



Allen Eagle Choir Student/Parent HANDBOOK

2026-2027



***** This Choir Handbook is also available online. 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 distinguished and accomplished choral programs in the state of Texas! Membership in this organization is both an honor and a responsibility. It requires dedication, pride, and a strong commitment to excellence from every student. This handbook is designed to provide you with essential information about our policies, expectations, and procedures, as well as a calendar of events for the school year. Please take time to read through the following pages carefully and keep this handbook for future reference throughout the year.

ENSEMBLES:

There are several choirs at Allen High School and Lowery Freshman Center. Students are placed in a choir by audition according to their vocal ability, personal maturity, commitment to participation, grade classification, and sight-reading ability. **Time will be required outside of class for rehearsals, trips, and other engagements. Attendance at all outside of school rehearsals and performances is required.** Choir is a full-year course, and is only eligible for a schedule change request prior to the start of the first day of school. Auditions are required for placement in all AHS and LFC choirs.

Lowery Select Treble: This auditioned ensemble is composed of freshman ladies enrolled at the Lowery Freshman Center. Members perform at all choir concerts and participate in UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Evaluations. Students are strongly encouraged to take private voice lessons and to participate in All-Region Choir auditions, Solo Festival, and other performance opportunities throughout the year. Members of this select ensemble are also required to perform in the Lowery Eagle Chorale (advanced mixed choir). Rehearsals are outside of the school day and this calendar is shared in advance for students to plan accordingly. Members may audition for the LFC Bravo Show Choir.

Lowery Select Tenor-Bass: This auditioned ensemble is composed of freshman men enrolled at the Lowery Freshman Center. Members perform at all choir concerts and participate in UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Evaluations. Students are strongly encouraged to take private voice lessons and to participate in All-Region Choir auditions, Solo Festival, and other performance opportunities throughout the year. Members of this select ensemble are also required to perform in the Lowery Eagle Chorale (advanced mixed choir). Rehearsals are outside of the school day and this calendar is shared in advance for students to plan accordingly. Members may audition for the LFC Bravo Show Choir.

Lowery Concert Tenor-Bass: This auditioned ensemble of freshman men is designed for beginner and developing musicians. This ensemble performs in all concerts and participates in a district-wide contest evaluating musicianship. Members may audition for the LFC Bravo Show Choir.

Lowery Treble: This auditioned ensemble of freshman ladies is designed for beginner and developing musicians. This ensemble performs at all concerts and UIL. Members are encouraged to participate in private voice lessons, Solo Festival, and other auditioned events throughout the year. Members may audition for the LFC Bravo Show Choir.

LFC Bravo Show Choir: This is an auditioned show choir rehearsing up to two mornings/afternoons per week (in season) out of the school day. Membership is limited to students already enrolled in a Lowery choir class. The group performs multiple shows annually and requires consistent eligibility and mandatory attendance at all rehearsals and performances. A \$50 participation fee is required and due before the end of the semester. Auditions are held in September.

Lowery Eagle Chorale: This auditioned ensemble includes students from both the Select Treble and Select Tenor-Bass choirs. The group meets before school and performs at concerts and UIL. Participation is by invitation or audition. The rehearsal calendar is shared in advance for students to plan accordingly.

AHS Concert Men: This auditioned ensemble of sophomore through senior men is designed for beginner and developing musicians. This ensemble performs in all concerts and participates in a district-wide contest evaluating musicianship.

AHS Concert Treble: This auditioned ensemble of sophomore through senior ladies is designed for beginner and developing musicians. This ensemble performs in all concerts and participates in a district-wide contest evaluating musicianship.

AHS Chorale: As one of the premier auditioned ensembles, Chorale is composed primarily of upperclassmen. Members are held to high standards of academic and behavioral excellence. Participation in the All-Region audition process is required in the Fall, and students are encouraged to compete in Solo & Ensemble in the spring. Regular sectionals and clinics are mandatory. The group performs at UIL and typically participates in a Spring Trip/Festival,

which all members are highly encouraged to attend. Students may opt into the “advanced” credit program for additional GPA points. Private voice study and audition participation are strongly encouraged.

AHS Eagle Select: This auditioned treble ensemble is open to ladies in grades 10–12. Members perform at all concerts and UIL. Participation in All-Region is required, and Solo & Ensemble is encouraged. Students may enroll in the “advanced” credit program and are encouraged to pursue private lessons and additional auditions.

AHS Men’s Choir: This auditioned tenor-bass choir is open to men in grades 10–12. The ensemble performs at all concerts and participates in UIL. Members are strongly encouraged to audition for All-Region and Solo & Ensemble. Students may opt for “advanced” credit and are encouraged to pursue private study and additional audition opportunities.

AHS Treble Select Women: This auditioned treble ensemble is for ladies in grades 10–12. The choir performs at all concerts and UIL. All members are encouraged to audition for All-Region and are encouraged to participate in Solo & Ensemble. “Advanced” credit is available, and private voice lessons and additional auditions are strongly encouraged.

AHS Encore Show Choir: This highly select, auditioned show choir performs multiple high-energy shows throughout the year. Members must also be part of Chorale or another director-approved music organization. Eligibility must be maintained, and attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Members are responsible for purchasing performance uniforms.

ADVANCED MUSIC COURSE 2026-2027

AHS ONLY - open to 10th grade (4.5 credit) and 11-12th grade students (5.0 credit)

This course offers students the opportunity to expand their musical education through an enriched, independent curriculum designed for college readiness. Participants must demonstrate advanced musical understanding and be able to perform at a high level, both individually and as part of an ensemble. Students will be expected to exhibit strong critical listening and analytical skills, demonstrate technical proficiency and musical understanding, understand the theoretical and historical foundations of music, and present information clearly in academic writing. This course is intended for students with advanced performance, communication, and/or cognitive abilities. Due to the independent nature of the coursework, students pursuing honors credit must be self-motivated and responsible. All assignments will be completed independently and submitted according to the timeline provided by the instructor via the Allen ISD Canvas system. *Note: This is not a separate class, but rather an additional honors layer applied to the existing choir courses described above. More information can be found in the "Advanced Music" section of this packet.*

PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

A yearly choir calendar is provided to help families plan ahead for rehearsals and performances throughout the school year. Every student is an essential part of the choir’s success, and therefore, full attendance is expected at all scheduled events. In the case of an unexpected family emergency, we ask that a parent notify the choir office by phone or email as soon as possible. We understand that significant family events, such as weddings or graduations, may occasionally conflict with choir obligations. In these situations, we are committed to working with families individually. Advance communication is crucial, and any accommodations—including the possibility of an alternate assignment for a performance grade—will be made at the discretion of the director. **All written absence requests must be submitted by a parent and received no later than the end of the next scheduled class day following the missed event.**

Student job commitments are **NOT** considered excused absences. While we understand that many students maintain part-time jobs, it is entirely possible to balance work and choir responsibilities with proper planning. We strongly encourage students to share the choir calendar with their employers at the beginning of the school year to ensure awareness of all scheduled rehearsals and performances. Most employers are understanding and willing to accommodate when conflicts are communicated in a timely and responsible manner. If needed, the choir director can provide written verification of a student’s participation and commitment to the program to help facilitate work schedule adjustments.

PERSONAL CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

Most discipline issues will be handled within the choir program and may result in choir detention hours for infractions in the choir room or not following rules. Any behavior problem may lead to a parent contact and submission of an AISD Student Discipline Form to the house office. Poor behavior will not be tolerated and may affect a student's participation grade and/or choir placement.

Additional expectations are outlined in the Allen ISD Fine Arts Code of Conduct. All students are expected to adhere to the guidelines listed in this document. Allen Choir will follow all discipline as outlined in the Fine Arts Code of Conduct.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

1. **Be on time** to all rehearsals—both during school and outside of school hours—as well as to all performances. **Cell phones** must be put away during class. Turned off and in the student's bag (in the drop zone).
2. **Always come prepared** with your music, choir folder, and a pencil. Mark your music as instructed.
3. **Follow AISD Dress Code** for all rehearsals unless otherwise approved by the director. ID badges must be worn visibly at all times.
4. **Take care of restroom needs before rehearsal begins.** Roaming the campus or skipping class will not be tolerated.
5. **No gum, food, or drinks** are allowed in the choir room. The only exception is water in a clear container.
6. **Keep the choir room clean and orderly** at all times.
7. **Give your full (100%) attention** to anyone addressing the class. Do not talk while the conductor is giving instructions or leading rehearsal.
8. **Accept feedback respectfully** and avoid “know-it-all” behavior. A mature attitude helps everyone grow.
9. **Treat others with respect**—speak and act as you would want others to do toward you.
10. **Approach all rehearsals and performances with optimism, enthusiasm, determination, and focus.**
11. **Take ownership** of the choir's success. Each member contributes to the overall performance.
12. **Do not play the piano** without a director's permission. Practice room pianos may only be used when available and with prior approval

GRADING

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

Choral Musicianship – 50% of Total Grade

This portion of the grade reflects a student's daily demonstration of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Fine Arts. It is not based solely on natural musical ability, but rather on the effort and commitment shown in class to grow as a musician. Choral Musicianship includes active participation in rehearsals, consistent demonstration of vocal fundamentals, and ongoing improvement in singing and sight-reading skills. Additionally, evidence of teamwork—such as maintaining a positive attitude, demonstrating respectful behavior, and offering supportive contributions to the group—is taken into consideration. This grade is a direct reflection of each student's engagement and performance within the ensemble.

Major Grades (50% of total grade)

- **Test Grades (Sight-Singing and Performance Tests)** – Students may receive Sight-Singing and Performance Tests throughout the school year. Preparation for these tests occurs over time through the development of musical fundamentals during daily rehearsals.
- **Concert Attendance** – In addition, concert attendance is a graded component in accordance with TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills), as concerts are considered a curricular extension of the classroom. Each concert counts as three test grades: one for the warm-up and rehearsal prior to the concert, one for attending the full performance, and one for demonstrating proper concert etiquette throughout the event. For more information regarding unexcused absences, please refer to the Participation Expectations section of this handbook.

LATE WORK

Students are expected to submit all assignments by the deadlines established by the Directors. Late work will be accepted in accordance with District guidelines as outlined in the Student Handbook. If an assignment is turned in within three school days after the original due date, a maximum of 30 points may be deducted as a late penalty. However, any assignment submitted after the three-day grace period will receive a zero in the gradebook. **Please note that late work is not accepted for students enrolled in Advanced Music.**

REDO/RETAKE POLICIES

The Redo/Retake policy applies only to students who submitted the original assignment on time. If a student earns a failing grade, they may speak with their Director to discuss the possibility of redoing or retaking the assignment. If approved, the student may recover up to 50% of the points originally deducted. A deadline for the redo or retake will be determined through mutual agreement between the student and the 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 strengthen their individual vocal skills. While choir directors are experienced instructors across all voice parts, there is no true substitute for one-on-one instruction with a professional performer. We are fortunate in Allen to have access to many highly qualified private voice teachers, many of whom are currently or have previously been affiliated with professional performing groups in the DFW area. The choir directors will assist students in scheduling lessons with these instructors; however, it is highly recommended that students and families act quickly to secure a spot with a teacher, as availability can be limited. Private lessons are essential for students who are serious about advancing in choir. Personalized instruction from a skilled specialist can significantly accelerate a student's growth and contribute to a more rewarding and enjoyable choir experience. Students enrolled in private lessons will typically take them during their choir class period or before or 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 and LFC Choral Departments are responsible for paying required program fees. (Checks MUST have DL# and phone #)

Required Fees (Paid to choir director or online) due September 18th:

The AHS Choir Participation Fee is \$100 and must be paid online or turned into a Choir Director by September 18th. For check payments, please include a **driver's license number and phone number** on the check.

This fee helps support the many essential resources and opportunities that enrich the choir program. It covers the cost of the annual AHS Choir shirt, a MakeMusic online subscription, uniform maintenance, sheet music and sight-reading materials, food for events and rehearsals, equipment upkeep, general supplies, and access to guest clinicians and instrumental collaborators. This contribution ensures the smooth operation of the program and enhances the overall experience for every choir student.

Optional Fees (Paid to Booster Club):

The AHS Choir Booster Club plays a vital role in supporting the choir program by raising funds that provide additional financial assistance beyond the school's budget. Families are encouraged to join the Booster Club through an optional membership fee. Additional funds are generated through the sale of choir merchandise, Spirit Night fundraisers, yard signs, car decals, and more. Every dollar raised goes directly toward supporting our students and directors with program expenses and enrichment opportunities. The Booster Club also provides scholarships to graduating seniors each year. ****Corporate sponsorships are available as well, and sponsors receive advertising at all choir concerts and events throughout the school year.** Join Today!**

Note: Financial concerns should never prevent a student from fully participating in choir. If needed, please contact Mr. Davis to discuss payment arrangements.

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 Festival, etc.)

Students who have been removed, and those who voluntarily quit, retain no rights to group awards, recognitions, etc., which are received after dismissal, although they may have accrued over the duration of the school term. They lose all privileges associated with Choir membership, including attending Choir only events, attending the Choir Banquet (even as a guest), using Choir facilities, and wearing Choir attire.

CHOIR LETTER JACKETS

A letter jacket will be awarded to senior students who have demonstrated dedicated service to the high school choir program. To be eligible, students must have participated continuously in choir from the time they enrolled in high school through their senior year and must remain active through graduation. **Students are expected to attend all performances and UIL activities**, with exceptions granted at the director's discretion for circumstances such as illness or family emergencies. Students who do not follow the school's and choir's disciplinary policies will forfeit their eligibility for the senior award jacket. Any violations of these rules during the senior year may also result in loss of the jacket. Additionally, students must uphold the goals and standards of the choir program. Withdrawal or dismissal from choir prior to senior year graduation will result in forfeiture of the jacket and may require reimbursement to Allen High School for the jacket cost. Another way to earn a letter jacket is by earning placement into the Area Round of All-State auditions and by placing membership into a TMEA All-State Choir ensemble. Students who achieve this will be eligible to receive a letter jacket the following year regardless of their classification.

SENIOR GRADUATION MUSIC CORDS

Choir students can earn a graduation music cord in one of two ways. First, by being enrolled in Advanced Music Choir for grades 10–12, completing both semesters each year, and maintaining an “A” average throughout. Alternatively, students may earn a music cord through Tri-M membership. The music cord awarded for both Tri-M and Advanced Music is identical in style and color. Students will receive only one music cord, so if a student qualifies for both Advanced Music and Tri-M by senior year, they will receive the cord through Tri-M. Additionally, students who achieve All-State musician status are eligible for a separate music cord and will receive two cords if they also meet the requirements for Advanced Music or Tri-M.

CHOIR UNIFORMS

Students are required to keep their choir uniforms clean and pressed at all times. Professionalism and uniformity are the highest priorities when it comes to our choir uniforms. The following guidelines have been established to ensure that every student meets these expectations and represents the choir program with pride.

Dress Uniform

Black concert dresses will be provided and professionally hemmed to fit each student's height before issuance.

Concert Shoes – must be black, closed-toe dress shoes—flats are preferred, and stilettos are not allowed.

Hair and Jewelry – To maintain uniformity, students should avoid large hair clips, bows, and excessive jewelry. Watches, bracelets, and necklaces are not permitted, while one ring per hand and modest, small earrings are acceptable. **Hair must be styled neatly and pulled away from the face to ensure clear visibility of the conductor without distraction.**

Replacement Cost - The replacement cost for a lost or damaged dress is \$85.00.

Tuxedo Uniform

A tuxedo jacket, pants, black dress shirt, and black necktie will be checked out to each student. Students are responsible for purchasing their own black dress shoes and tall black socks, which can be found online or at stores such as Kohl's, Tuxedo Junction, Walmart, and Target. Tennis shoes or boots of any kind are not acceptable concert footwear. ***If your issued uniform requires hemming, families are responsible for arranging this. Please do not cut any fabric from the uniform. If you need recommendations for alteration services in the Allen area, feel free to contact us.***

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 –To maintain uniformity, students should avoid wearing bracelets or necklaces, and unusual hair colors will not be permitted during performances. **Hair must be styled neatly and pulled away from the face so the singer can clearly see the conductor without distraction.**

Replacement Cost - Replacement costs for uniform pieces are \$160.00 total: \$76 for the jacket, \$36 for the pants, \$24 for the tie, and \$24 for the shirt.

REQUIRED CLEANING:

Students are responsible for cleaning their uniforms during the school year. Tuxedos **must** be professionally dry cleaned before being turned in at the end of the year. Failure to do so will result in a \$15 cleaning fee charged by the choir to cover this expense. We recommend Terrell's Cleaners, which offers a reduced rate for AISD school choir uniforms. **Choir dresses may be machine washed inside out on a gentle, cold-water cycle and should be hung to dry—do not put dresses in the dryer.**

CHOIR TRIP (New Orleans - March 11-14th, 2027)

Each year, the choir participates in a group trip. The cost of the trip is divided into payment installments set by the travel company, and all payments must be made online directly to them. Refunds are handled by the travel company according to their refund schedule, which is provided when signing up for the trip. **Student eligibility to participate in the choir trip will be based on academic standing and behavior.**

OFF CAMPUS TRAVEL POLICIES - GENERAL

Students representing Allen ISD on out-of-town trips are expected to uphold the highest standards of behavior at all times. They must attend and be punctual for all scheduled sessions and activities. During overnight trips, students are required to be in their rooms at the times designated by Mr. Davis.

Each student will be supervised by one or more faculty sponsors responsible for overseeing the group. Failure to attend sessions, meet curfew, or maintain expected conduct may result in the student being sent home at their own expense. Self-discipline is essential for a positive experience for both students and sponsors. Serious disciplinary offenses—such as possession or use of illegal drugs or alcohol, stealing, fighting, entering the room of the opposite sex, or vaping—will result in disciplinary actions that may include being sent home at the parents' expense, financial liability for damages, removal from current and future school activities, and further disciplinary consequences upon return, such as in-school suspension (ISS), off-campus suspension, or alternative education placement.

Students should dress in good taste during all school-related activities outside regular school hours. When questions of appropriate attire arise, the director's decision is final. All adults on trips serve as sponsors and must be treated with respect. Students must honor the supervision provided by parent sponsors with the utmost respect. Even when not wearing choir attire, students represent Allen and should conduct themselves with courtesy and politeness. Because not every situation can be anticipated, students are expected to use good judgment and common sense. The guiding rule is: if you are unsure whether an action is appropriate, do not do it. **We are confident that problems will not arise; if we anticipated issues, the trip would not be approved.**

AHS CHOIR OFFICERS

Co-Presidents – will be responsible for leading choir officer meetings, represent the choir at events, work with directors in the rehearsal, concert, and event settings, and help communicate important information and support choir officers. Co-presidents are responsible for encouraging teamwork, positivity, and participation among choir members with respect and dedication. Additional Choir Officers duties will be divided amongst the officers regarding:

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

Communications – Managing announcements, supporting and collaborating with officers to coordinate communication efforts, 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.

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 YOU and your HARD WORK..... Allen Choirs are second to none!!!!



Choir Teaching Staff

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