

Allen Eagle Choir Student/Parent HANDBOOK

2024-2025



*** 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 Welcome to the Allen High School Choir Department, one of the most outstanding choral programs in the state of Texas! Membership in this organization requires hard work, pride, and a serious commitment to excellence. This handbook contains information concerning guidelines and expectations, plus a calendar with dates and other information for the year's events. Please read below these pages carefully and save them for future reference. As a member of an Allen Choir, you are accountable for the information contained in this handbook.

ENSEMBLES:

Lowery Select Treble – 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 and Show Choir.

Lowery Select Tenor-Bass – This auditioned choir is comprised of freshman men 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 and Show Choir.

Lowery Concert Tenor-Bass— This men's choir is open to all 9th grade men. This choir will perform in all choir concerts as well as a District-wide Contest to evaluate their musicianship from this school year. All members will have the opportunity to audition for the Show Choir.

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 and Solo Contest, and all other auditions throughout the year. All members will have the opportunity to audition for the Show Choir.

LFC Bravo Show Choir—These are both auditioned Show Choirs. These choirs meet up to 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 a \$40 Show Choir Fee. Auditions are held in September for this group.

Lowery Eagle Chorale Choir – This auditioned choir is comprised of Select Treble and Select Tenor-Bass enrolled at the Lowery Freshman Center. This choir will meet before school and will perform at choir concerts as well as UIL.

AHS Mixed Choir – This non-auditioned mixed choir is open to any 10^{th} – 12^{th} grade student. This choir will participate in all choir concerts as well as competition in the spring semester.

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 participate in UIL. 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—This is an auditioned choir open to women enrolled in grades 10–12. This choir will perform at all choir concerts as well as participate in 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 participate in UIL. Members are strongly encouraged to audition for All-Region in the fall semester and participate in 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 participate in 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 participate in 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 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.

<u>ADVANCED MUSIC COURSE 2024-2025</u> AHS ONLY - open to 10th 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. More details provided in this packet outlining Advanced Music.

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 email 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

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.

PERSONAL CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

The possession and/or use of alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaporizers and illegal drugs are 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 extra-curricular events. Students who have been placed on program ineligibility may be subject to loss of awards, recognitions, and privileges associated with the Choir program, including attending Choir program only events, the end of year awards ceremony (even as a guest), and using Choir program facilities.

Standards of Behavior: Sponsors of student clubs and performing groups such as the band, choir, theatre, 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 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. 58.

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 on or off the stage/in or out of class they are representatives of the Allen HS Choir program and the school they attend and should act accordingly. Persistent misbehavior may result in a period of program ineligibility. 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/X, Instagram, Snapchat, BeReal, 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

- 1. Be on time to all rehearsals (school or extra) and performances. Cell phones need to be put away and will NOT be allowed during class time unless otherwise instructed.
- 2. Always have your MUSIC, CHOIR FOLDER, and PENCIL mark notes in music as directed.
- 3. All students MUST be in AISD Dress Code attire for EVERY rehearsal (unless approved by the director). School ID badges must be visibly worn at all times.
- 4. Please take care of restroom breaks before the rehearsal begins. Roaming campus and truancy will not be tolerated.
- 5. No Gum. No Food. No Drinks (with the exception of water in a clear container). Keep the room orderly and clean.
- 6. Give 100% of your attention to any person addressing the class. Talking while the conductor is rehearsing or giving instructions is NEVER appropriate.
- 7. Take a mature attitude toward correction. Don't be a "know it all".
- 8. Treat any and every person as you would want to be treated at all times.
- 9. Approach rehearsals and performances with OPTIMISM, ENTHUSIASM, DETERMINATION, and YOUR WHOLE-HEARTED ATTENTION.
- 10. The success of the Choir is your individual responsibility.
- 11. 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. Please check with your director before entering a practice room.

GRADING

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

Choral Musicianship (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 only determined by inherent ability for music, but also 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.) **This grade is reflective of the individual's performance in the ensemble.**

Major Grades (50% of total grade)

- **Test Grades (Sight-Singing and Performance Tests)** Each student can receive Sight Singing tests throughout the school year. Preparation for these tests will be overtime through the building of musical fundamentals in daily rehearsals.
- 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.

LATE WORK

Students are expected to turn in assignments before deadlines given by the Directors. Late work will follow District guidelines as outlined in the Student Handbook. No more than 30 points will be deducted as a penalty if turned in within three schools days after the deadline. Any assignment turned in after the three school days will remain a zero in the gradebook. Late work is not accepted for students in Advanced Music.

REDO/RETAKE POLICIES

This is only applicable for a student who initially completed the assignment on-time. Students who earn a failing grade on an assignment may discuss with their Director an opportunity to Redo/Retake an assignment in order to regain at most 50% of the points originally deducted. The deadline will be discussed and agreed upon between both the student and Director.

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-week period in activities outside of the course requirements. 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. 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. 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 to improve their individual singing skills. While directors are skilled instructors on the various voices of the choir, there is simply no substitute for private one-on-one instruction received from someone who is 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

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) due September 16th:

AHS Participation Fee \$100 provides the following: two AHS Choir Shirts (Fall and Spring), Smart Music online subscription, Remind (communication) subscription, uniform maintenance/alterations (if needed), music, food items, sight-reading materials, equipment upkeep, and opportunities for clinicians and collaborative instrumentalists.

Optional Fees (Paid to Booster Club):

The Booster Club strongly supports AHS Choir and helps raise funds to provide financial support for our large choral program. Funds are generated by family memberships, choir merch, Spirit Night Fundraisers, yard signs, car decals and more! ALL funds are used to support our students and directors with expenses that exceed the school budget allotment. Funds are also used to award Choir Scholarships to graduating seniors.

Corporate Sponsorships are also available and Sponsors receive advertisement at all Choir Concerts & Events

Note: Finances should never affect a student's participation, progress, or potential in Choir. In the event that finances become a concern, please contact Mr. Davis - payment arrangements can be made in these situations.

Students with outstanding balances for program fees will not be allowed to participate in program activities unless there is a payment plan in place with the program director. Lack of participation will lead to removal from the program at the beginning of the next grading period. No students will be allowed to participate in any events that require an entry/audition fee until the fee is paid in full by the deadline (all-region, all-state, Solo Contest, etc.)

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.
- 3. All-State Musicians are eligible for a Music Cord and will NOT be included if they are also per Advanced Music or Tri-M qualifications. Yes, this individual will receive two cords.

CHOIR UNIFORMS

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO KEEP UNIFORMS CLEAN AND PRESSED. PROFESSIONALISM AND UNIFORMITY ARE THE TOP PRIORITIES IN OUR CHOIR UNIFORMS. THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES OUTLINE THIS EXPECTATION FOR ALL STUDENTS:

Women's Uniform

Black Concert Dresses are provided and 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. FLATS are perfect.

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. All hair will be styled out of the face so that the singer can clearly see their conductor free of movement.

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 Kohls, 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.

Hair and Jewelry – remember the key word is UNIFORM. No bracelets or necklaces. Unusual hair colorings will not be permitted to perform. All hair will be styled out of the face so that the singer can clearly see their conductor free of movement.

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

REQUIRED CLEANING:

- You will need to have your uniform cleaned during the school year.
- The tuxes MUST be dry cleaned before turning in at the end of year. Failure to do so, you will be assessed a \$15 cleaning fee for the Choir covering the cleaning expense of your uniform. 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. DO NOT PLACE IN THE DRYER.

CHOIR TRIP (Chicago - March 13-16th, 2025)

Each year, the choirs will participate in a choir trip. The cost of the trip will be divided into payments set by the traveling company and all payments are made online directly to the travel company. Refunds, for any reason, are processed by the traveling company but are based upon the refund schedule given at the signing up of the trip. Student eligibility (academically and behaviorally) will be required to participate in the Choir Trip.

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 Mr. Davis.

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 (including vaping), 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 will be subject to Campus and Allen ISD discipline upon their return including: 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 judgment. 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

Co-Presidents – will be responsible for maintaining an accurate database for each class, will represent the choir in Council and Booster meetings, and are required to lead additional officers with respect and dedication. Will assist director(s) with duties throughout the year for the better of Allen Choir.

Operations – Will lead and execute the functions of Uniforms (organizing, distributing, and collecting), Communication (announcement boards and making contact), Decorating (the room, trophy cases, Choral spaces).

Librarians – The Librarians will see that every student has copies of all necessary music, will help with filing and organization of the music library, and keep accurate and up to date of new additions.

Historians – The Historians will represent the choir department by taking pictures and helping to prepare the end of the year scrapbook and video presentation. Capturing and presenting to the Choir pictures from Choir activities throughout the year representing ALL choirs.

Social – The Social Officers will assist wherever needed and also provide fun activities throughout the year for the entire Choral program and the AHS Chorale.

Auditions

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

- 1. Smart Music 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: attending Eagle Choir Camp, All-Region, Musical, Show Choir, 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 (0 40 points)

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

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 and indicated on this year's Choir Calendar; however, most of the organizational planning will be done in committee meetings. We encourage all parents of both campuses to join the Booster Club. **Choir is a FAMILY for YOUR FAMILY.**

AWARDS BANQUET

Each May the Choir Boosters will sponsor and sell tickets to a Choir Awards 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: recognition of this year's musical accomplishments (collectively and individually), Directors' Awards, class awards, senior recognition, senior scholarships awarded, a meal, and a dance.



Choir Teaching Staff

Director of Choirs: Trenton Davis

972.727.0400 ext. 301560 Trenton.davis@allenisd.org

AHS Choir: Casey LeVie

972-727-0400 ext. 301485 Casey.levie@allenisd.org

LFC Choir: Kaitlin Davis

972-263-0600 ext. 302405 Kaitlin.davis@allenisd.org

AHS/LFC Choir: Spencer Tripp

972-727-0400 ext. 301468 Spencer.tripp@allenisd.org

Fine Arts Administration

Allen ISD Director of Fine Arts: Jeff Turner

Jeffrey.Turner@allenisd.org

Secretary to Director of Fine Arts: Denise Virgil

972.747.3387 ext. 400640 Denise.Virgil@allenisd.org