunity for students to show off what they have learned and how well they can perform under pressure. This activity is a required grade for all Varsity level ensembles. The auditions are on January 28, 2022. If you make the choir, the Pre-Rehearsal is February 14 after school, and the Clinic and Concert is February 18, all day.

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 all classes. All Voice lesson participants will also be required to sing a solo in Solo and Ensemble as well as all Varsity Choir members. Solo and Ensemble contest is October 29 for 7/ 8 th Grade, and February 16 for 6th Grade. .

Media

- Canvas and Skyward are the easiest ways to contact your teacher, see missing assignments, and plan for your choir events.
- The Red Oak ISD app is a great way to get messages through REACH that your teachers (yes all of them!) will use to connect with you. They come to your phone like normal notifications, so you won't miss anything!
- 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. Our Facebook page is "Red Oak Middle School Choir" and our Twitter is "@ROMSChoir". You can also add the Booster club on Facebook, "Red Oak Choir Booster".

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/COOPERATION
- Each student has the opportunity to make a 100 during each week that the class meets. Weekly grades are assessed per rehearsal and include such areas as tardiness, having materials ready, cooperation, rehearsal focus, positive attitudes, etc. (*See Participation Grading Code at the end of the page*)
- REQUIRED EXTRA REHEARSALS
- WRITTEN WORK / RECORDED WORK
- FOLDER 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 & ENSEMBLE CONTEST PARTICIPATION

EXTRA CREDIT

- ATTENDANCE AT HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR CONCERTS, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL MUSICALS

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 and red pencil – in hand – every day!
- 4) *No personal belongings on the risers...* this includes books, backpacks, purses, phones, etc.
- 5) *Cell Phones are only permitted for instructional purposes and with the permission/instruction of the director*.
- 6) *Take care of your folder & your music*. If you leave your folder out and we have to pick it up, it will remain in “folder jail.” The cost to bail out your folder is \$1 “Choir Dollar”.
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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.
- 9) No food, drink, or *gum* allowed on the risers (with the exception of bottled water.)
- 10) Choir students are expected to be model citizens inside AND outside of the choir room.
- 11) Daily attendance is expected. An absence can be made up for grading purposes, but the rehearsal missed and PROGRESS made cannot be recaptured.
- 13) Stay informed! Update your calendar! Listen in class! Check CHARMS! 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!

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, homework, books, gum, food, etc. during rehearsal.
- No discipline and/or behavior issues during rehearsal

After School Rehearsals and Sectionals

For sectional rehearsals, Varsity students will be given blank schedules to fill out. Using these schedules, the Director will determine the best days of the week for practice and give out permanent schedules at least a week before the sectional rehearsals start. Weekly sectionals are required for Varsity level choir, and any extra rehearsals deemed necessary by the director are also required. Any and all after school rehearsals and sectionals 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.

Student Attire (Tenor-Bass classes): Tux shirt and pants given to them at school. Pants need to be hemmed before the first concert. Black dress shoes with black socks. Bow ties will be given to them at the concert. No jewelry or watches.

Student Attire (Treble classes): Black choir dress given to them at school. Dress must be hemmed before the first concert. Black closed toed flat shoes. Hair is to be up and out of face, black headbands are acceptable to help keep hair back. No jewelry (except small, neutral color stud earrings- no larger than a pea).

Student Attire (Bella Voce and Cantori): Black pants, black shoes, and Choir Polo (paid for with Choir Fee). Hair is to be up and out of face, black headbands are acceptable to help keep hair back. No jewelry (except small, neutral color stud earrings- no larger than a pea).

Make-Up Work Policy

Any student who misses a written or aural test will have three days (as per district policy) 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. Any student who misses a concert or rehearsal will be allowed three days (as per district policy) to turn in a make-up assignment. The make-up assignment is the same for any missed experiences: 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 or Ms. Dunn 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.

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 Spring Choir trips. A student who fails more than two six weeks of a year will not be eligible for membership in a Varsity 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

All students are expected to be respectful and attentive during each rehearsal. A choir is only as strong as its weakest singer, so each student is expected to give all they've got! All Directors will be following the district policies on student behavior, but simply, they are as follows:

1. Verbal correction
2. Parent phone call
3. Teacher detention
4. School detention
5. Referral

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. Repeated or severe infractions can result in a change in choir class, or dismissal from the Choir Program. Dismissal from the choir program is the sole decision of the Choir Director(s).

Concert Attire

INFORMAL ATTIRE: Choir Polo

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 the OFFICIAL ROMS CHOIR POLO on all concert days during school, competition days, and to all other specified events.

***The OFFICIAL ROMS CHOIR POLO is a required purchase for Parents. Luckily, if kept in good condition these shirts will last them through their senior year of High School Choir, and can be worn on regular school days! The price of this shirt is added to your yearly Choir Fee.

Sixth Graders: will wear their Polo to all concerts with black pants and black shoes.

FORMAL PERFORMANCE ATTIRE (7 and 8 grade only): Choir Tux or Choir Dress

Men: Each Lower Voice 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 Hurricane Harbor 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.
- Replacement cost of attire is \$60 if it is damaged or lost.

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

- These are to remain in the student's possession until after Hurricane Harbor 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 toes. 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 will be considered damaged and need to be replaced.
- Replacement cost of attire is \$60 if it is damaged or lost.

*** All attire must be returned after the UIL contest in March, 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. Cost to rent is included in the yearly choir fee.

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. All fees can be paid online at www.redoakchoir.com, just scan the QR code below! 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. Most Choir classes will pay a fee of \$50 to cover all of their food and field trip expenses. Varsity choir members (Tenor-Bass and Chorale) will pay a fee of \$70 as they are required to participate in more contests and trips. On the website please make sure you select the correct fee.

Choir Polo

The ROMS Choir Department requires every student to purchase an official Choir Polo. Each student may order as many as they want. These are the Choir Department Polos for the District, so you will not be required to purchase new polos each year, even when they go to high school! Your child will only need a new one if they lose, damage or outgrow theirs. Polos are \$30 for each, and they all come in adult sizes.

Please scan this QR code to pay your Choir Fees online and order your Choir Polo!



♪ 2020-2021 ROMS Choir ♪

Medical and Travel Release Form

Return by Friday September 1, 2023

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 _____
Home
phone _____
Work phone _____
Cell 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.

Parent signature _____

Date _____

ROMS Choral Department Handbook Acknowledgement

Return by Friday September 1, 2023

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 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 me and my parents are responsible for my transportation and prompt pick up time after school on those days.

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

I or my parents have followed at least one out of the three ROMS social media pages (Facebook, Twitter 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 my placement in the choir program.

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

(7 and 8 grade only) I understand that in checking out a choir uniform I am expected to return in the same condition on the assigned date. If it is not returned or 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 onto the choir website and paid my choir fees so I can 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