

**Live Oak Ridge Middle School Choir**

**Handbook 2023-2024**

Ms. Williams

rashida.williams@killeenisd.org

254-336-2490

**Stay “In-the-know” all things Choir with Remind**

Get the Remind app and text @singinlobo to 81010

**WELCOME!**

Students and Parents,

I am blessed and happy to be part of the Lobo family another year and that I have the privilege of making beautiful music and memories with your children!

Please make sure to read the entire handbook for expectations and opportunities for your child, sign and submit the pages in the back along with the $20.00 Choir Fee by Friday, September 15, 2023. This paperwork is required for students to participate in choir activities throughout the year. Your signature lets us know that you and your student acknowledge and understand the choir policies. We would love for our parents to be involved, and we will be requesting some volunteers throughout the year for various activities. If you know you would be interested in helping, please let us know! Please include your email address on the attached forms so we may keep you updated on the choir’s activities and accomplishments. If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to email, or call.

Students will continue to receive written notices of upcoming events throughout the year. Further, I will be sending reminders through email.

Thank you! We’ve got a great year ahead of us!

*Ms. Williams Mrs. Stidom*

Choir Director Principal

Live Oak Ridge Middle School Live Oak Ridge Middle School

1. CHOIR CLASSES
	1. ***Varsity Treble Choir***– This choir is comprised of 7th and 8th grade students. Placement will be based on audition, academic performance, and behavior. This choir performs and competes at various events, including the UIL Competition and Region Choir, for which members must be eligible (passing all classes) to participate.
	2. ***Junior Varsity Treble Choir***– This choir is comprised of 7th and 8th grade non-auditioned. This choir will also perform at various events and will also participate in the UIL Competition pending eligibility.
	3. ***Varsity Tenor-Bass Choir***– This choir is comprised of 7th and 8th grade students. Placement will be based on audition, academic performance, and behavior. This choir performs and competes at various events, including the UIL Competition and Region Choir, for which members must be eligible (passing all classes) to participate.
	4. ***Junior Varsity Tenor-Bass Choir***– This choir is comprised of 7th and 8th grade non-auditioned. This choir will also perform at various events and will also participate in the UIL Competition pending eligibility.
	5. ***Beginning Choir***– This choir is comprised of 6th grade, split into Beginning Girls and Beginning Boys classes. They will learn the basics in this class and will audition at the end of the year for placement in a more advanced choir. This choir will not compete in the UIL Competition but will perform for various concerts and participate in the 6th Grade Choir Festival.
2. EXPECTATIONS
	1. Choir Room Behavior and Rules – Students are expected to always follow the KISD Student Code of Conduct. Additional Choir Rules are as follows:
		1. **Be on Time** – Students should be *in their spots on the risers* ready to start class when the tardy bell rings.
		2. **Come to Class Prepared** – Students are responsible for having their materials every day. This includes music, pencils, and any additional requirements for various activities. The students’ preparation will be reflected in their daily participation grades.
		3. **Follow Directions** – Students will be responsible for several activities daily and must follow directions promptly and thoroughly to ensure a successful experience. This will also be reflected in participation grades.
		4. **Be Respectful** – Students are expected to be (verbally and physically) respectful to teachers, other students, the school, and all other aspects of the learning environment. This includes the handling of equipment and property in the Choir Room. There is ZERO tolerance for bullying in the choir room. PERIOD!
		5. **Always Do Your Best!** – Remember we are all in this as a team. One singer doesn’t make a choir, and every student is held accountable for the success of the group. If we work together, we can do great things! Be an ACTIVE participant in choir.
		6. **Respect Property-** Treat all chairs, tables, risers, and other equipment with care. Students are not to touch the piano or other equipment without permission. NO FOOD OR GUM allowed in the choir room. Only clear bottles of water is allowed in the choir room.
	2. Consequences – A student’s choice not to follow the rules will result in implementation of the Live Oak Ridge Step System of Discipline:
		1. **Step One:** Conference with the student, documentation of the incident(s) initialed by the student, and a call to a parent.
		2. **Step Two:** Conference with the student, documentation of the incident(s) initialed by the student, and a call to a parent. A consequence will also be assigned by the teacher.
		3. **Step Three:** Conference with the student, documentation of the incident(s) initialed by the student, a call to a parent, and a Step Three Parent/Teacher Conference. Teachers, Student, Administrator, Counselor, and Parent/Guardian must be present for the conference.
		4. **Referral:** After the next student offense, the teacher may write a referral and send it to the Assistant Principal’s office.

*Please note that in the event of a severe infraction, it may be necessary to report the incident as a referral rather than using the Step process. This is determined by our administration and is in accordance with our campus guidelines and expectations.*

1. III. GRADING & ELIGIBILITY
	1. Grades –All grades will be determined according to the guidelines established by the State Board of Education. Students will receive grades for work done in class as well as co- curricular performances. Grades for each student will reflect daily preparation and participation, performance of assigned music, and musical growth.

\*Specific breakdown of daily preparation and participation is as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Non-singing** | **Non-sight reading** | **Audience Etiquette** | **Music** **Not prepared** |
| **-25** | **-25** | **-30** | **-20** |

Extra credit may be given for attendance at designated special events.

* 1. Eligibility – In order to participate in some events, Texas law requires each student earn a 70 or above in all classes. Failing even one class makes the student ineligible. Once a class grade is recorded on the report card, *it is final*, and a student cannot make up assignments to change it. There are no exceptions. Ineligible students may be given alternate assignments while the ensemble rehearses for one of these events.
	2. Continuing in Choir – Due to the multiple class levels and constantly evolving growth opportunities, many students choose to take Choir for several years. This allows students to be in increasingly advanced ensembles and enjoy the achievements and academic benefits of being a highly skilled musician. Though rare, it is possible for a student to become ineligible to continue in choir for one of the following reasons: (Parents will be informed if any of these occur.)
		1. Unexcused absences from Choir performances
		2. Continuing disruptive or disrespectful behavior in class (Steps and/or Referrals)
		3. Stealing items from the Choir Room
		4. Intentionally misusing, vandalizing, or breaking Choir/school equipment
		5. Unacceptable behavior at any Choir event, to include those on/off campus and during/after school hours.
		6. Failure to meet the skills and performance requirements to continue to the next level of the course.
1. IV. CONCERTS
	1. **Uniforms** – Students will be asked to dress and present themselves accordingly for performances.
		1. Clothing – Some uniforms will be provided and checked out to the student by the school and students will be held accountable for them. Uniforms must be kept in good condition and returned either at the end of the school year or when a student leaves the school or the choir program. (Please see Section V, C for additional information on uniform policies.) Other uniforms may be requested from the student’s personal wardrobe (black pants, jeans, specific colored shirt, etc.). **ALL students will be required to purchase their own black dress shoes to be used throughout the year.** Choir T-Shirts will also be sold for this purpose. *Students will be responsible for arriving for performances in appropriate dress*.
		2. Hair – Hair colors and styles have increasingly become a distraction from the Choirs’ collective hard work during performances. To prevent this distraction and to professionally represent our organization and our campus, performers’ hair must be a natural color. If a student arrives at a performance with hair color that is not natural, the uniform portion of the student’s concert grade will be lowered, and the action may result in a removal from the performance. (This policy is in accordance with our campus and district administration and is also in place with the KISD High School Choir programs.) Any hair accessories should be minimal and should be black. Hair should be styled/pinned back and out of the performer’s face.
	2. **Etiquette** – There will be several concerts where students will both perform and watch other ensembles. Students will be expected to handle themselves responsibly during performances and be respectful while sitting in an audience. Students are representing not only themselves, but also our Choir program and our school, and they will be held to high standards. Failure to act appropriately may result in removal from performances/events and possibly from the choir program in general.
	3. **Attendance** – Choir members who meet TEA and UIL eligibility requirements are **expected to attend all concerts, competitions, and outside rehearsals for the Live Oak Ridge Middle School Choir**. According to KISD Policy, grades will be given for participation in events outside the school day. A written excuse for absences signed by the parent or legal guardian should be provided beforehand. If that is not possible, the written signed excuse should be provided the next day. Absences will be excused at the Choir Director’s discretion and alternate assignments may be given to make up the grade. Please note that all concerts are an exam grade.

Missing a required performance due to UNEXCUSED absence: If a student misses a performance without a guardian notifying me beforehand or upon the student’s return to school with a legitimate reason, he/she will make up the assignment by performing the concert pieces for me in person before or after school (or by video recording) with a 1-page paper receiving a maximum of 70% credit. If more than two performances are missed, they will not be allowed to participate in the upcoming extracurricular performance or travel with the group on the next trip.

Missing a required performance due to EXCUSED absence: The student will still be expected to complete the same assignment (except for the paper) for full credit. All make-up assignments are due within 5 days upon returning to school. Any student that does not make up work in the event of a missed concert will receive a 0 for the major grade.

**All coaches and teachers are notified of our performance dates well in advance and we make every effort to work around each other’s schedules to allow your child to be a successful, well-rounded student.**

* 1. **Student Pick-Up** – All Choir students must be picked up within 15 minutes after an event. If a problem should arise, please contact the director as soon as possible. The director needs to see that students are leaving events with a parent or legal guardian. If you plan for your child to leave an event with another parent or responsible adult, please contact the director or send a signed note no later than the day before the event. We want to make sure your children are safe and where they need to be.
	2. **Travel Policy for Off-Campus Events** – Throughout the year, events may take place that require bus transportation. Students must be passing all classes to participate in these events. The rules are as follows:
		1. Students will remain on the bus until instructed to leave.
		2. Students will be assigned seats (KISD Policy).
		3. All music and uniforms will be the student’s responsibility.
		4. All students will travel to and from the performance *on the bus*.
		5. Proper behavior is expected on all school-sponsored trips. Horseplay and screaming will not be tolerated. Undignified conduct or reckless behavior will result in disciplinary action and/or removal from choir.
		6. All Chaperones will be obeyed without question or comment.

*Parents who are interested in chaperoning for all school events are required to fill out the KISD “Volunteer Application” and complete volunteer training with our Campus Administrator. The application may be found by going to www.killeenisd.org, clicking “Information” at the top, and scrolling to the bottom of the “Parent Links” section.*

V. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Calendars – A calendar is included with this handbook. If any dates change or new events arise, you will be notified as quickly as possible via handouts, email, etc. Student arrival times will be sent home prior to each event.
2. Choir Fees – Rather than sending home a supply list, we collect a $20.00 fee from each student participating in Choir. Funds from Choir Fees will be used primarily for classroom supplies that students use daily in Choir. These funds are also used towards uniform cleaning and maintenance, celebrations, and other Choir events and associated costs (travel, student meals, etc.). **ALL Choir students have a $20.00 fee. This is due Friday, September 15th.\*\*\*** If you are sending a check or money order with your student, please make it out to “Live Oak Ridge Middle School” or “LORMS.” Cash is fine, as well.
3. Uniforms – All 7th and 8th grade students will be issued a uniform. Students will sign for their uniform when it is issued, and they are responsible for returning it in good condition. Students are accountable for the replacement cost if the uniform is lost or damaged. Returning the uniform will also be calculated as a part of student’s daily grade at the end of the year.
4. Drug Testing – As per district requirements, all 7th and 8th grade students participating in UIL extracurricular events (including choir) must consent to random drug testing. **LORMS must have the form returned, signed by both the student and the parent/guardian before the student may participate in these activities.** All 7th and 8th grade choir students will receive this form in addition to those in this handbook.

**Please fill out, sign, and return the forms included by Friday, September 15, 2023.**

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me!