



Handbook

2019-2020

Dear Kerr Choir students and parents,
I am excited to have your student in choir this year!
In this handbook, you will find information and guidelines that provide a clear understanding of what to expect this year. Please read this handbook carefully and return a signed copy of the handbook agreement and fees no later than **Monday September 9th**. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns! I know we are going to have a wonderful school year!

Courtney Patten
Kerr Choir Director
cpatten@bisdmail.net
kerrchoir.com
Instagram: @kerrmschoir
Facebook: Facebook.com/kerrchoir

Kerr Middle School Choir Handbook

Kerr Middle School Choir is dedicated to developing a life-long appreciation of music in students. By signing the handbook agreement forms you are committing to be a positive, active member of the Kerr Choir department for the 2019-2020 school year and give your best effort every day in choir and school.

Choir Descriptions

Beginning Boys

This ensemble consists primarily of 6th grade boys. We will focus on the foundational elements of music and singing. Students will learn proper tone production and sight reading skills. Students will perform at all Kerr Choir Concerts.

Beginning Girls

This ensemble consists primarily of 6th grade girls. We will focus on the foundational elements of music and singing. Students will learn proper tone production and sight reading skills. Students will perform at all Kerr Choir Concerts.

Bel Canto

This ensemble is comprised of mostly 7th and 8th grade girls who may or may not have prior choral experience. This choir will perform at all Kerr Middle School Choir Concerts. All eligible students will participate in UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest in the Spring. Ensemble members are encouraged to audition for the Middle School All Region Choir and participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest

Concert Girls

This ensemble is comprised of 7th and 8th grade girls who may or may not have prior choral experience. This choir will perform at all Kerr Middle School Choir Concerts. All eligible students will participate in UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest in the Spring. Ensemble members are encouraged to audition for the Middle School All Region Choir and participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest

Chorale Boys

This ensemble is comprised of 7th and 8th grade boys. This choir will perform at all Kerr Middle School Choir Concerts and the cluster concert at Centennial High School. All eligible students will participate in UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest in the Spring. Ensemble members are strongly encouraged to audition for the Middle School All Region Choir and participate in Solo and Ensemble contest.

Chorale Girls

This ensemble is comprised of 7th and 8th grade girls and is considered a Varsity Ensemble. This choir will perform at all Kerr Middle School Choir Concerts as well as the Centennial High School Cluster Concert. All eligible students will participate in UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest in the Spring. Ensemble members are required to audition for the Middle School All Region Choir and participate in Solo and Ensemble contest.

Harmony

This ensemble is auditioned from interested students in Chorale Men/Women and functions as the Kerr Middle School Varsity show choir. Students in this ensemble will have performance opportunities at various BISD elementary schools as well as in the community. Ensemble members are required to participate in Middle School All Region Choir auditions and Solo and Ensemble contest. **This ensemble will hold minimal after school rehearsals.**

Student Expectations

Choir students are expected to be courteous, safe and prepared for class to create the best learning environment possible. A set of classroom rules has been created to ensure student success in the Kerr Choir program.

Specific Choir Rules are:

1. Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
2. Show respect to Mrs. Patten and your classmates.
3. **Proper participation is required.**
4. Bring all necessary supplies every day.
5. No gum, food, or drink except for a bottle of water.

Consequences

1. The student will receive a verbal warning and is expected to correct their behavior.
2. The student will be asked to stay after class to speak with Mrs. Patten, a call home may be made.
3. Detention will be assigned depending on the severity and frequency of the infraction. A phone call home will be made.
4. The student may be removed from class in the event of severe infractions and a referral will be submitted.

Any behavior which is not representative of good citizenship as perceived by choir staff or administrative staff may result in the student's dismissal from the choir program. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and private events.

Eligibility

State law mandates that students maintain a grade of 70 or above in all classes in order to participate in extra-curricular activities including UIL contests, auditions, and other off campus events. Students who make a grade lower than a 70 on their report card are considered ineligible and may regain eligibility at the 3 weeks progress report. ***Concerts and rehearsals are considered curricular and will be required of all students regardless of academic standing.***

Concerts and Performances

Students are required to participate in concerts throughout the school year. This is an excellent opportunity for your child to demonstrate what they have been working on in class concerning singing and concert etiquette. All choir members will have a uniform for these concerts. 7th and 8th grade choir students will have a formal and informal uniform. Students and parents will be informed of which uniform is required for each event.

Choir Fees

Students will have a \$40 choir fee that will cover their choir t-shirt, spring show t-shirt, supplies, and help offset the cost of choir entry fees for contests and festivals.

Choir fees are due with the handbook agreement form by Monday, September 9th. If payment in full is not possible by this date, please contact me for assistance.

Choir Supplies

Minimal supplies are needed for all choir students. Students will be provided the supplies listed below and must have these supplies in class every day. Assigned folder slots have been provided for student convenience. Students are required to replace any lost or damaged supplies.

Student required supplies are:

- 2 sharp pencils
- 1 highlighter
- notebook paper
- a pencil bag

Grading Policy

50% Summative Assessment...

- Sight-Reading Tests
- Tests and Quizzes
- Concerts and Performances

50% Formative Assessment...

- Rehearsal etiquette
- Binder checks
- In class assignments

OBJECTIVES & SIGHT-READING ASSIGNMENTS: Students will receive objective sheets each six weeks to pass off. Individual objectives and recorded sight reading assignments will count as a formative (daily) grade. Objectives may be pass/fail (50 or 100) and are crucial in developing the necessary skills to be successful. Failure to pass off or re-attempt could result in ineligibility to participate in UIL or other contests. Sight reading assignments may be retaken for FULL credit prior to the end of the six weeks grading period. Our ultimate goal is for EVERYONE to achieve success!

SUPPLY CHECKS: Supply checks are pass/fail (zero or 100) and may be made up for FULL credit prior to the end of the grading period by showing the directors that all necessary supplies & accessories are accounted for and organized properly.

Uniform Care & Specifications

Proper attire counts for 30% of the performance grade. At the director's discretion, students that are severely out of uniform will not be allowed to perform and will be required to complete an alternate assignment for partial credit.

Students are expected to take the utmost care of uniform pieces checked out from the school.

Students are responsible for returning these uniform pieces to the Kerr Choir department at the end of the school year in **excellent** condition.

Students will be held responsible for damage to choir uniforms.

Bel Canto, Concert Girls and Chorale Girls Formal Uniform

- Choir dress- provided by Kerr Choir
- Solid black, closed toe, flat shoes- no heels, wedges or tennis shoes.

Chorale Boys Formal Uniform

- Black tux shirt- provided by Kerr Choir
- Royal blue bow tie- provided by Kerr Choir
- Black satin vest-provided by Kerr Choir
- Black dress pants-provided by Kerr Choir
- Solid black, closed toe dress shoes- no tennis shoes.

6th Grade Choir/7th & 8th Choir Informal Uniform

- Choir t-shirt -included in choir fee
- Khaki pants
- Black, flat, closed toe shoes- no tennis shoes.

Attendance Procedure

Punctual attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances!

These events are co-curricular activities, therefore, mandatory and major grades for your student.

Please review the following attendance policy carefully.

Excused Absences/Tardiness

Written notification should be provided to the directors by the parent/guardian regarding the nature of unavoidable conflicts with concerts, performances, or other choir events no later than 2 weeks prior in order to properly excuse an absence. Absences may be excused in the event of illness, medical emergency, personal injury, or death in the family. In the event of illness, a doctor's note should be submitted to the directors upon return to school. An alternate assignment will be given for credit of up to 100% if completed correctly in the time frame given.

It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to schedule planned doctor, dentist,

& other appointments around the choir calendar & schedule.

Unexcused Absences/Tardiness

Examples of *unexcused* absences/tardiness include over-sleeping, failure to arrange transportation, family trips/vacation, & non school related extracurricular activities. 20 points will be deducted from the overall grade for unexcused tardiness. Students with unexcused absences to concerts or performances may earn up to 70 percent of the test grade with an alternate assignment, but will not be eligible to participate in choir trips such as Six Flags.

Your child's participation is crucial to the success of their choir. The experienced missed from non-participation in a concert cannot be replicated.

Choir Trips & Social Events

Choir trips such as Six Flags are privileges. Students must meet the following requirements to participate in band trips and other social events:

- Maintain academic eligibility with a 70 or above in ALL classes.
- Have zero unexcused absences from required choir events such as before/after school rehearsals, concerts, or performances including contests and festivals.
- Failure to participate in required events such as UIL, choir contests/festivals, solo contest, etc... due to ineligibility will result in loss of band trip. Maintaining academic eligibility is crucial so that students can participate in all required events.
- Zero office referrals or ISS assignments.
- All choir fees must be paid in full.

Cell Phone Policy

Students **are not** permitted to use cell phones during rehearsals, sectionals, concerts, or performances. Student cell phones should not be present during any rehearsal. The first infraction will result in the cell phone being collected with a warning. The cell phone will be returned to the student at the end of rehearsal, or class. The second infraction will result in student cell phones being turned into the front office.

In the event that a student must bring their cell phone to a concert or performance, students must leave their cell phone with a parent chaperone and may access it upon the conclusion of the event. Students may bring their cell phone with them to contests, but must give their phone to an adult chaperone upon exiting the bus. Students will receive it back after loading the bus to leave the contest.

Student cell phone use during concerts and contests for any reason will result in an office referral. The phone will be immediately confiscated by a choir director or chaperone and will be returned at the conclusion of the event

[2019-2020 Choir CALENDAR](#)

Please subscribe to the Kerr Choir calendar by visiting the link above and clicking the +Google sign at the bottom right hand corner.

Kerr Choir Calendar 2019-2020

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event/Choir/Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
September		
Friday 6th	All Region Choir Boot Camp *Not required	Kerr Choir Room
Monday, 9th th	Handbook: Choir Forms/Fees Due	Kerr Choir Room
εFriday, 20th	Choir National Anthem/Tailgate *Harmony students only	BISD Stadium
♪ Friday, 27th	Kerr Choir Fall Concert *Call Time 6:15 *Concert 7pm	Centennial HS
October		
εSaturday, 5th	All Region Choir Auditions *Required for Harmony and Chorale Girls	Fossil Ridge HS
♪ Monday, 7th	CHS Choir Fall Concert *Chorale Boys and Chorale Girls Only *Time TBD	Centennial HS
November		
εSaturday, 2nd	All Region Clinic/Concert * All day event	Chisholm Trail HS
Thursday, 7th	Veterans Day Tribute *Harmony Only	Centennial HS
December		
♪ Monday, 9th	Winter Concert *Call Time 6:15pm *Concert 7pm	Centennial HS
Friday, 13th	Elementary Choir Tour *Harmony Only	District Elementaries
February		
Thursday, 6th	BISD District Showcase *Harmony Only	Centennial HS
Monday, 10th	Show Choir Showcase *Harmony Only	Centennial HS
♪Wednesday, 19th	Pre UIL	Centennial HS

*TBD: Times

March

ε♫ Mon.-Tues, 2nd-3rd

UIL Contest

Aledo HS

*TBD: Times and Dates

April

εThursday, 21st

Solo and Ensemble Contest

Kerr Middle School

*Required for Harmony and Chorale Girls

εWed-Fri, 22nd-24th

Hurricane Harbor Contest

Birdville HS

♫ Monday, 27th

Spring Concert

Centennial HS

*Call Time 6:15pm *Concert 7pm

May

εThurs-Frid, 14th-15th

Six Flags Trip

Six Flags Over Texas

♫= Mandatory/Co-Curricular Activity- These activities are mandatory events and major grades for those involved. In some of these events students are not required to be eligible to participate.

ε = Academic eligibility required