



**Allen Eagle Choir  
Student/Parent  
HANDBOOK  
2023-2024**



**\*\*\* This Choir Handbook is also available on-line. Please read and review before signing and returning the Allen ISD Permission & Emergency Release form.**

**We must have a Permission & Emergency Release form on file for every student.**

**Note that the handbook is subject to change and will be updated as necessary.**

Allen High School Choir  
300 Rivercrest Blvd.  
Allen, Texas 75002

[www.alleneaglechoir.com](http://www.alleneaglechoir.com)

[www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com)

**CONGRATULATIONS** on your decision to be part of the fine tradition of the **AWESOME ALLEN HIGH SCHOOL EAGLE CHOIR!** This booklet is designed as a guide for both parents and students to give specific details concerning all aspects of the choir program. For any additional information, please check our website for updates throughout the year at [www.alleneaglechoir.com](http://www.alleneaglechoir.com)

## **CHOIR ORGANIZATIONS**

**Lowery Select Women** – This auditioned choir is comprised of freshman women enrolled at the Lowery Freshman Center. This choir will perform in all choir concerts as well as UIL. Members of this choir are encouraged to participate in private voice lessons, All-Region, Solo Contest, and all other auditions throughout the year. All members will have the opportunity to audition for a smaller, select performing group.

**Lowery Men** – This men’s choir is open to all 9<sup>th</sup> grade men. This choir will perform in all choir concerts as well as UIL. Members of this choir are strongly encouraged to participate in private voice lessons, All-Region, Solo Contest, and all other auditions throughout the year. All members will have the opportunity to audition for a smaller, select performing group.

**Lowery Treble** – This choir is comprised of freshman women enrolled at the Lowery Freshman Center. This choir will perform in all choir concerts as well as UIL. Members of this choir are encouraged to participate in private voice lessons, All-Region, Solo Contest, and all other auditions throughout the year. All members will have the opportunity to audition for a smaller, select performing group.

**LFC Bravo and LFC Muse** – These are both auditioned jazz choirs. These choirs meet two days per week after school. Students must also be members of a Lowery choir class. They will perform multiple shows each year, and thus must always remain eligible. Attendance at performances and rehearsals is mandatory. Students in this ensemble will also be responsible for purchasing their uniforms. Auditions are held in September for this group.

**Lowery Mixed Choir** – This auditioned choir is comprised of freshman women and men enrolled at the Lowery Freshman Center. This choir will meet after school and will perform at choir concerts as well as UIL.

**AHS Mixed Choir** – This non-auditioned mixed choir is open to any 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade student. This choir will participate in all choir concerts as well as competition in the spring semester. All members of this choir in grades 10-12 may choose to be enrolled in the “advanced” program for additional GPA points. Members of this choir are encouraged to participate in private voice lessons, All-Region, Solo Contest, and all other auditions throughout the year.

**AHS Chorale** – This is an auditioned choir made up of primarily upperclassmen. Students in this choir represent AHS and are held to the highest of standards of behavioral and academic excellence. Members are required to audition for All-Region in the fall semester and encouraged to do Solo contest in the spring. Chorale members will be required to attend regular sectionals and periodic clinics. This choir will compete at UIL and Festival. Because of the performance nature of a Spring Trip/Festival, **ALL** members of this select group are highly encouraged to attend the trip. Members of this choir are encouraged to participate in private voice lessons and all other auditions throughout the year. All members of this choir in grades 10-12 may choose to be enrolled in the “advanced” program for additional GPA points.

**AHS Eagle Select Women** – This is an auditioned choir open to women enrolled in grades 10–12. This choir will perform at all choir concerts as well as competing at Festival and UIL. Members are required to audition for All-Region in the fall semester and encouraged to do Solo contest in the spring. All members of this choir in grades 10-12 may choose to be enrolled in the “advanced” program for additional GPA points. Members of this choir are encouraged to participate in private voice lessons and all other auditions throughout the year.

**AHS Men’s Choir** – This is an auditioned choir open to men enrolled in grades 10–12. This choir will perform at all choir concerts as well as competing at Festival and UIL. Members are required to audition for All-Region in the fall semester and encouraged to do Solo contest in the spring. All members of this choir in grades 10-12 may choose to be enrolled in the “advanced” program for additional GPA points. Members of this choir are encouraged to participate in private voice lessons and all other auditions throughout the year.

**AHS Treble Select Women** – This is an auditioned choir open to women enrolled in grades 10–12. This choir will perform at all choir concerts as well as competing at Festival and UIL. Members are required to audition for All-Region in the fall semester and encouraged to do Solo contest in the spring. All members of this choir in grades 10-12 may choose to be enrolled in the “advanced” program for additional GPA points. Members of this choir are encouraged to participate in private voice lessons and all other auditions throughout the year.

**AHS Treble Choir** – This is an auditioned choir open to women enrolled in grades 10–12. This choir will perform at all choir concerts as well as competing at Festival and UIL. All members of this choir in grades 10-12 may choose to be enrolled in the “advanced” program for additional GPA points. Members of this choir are encouraged to participate in private voice lessons, All-Region, Solo Contest, and all other auditions throughout the year.

**AHS Encore** – This is a select, auditioned show choir. Students in Encore must also be members of Chorale or another music organization approved by the director. They will perform multiple shows each year, and thus must remain eligible at all times. Attendance at performances and rehearsals is mandatory. Students in this ensemble will also be responsible for purchasing their uniforms.

## **ADVANCED MUSIC COURSE - 2023-2024**

*AHS ONLY - open to 10<sup>th</sup> grade (4.5 credit) and 11-12 grade students (5.0 credit)*

This course is designed to allow students the opportunity to extend their musical education in an enriched, independent curriculum for college readiness. Students must demonstrate a higher level of musical understanding and be able to perform at the highest possible level both as an individual and as a member of an ensemble. Students will be expected to demonstrate a high level of critical listening, musical understanding, technical ability, knowledge of the theoretical and historical foundations of compositions and present information in a well-written academic manner. This course is designed for students with elevated performance, communication and/or cognitive skills. Due to the independent nature of this course, students who elect to pursue honors credit should be self-motivated and responsible. **All assignments will be completed independently within the timeline provided by the instructor through the Allen ISD Canvas system.**

Note that this is not a separate class, but rather an additional layer added to the classes offered above.

## **PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS**

A yearly choir calendar is provided for your use in planning your family schedule for the entire school year. Each student is important to the success of our program, and we must be able to count on 100% attendance at each performance and rehearsal. If a family emergency occurs unexpectedly, we ask that the PARENTS please either e-mail or call the choir office and leave a message. Occasionally there may be family commitments (weddings, graduations, etc.), in which case we will try to be flexible and work with you on an individual basis. This can be facilitated by discussion well **in advance** of the event and at the director's discretion may require an alternate assignment be completed to earn the performance grade.

**Student job commitments are NOT considered excused absences.** Many students have jobs and still participate successfully in choir. We recommend that students take a copy of their choir calendar to their supervisor at work so that they know well in advance what the student's school commitments are. Most supervisors are very flexible when this is handled in a responsible and mature manner. Should it be necessary, we will be glad to validate those commitments with a student's supervisor.

***If a student has an unexcused absence from a performance/required function, he/she is subject to removal from the choir program. Disciplinary problems, not limited to those in the choir classroom, will also be grounds for removal from the program.***

## **PERSONAL CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS**

The possession and/or use of alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaporizers and illegal drugs is expressly forbidden and will not be tolerated. Any infraction, on or off campus, will result in a 9 week period of program ineligibility upon return to campus. Program ineligibility includes all performances outside the school day and extracurricular events. Students who have been placed on program ineligibility may be subject to loss of awards, recognitions, privileges associated with the Choir program, including attending Choir program only events, the end of year awards ceremony/banquet (even as a guest), and using Choir facilities.

*“Standards of Behavior; Sponsors of student clubs and performing groups such as the band, choir, and drill and athletic teams may establish standards of behavior—including consequences for misbehavior—that are stricter than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the Student Code of Conduct or by board policy will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization's standards of behavior.”*

– AISD Student Handbook, pg. 36

Allen ISD Fine Arts students are expected to behave in a manner that is becoming to the individual, as well as to the organization they represent. They should be aware that in or out of uniform they are representatives of the Allen HS Choir program and the school they attend and should act accordingly.

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that Fine Arts Students' websites/social media are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Fine Arts students will be responsible for any social media communication including but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok or photo sharing, etc. that appears on the internet even if it is marked private. Fine Arts students are responsible for their personal websites and postings as well as for postings on other students' websites. The area of appropriateness will include, but are not limited to, language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, reference and or depicting the use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Any question of appropriateness will be decided by the sponsor.

Most discipline problems can be handled in-house, such as, assignment to choir detention hours, for such things as eating in the choir room, failure to follow rules, etc... Any behavior problem can (for any reason) result in a call home and submission of the AISD Student Discipline Form to their house office. **Poor behavior will not be tolerated and can affect a student's participation grade and/or placement in choir.**

## **REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS**

Cell phones will NOT be allowed during class time unless instructed otherwise.

School ID badges must be visibly worn at all times.

Give 100% of your attention to any person addressing the class.

Do not talk during rehearsal. This distracts you as well as those around you.

Treat any and every person as you would want to be treated at all times.

No Gum. No Food. No Drinks (with the exception of water in a clear container).

Be in your seat with your choir folder and pencil BEFORE the tardy bell rings.

Do not bring ANY personal items to your seat. This includes backpacks, books, makeup, purses, etc.

Do not play the piano without permission from a director. The practice room pianos are available for practice when not in use by a scheduled rehearsing group or individual. Check with your director before entering a practice room please.

## **GRADING**

**Students in choir will be given a numerical grade based on the following:**

### **Daily Skill Demonstration Grades (50% of total grade)**

This grade is earned by daily demonstration of the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) for Fine Arts.

This grade is not determined by inherent ability for music, rather the effort given in class to become a better musician. This grade includes participation, demonstration of fundamentals, and improvement of singing and sight-reading skills. Evidence of teamwork will also be taken into consideration – (i.e. contributing to the group through attitude, behavior, supportive comments and actions, etc.)

### **Major Grades (50% of total grade)**

**Test Grades (including written and Sight-Singing Tests)** – Each student will be given written exams and Sight-Singing tests throughout the school year. All students are given the choice to make up the written test if they are not happy with the result. They will have until the last day of the grading period in which the test was given.

**Concert Attendance** – In accordance with TEKS, students are given grades for their attendance at concerts. Because our concerts are a direct extension of daily classroom activities, they are considered to be *curricular* by state standards. A concert will count as 3 test grades (1 for the warm-up/rehearsal, 1 for attending the entire concert, and 1 for concert etiquette for the entire concert). Please see the handbook section entitled PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS for information on unexcused absences.

## **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

Any student who has a recorded nine-week grade average in any non-waivable course lower than 70 at the end of a 9-weeks period shall be suspended from participation during the next 9-weeks period. However, a student may regain eligibility seven calendar days after the three-week evaluation period if the student is passing **all courses** on the last day of the three-school-week period.

The Allen Choir Staff will enforce all eligibility rules and regulations. Students who are ineligible will continue to rehearse during his/her choir classes and before and after school and participate in curricular performances to earn his/her choir grade. Ineligible students may not travel with the choir or participate in extracurricular performances. An example of a curricular performance would be a Fall concert and an extracurricular performance would be a spring trip or any type of contest (i.e., UIL, Solo contest, All-Region, etc). Be advised that excessive absences from school may also result in a student being declared ineligible.

The choir staff and Allen High School/Lowery staff work hard to assist and encourage choir students to perform up to their potential in all classes. Since all of our Choirs are group activities, every individual student plays an important part in the success of the group. The choir staff consults both with teachers and students for strategies for improving individual student performance. Obviously, we cannot be successful as a choir unless our students are successfully passing all classes.

## **PRIVATE LESSONS**

All students are encouraged to take private lessons in order to improve their individual singing skills. While directors are skilled instructors on the various voices of the choir, there is simply no substitution for private one-on-one instruction received from someone who is considered to be a professional performer. We are extremely fortunate in Allen to have numerous professional private lesson teachers available to help students reach that “next level” of performance. Many of the private teachers are, or have been, affiliated with the many professional performing groups located in the DFW area. The Allen directors will assist choir students in scheduling lessons with the qualified teachers; however, we suggest you be aggressive in “locking in” with a teacher as soon as possible. Private lessons are a **must** for serious choir students. Individual instruction from a qualified specialist can make “all the difference” in a student’s progress and will result in a more enjoyable experience in choir. Students enrolled in lessons will take them during their choir class or before/after school.

*Private voice students are expected to participate in All-Region auditions, Solo Contest, Master Classes and Voice studio recitals.*

A complete listing of our private music instructors are listed on the Allen High School Choir website.

[www.alleneaglechoir.com](http://www.alleneaglechoir.com)

## **FEES**

All students enrolled in the AHS & LFC Choral Departments will be responsible for the following fees:  
(Checks MUST have DL# and phone #)

### **Required Fees (Paid to choir director or online):**

AHS Participation Fee (uniform maintenance, music, classroom supplies, online resources)                      \$75.00

### **Optional Fees (Paid to Booster Club):**

Optional items available at uniform check out day are booster club family memberships, t-shirts, yard signs, car decals and more!

## **CHOIR LETTER JACKETS**

A jacket will be presented to senior students who have served the high school choir program well. Students must have participated in the choir program from the time of his/her enrollment in high school before his/her senior year and must participate through graduation of his/her senior year. Students will attend all performances and UIL activities. Exceptions will be granted at the discretion of the director (illness, deaths, etc.). Students not adhering to written disciplinary policies of the school and choir will forfeit their eligibility for the senior award jacket. Any violation of these rules during their senior year may result in the forfeiture of the jacket. The student must uphold the goals and standards of the choir. It is understood that withdrawal or dismissal from the choir prior to graduation of his/her senior year results in forfeiture of the jacket. *Forfeiture includes reimbursement to Allen High School for the payment of the jacket.* One additional way to earn a letter jacket is to audition at TMEA Area Choir Competition and/or place in a TMEA All-State Choir. These students will be eligible to receive a letter jacket the following year regardless of classification.

## **SENIOR GRADUATION MUSIC CORDS**

Choir students are eligible to earn a graduation music cord in one of two ways.

1. Be enrolled in **Advanced Music - Choir** grades 10-12 (both semesters for all three school years) and maintain an “A” Average.
2. Students can also receive music cord through Tri-M. The music cord will be the same cord (style and color) for both Tri-M and Advanced Music. Students may receive only one music cord – if a student meets Advanced Music AND Tri-M requirements through their senior year, they will still only receive one music cord – through Tri-M.

## **CHOIR UNIFORMS**

### **STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO KEEP UNIFORMS CLEAN AND PRESSED.**

#### **Women's Uniform**

Dresses will be hemmed according to your height. AHS Choir will take care of this for you before you are issued a dress.

**Concert Shoes** – must be black, closed-toe dress shoes. No stilettos.

**Hair and Jewelry** – remember the key word is UNIFORM. Refrain from large clips, bows, and earrings.

***No watches, bracelets, or necklaces may be worn.*** One ring per hand and modest “small” earrings are acceptable. Students who choose to wear body glitter or unusual hair colorings will not be permitted to perform.

**Replacement Cost** - \$150.00 for the dress

#### **Men's Uniform**

A tuxedo jacket and pants, bow tie, and cummerbund will be checked out to you. Men should purchase their own tuxedo shirt. These are available online, or at Tuxedo Junction, Hobby Lobby, and any other tuxedo store.

**Concert Shoes** – Black dress shoes (and tall black socks). **Note - Tennis shoes and/or boots of any color are NOT acceptable concert shoes.**

**Replacement Cost** - \$170.00 (\$75 for pants, \$75 for jacket, \$10 for tie, \$10 for cummerbund)

You will need to have your uniform cleaned during the school year. The tuxes and dresses must be dry-cleaned. We recommend Terrell's Cleaners because they clean them for AISD at a reduced rate if you tell them it's a school choir uniform. Choir dresses can be washed (turn it inside out, use gentle cycle, use cold water) and then hang dry.

## **CHOIR TRIP**

Each year, the choirs will participate in a choir trip. The cost of the trip will be divided over the school year to decrease the burden by spreading out the payments. Should a student become unable to attend, he/she will be entitled to a refund based upon the refund schedule provided by the festival company minus the deposit.

**Requests for refunds must be made in writing before published festival company deadlines (see trip packet).**

**No refunds will be given 30 days before the trip departure date; therefore, students should be diligent with their eligibility.**

## **OFF CAMPUS TRAVEL POLICIES - GENERAL**

Students who represent the Allen ISD on out-of-town trips are expected to maintain very high standards in every respect at all times. They are expected to attend and be on time for all sessions and activities scheduled for them. In the event of overnight trips, they are expected to be in their rooms at the times designated by their sponsors.

Each student will be responsible to one or more faculty sponsors who will supervise the activities of the student for the trip. Negligence in attending sessions, in meeting curfew requirements, or in failing to maintain our standards of conduct may make it necessary for the sponsor to send the student home at his/her own expense. Student conduct on school-related trips: Self-discipline is the key element for a pleasant experience for both the sponsor and the student when the student is on a school-related trip. Students who are involved in a serious disciplinary offense on a school-related trip, such as the use, possession of, or being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol, stealing, fighting, going in the room of a member of the opposite sex, or some other serious offense will face disciplinary action which may include one or more of the following:

1. The student will be sent home from the trip at the parents' expense.
2. The student will be held liable for damages to property.
3. The student may be removed from this school activity as well as other school co-curricular activities.
4. The student may be placed in In-School-Suspension (ISS), Off-Campus-Suspension, or Alternative Education Placement.

Students' attire during school activities outside the school day should be in good taste. If there is any question of taste, the director's decision is final. All adults on trips serve as sponsors. Students will be expected to treat them with respect at all times. In the event a parent sponsor gives needed supervision, choir students must honor that with utmost respect.

**GENERAL** – Even though you will not always have a choir shirt on, people will find out where you are from.

You have the opportunity to make a tremendous name for Allen and for yourself. Be courteous and polite at all times. There is no way we can anticipate every possible scenario, so we ask for good judgement. Please use common sense. **RULE OF THUMB:** If there is any question in your mind as to whether you should do something or not...DON'T DO IT! It is better to be safe than sorry.

**WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEMS. IF WE ANTICIPATED A PROBLEM, WE WOULD NOT TRAVEL.**

## **CHORALE CHOIR OFFICERS**

**President / Vice President** – will be responsible for maintaining an accurate database for each class, will represent choir in Council and Booster meetings, will M.C. at the Choir Banquet, will assist director with filling all volunteer slots, and will insure completion of all concert tasks.

**Uniform Czar** – In addition to attending Booster meetings, the czar will assist with uniform upkeep and organization.

**Librarians** – In addition to attending Booster meetings, the librarian will see that every student has copies of all necessary music and will help with filing and organization of the music library.

**Historians** – In addition to attending Booster meetings, the historians will represent the choir department by taking pictures and helping to prepare the end of the year scrapbook and video presentation.

**Quartermaster** – In addition to attending Booster meetings, the quartermaster will be responsible for keeping the choir room announcements up to date as well as informing choir members of upcoming special event

## **Auditions**

Auditions for placement into an upper level choir are done in January/February each year. The audition consists of the following:

1. SmartMusic sight-reading test (0-100 points)
2. Singing exam – My Country Tis of Thee (0-100 points)
3. 10 points awarded for each “extra” event including All-Region, Solo Contest, UIL, Musical, etc
4. 10 points awarded for the number of years in the AHS Choir Program (0-30 points)
5. Vocal Maturity (0-100 points)
6. Teacher Recommendation

After all of the points are awarded to each student, the open spots are filled by those with the highest point total.

## **CHOIR BOOSTERS**

The Allen HS Choir Booster Club is a non-profit organization of parents whose purpose is to support and enrich the AHS and Lowery Choir Programs. The hard work and dedication of choir parents are a vital factor in the success of our program. There are numerous areas in which interested parents can be involved in supporting the activities of the choir. General meetings of the Choir Boosters are held throughout the school year; however, most of the organizational planning will be done in committee meetings. We encourage all parents of both campuses to join the Booster Club.

## **BANQUET**

Each May the Choir Boosters will sponsor and sell tickets to a choir banquet for all choir students and parents. Booster parents and choir officers will make all the arrangements for the banquet and the “end-of-the-year” video. The banquet will also include Directors’ Awards, class awards, etc.

We welcome you to the Allen high school choir program, and we are happy to answer any additional questions that you may have concerning this school year. Please do not hesitate to contact us. We have attached a list of choir dates that you will need for this coming school year. Please put these dates on your calendar. We do not anticipate any changes, but if it becomes necessary, we will do everything possible to get those changes to you as soon as possible. We are looking forward to a very exciting year and we are glad you will be a part of it!

**Remember.....because of your hard work.....Allen Choirs are second to none!!!!**



## **Choir Teaching Staff**

**Director of Choirs: Brian McKinney**

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**AHS Choir: Kathryn Zetterstrom**

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**LFC Choir: Trenton Davis**

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**AHS/LFC Choir: Brandi Knight**

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## **Fine Arts Administration**

**Allen ISD Director of Fine Arts: Jeff Turner**

Jeffrey.Turner@allenisd.org

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