

Welcome to Rosemont Middle School Choir!

2019-2020 Handbook

Greetings to all parents, friends, and choristers! With your help and support, we look forward to a successful year of music making!

The Rosemont Middle School Choral Department will thrive on a philosophy of and commitment to tradition of musical excellence and pride in all that we do. This philosophy and commitment depends on the cooperation of ALL Choral students, parents and friends. Please understand that the success of a quality choral program demands that EACH member must claim personal responsibility and “ownership”! You have the power to do GREAT THINGS!

It is with pleasure and pride that we present this Choral Handbook to answer most of your questions and to inform you of the goals, expectations, calendar dates, etc. Please read the handbook carefully! After reading the rules and regulations, and reviewing the calendar, please sign and return the field trip form, medical form, t-shirt order form, and the parent/student handbook agreement found on the back page.

Please feel free to call or email (preferred) with any questions or concerns.

Ruben Romero, Director

ruben.romerogalvan@fwisd.org

For Rosemont Middle School choir updates, sign up on Remind, follow us on Social Media, and visit our official website: www.rosemontchoirs.com



Remind 101 for parents: @rmschoir20



Instagram: rosemontmschoir



Facebook: rosemontmschoir

DUE PROCESS

My goal as choir director is to make sure that all students are treated fairly. Please call the choir office or email (preferred) if you have any concerns, issues or to schedule an appointment. The first contact in problem solving should be with the choir director. Make sure you understand both sides of the story before making an assumption of the situation. I will work with you to resolve problems. I am here to provide a quality music education for all students.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Honor Men-1st PERIOD

This is a young men choir consisting of beginning to intermediate 7th and 8th grade singers. This group works on advancement in vocal pedagogy, sight-reading, choral methods, and repertoire. Members are required to participate in all dress rehearsals and concerts.

Honor Treble-2nd PERIOD

This is a young women's choir consisting of beginning to intermediate 7th and 8th grade singers. This group works on advancement in vocal pedagogy, sight-reading, choral methods, and repertoire. Members are required to participate in all dress rehearsals and concerts.

Concert Men-3rd Period

By audition only, this is the top young men's choir at RMS. This choir will perform selections from all musical periods. The choir consists of 7th and 8th graders who pass the audition and maintain Excellent conduct. Members must have previous years of choral training, a history of good conduct, excellent work ethic and the ability to sight-read and move quickly through intense and fast-paced rehearsals. Members are encouraged to audition for the All-Region Choir. Members are required to participate in all dress rehearsals and concerts, as well as the UIL Concert & Sight-reading contest All members are expected to maintain a record of excellent conduct in order to keep a place in this Varsity Choir. Members may be placed in another choir if all requirements are not maintained.

Chamber Women-4th Period

By audition only, this is the top young women's choir at RMS. This choir will perform selections from all musical periods. The choir consists of 7th and 8th graders who pass the audition and maintain Excellent conduct. Members must have previous years of choral training, a history of good conduct, excellent work ethic and the ability to sight-read and move quickly through intense and fast-paced rehearsals. Members are encouraged to audition for the All-Region Choir. Members are required to participate in all dress rehearsals and concerts, as well as the UIL Concert & Sight-reading contest All members are expected to maintain a record of excellent conduct in order to keep a place in this Varsity Choir. Members may be placed in another choir if all requirements are not maintained.

Concert Treble-7th Period

By audition only, this is a young women choir setting that will perform selections from all musical periods. The choir consists of 7th and 8th graders who pass the audition and maintain good conduct. Members must have previous years of choral training, a history of good conduct, excellent work ethic and the ability to sight-read and move quickly through rehearsals. Members are encouraged to audition for the All-Region Choir. Members are required to participate in all dress rehearsals and concerts, as well as the UIL Concert & Sight-reading contest All members are expected to maintain a record of excellent conduct in order to keep a place in this Junior Varsity Choir. Members may be placed in another choir if all requirements are not maintained.

Show Choir-8th Period

By audition only, this is a mixed competitive and recruitment choir that will focus on performing music of a contemporary style. This group requires dancing skill as well. Members must maintain Excellent conduct and grade eligibility. Members are required to participate in all dress rehearsals, competitions, and concerts. All members are expected to maintain a record of excellent conduct and grade eligibility in order to keep a place in this choir

STUDENT GUIDELINES

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Unlike academic classes, enrichment classes are performance based. Therefore, it is impossible to “make up” missed classes, sectionals, rehearsals and concerts. Unexcused absences from any of the above activities will lower your grade in to following manners: -20 points per missed class, rehearsal, sectional (out of a 100-weekly grade) and a 0 for any missed concerts (two test grades). If you are absent from school the day of a dress rehearsal or concert, you **MUST** email the director. In the event of a conflict with another scheduled school activity, it is the responsibility of the **STUDENT** to notify the sponsors of the conflicting activity. The sponsors will determine student’s obligation.

ELIGIBILITY

UIL no longer requires grade eligibility in order for students to compete in the UIL concert & Sight Reading Competition. However, students that refuse to participate in class, miss required rehearsals, and/or earn less than a satisfactory (**S**) for conduct in any class may be uninvited to competitions, field trips, concerts, or any other choir related event per the director’s discretion. Grade eligibility still applies to Show Choir and Region Auditions!

CONCERTS

Concerts are the ultimate evaluation of many weeks of hard work and preparation. It is the equivalent of a final exam. **Each missed performance will result in two zeros as a major test grade along with a zero as a Quiz grade.** One test grade is for on stage participation and the second for audience behavior. The quiz grade is for arriving on time at the call time (usually 45 minutes before the concert begins). Students and parents are responsible for keeping up with dates and times of activities scheduled in the choir calendar. All students must remain for the duration of the concert. Reminders about concert will be posted via social media!

There are 2 required concert for ALL students and 2 additional performances for students that are competing in the UIL concert & competition. Transportation to and from Rosemont MS will be provided for UIL concert & Sight-reading events. Students will also be transported to South Hills High School for our Winter Concert on December 5. However, students will **NOT** be transported back to Rosemont MS after the Winter Concert and must be picked up from South Hills High School at Approximately 8 pm. Students must also have their own transportation to and from South Hills HS for our Spring Show on April 28.

UIL CONCERT AND SIGHTREADING CONTEST

Much of the spring semester is spent in preparation for the UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Students must show individual preparation and work ethic to participate in this contest. Only those who are musically ready and have excellent conduct will represent the choir at any off-campus performance/contest. Selection for participation is at the discretion of the director.

TARDIES

Students will receive -5 daily points for every tardy. After the first tardy, a parent phone call will be made. If tardiness continues to be an issue, before school, lunch, or after school detention will follow. On time means in your seat with all supplies **BEFORE** the bell starts ringing.

GUM

Chewing gum is not allowed during rehearsals under any circumstance. It is a safety hazard and it can damage equipment. Students have choked on gum while singing in other schools throughout the country. If a student is caught with gum during rehearsal, they will receive a zero for the day for putting their lives in danger.

RESTROOM POLICY

Students will be given three restroom/leave tickets per six weeks. Restroom tickets will also serve as a “leave” pass for water or to see the counselor. Students must have a pass in order to be allowed to leave the classroom. Exceptions can be made on a case by case/emergency situations. Students who do not use up their passes will be eligible for a drawing at the end of the six weeks. Students who fail sign out.in properly will lose their lave privileges for the remainder of the six weeks.

WATER

Students are highly encouraged to bring a water bottle to choir. Water will be available in the choir room for water bottle refills only (a pass will not be required) no cups will be provided. Students may leave their bottle in the choir room.

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONICS

Cell phones and all other electronics should not be visible or audible in any rehearsal during or after school. Any cell phone that is out during class time will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day on the first offense. The second time and thereafter, the students’ phone will be turned into the front office and a parent will have to pay \$15.00 in order to pick it up.

NO CELL PHONES PERMITTED ON YOUR PERSON DURING A PERFORMANCE. This includes sitting in the audience! If it comes to a director’s attention that a choir student has used their phone during a rehearsal or abused cell phone rules during a concert, it will result in a lowered performance grade and that student may be removed from Varsity choirs. **DON’T RISK IT!** It is unprofessional, rude, and shows a lack of interest and respect in our process.

GRADING

Grades will be assessed on a percentage system as follows:

- Daily Participation (in class and outside of school): 50%
 - Weekly participation grades (20 points are allotted per day, equaling 100 for the week. (Students may lose points due to not following the classroom procedures and expectations)
 - Students will have points deducted for the following violations.
 - -5 points: no music/binder, no pencil, chewing gum, tardy, out of seat without permission, each reprimand for behavior or other disruptions, or redirect to participate.
 - -20 points: failure/refusal to participate
 - -20 points: disrespect to teacher or fellow classmates
- Classroom Assignments and Quizzes: 10%
 - Students will be routinely quizzed on sight-reading skills and for knowledge of the music in class. Quizzes are to check for comprehension and to encourage closer study of music and sight-reading materials.
 - Arriving on time by the “Call Time”
 - Binder/Supply Checks
 - Binder/Supply checks will be given at random. Binder must be nicely kept, have your pencil and music, music must have a given markings. **BINDER MUST STAY IN CLASS** unless instructed to do so otherwise. If you mistreat your binder and it is not in an acceptable condition, you must purchase another one for \$3.00.
 - Pencils Checks will also be conducted at random.

- Major Test Grades: 40%
 - All co-curricular activities are major grades. They are the culmination of many hours of class rehearsals. Major test grades include:
 - Written tests
 - Sight-reading tests
 - Singing tests
 - Performance and rehearsals for choir concerts (outside of class participation)
 - Concerts will be two tests grades. One test grade is for performing, and the other test grade is for behavior on and off of the concert stage.

MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS

For missing any class or extra rehearsal, the student is responsible for making up that assignment. Assignment make up sheets are available in the choir room. For any missed Concert, the student is required to complete one of the make-up assignments below and must turned in a parent note on why the concert was missed. Unexcused absence grades will be replaced up to a 70, excused absences up to a 100. A student has the same amount of days they are absent to complete the assignment. For example: if the student is absent on Monday, they have Tuesday to complete the assignment and must turn it in on Wednesday. School related events and State/District Exams will not count as a class absence.

CONCERT MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENT

Students will need to complete one of the following make-up assignments with a signed parent note. Assignment is due within 3 days after the missed concert.

1. Music History Research Paper on ONE (1) of the following composers: Bach, Haydn, Beethoven, Mozart, Schumann, Brahms, Mahler. The paper must be 2 pages typed, 12-point font, and must include the following information: Date and place of birth, date of place of death, number of compositions (opera, symphony, piano, vocal, etc.), and explain one of their most known pieces. Students need to listen to a recording of this piece and explain what they enjoyed about this piece of music.
2. Attend a choral concert, symphony, school band or school orchestra concert and provide a copy of the program you attended with a signature from the director. Write a 2-page typed, 12-point font report on the pieces of music that you heard, including the composer names for each piece. Explain what you liked and didn't like about the performance and explain what you would have done differently.

ALL CITY/ALL REGION/SOLO & ENSEMBLE

Several independent singing opportunities will be available for students. All City and All Region is a process where students compete against other students in FWISD, Mansfield ISD, and Arlington ISD. Students learn three songs and audition for 5 judges in order to earn a place in the All City/All Region choirs. Students who are selected will perform in a large concert. For Solo & Ensemble, students learn one song and perform for one judge. Students are rated from a one to a five, one being the highest rating. Students who earn the highest ratings will receive a medal.

EXTRA CREDIT

Students will receive extra credit points for the following:

- All City/Region Choir Auditions
- Solo & Ensemble
- Attend extra rehearsals
- Wearing choir t-shirt on Fridays

Students may also earn up to 40 points on their lowest daily or quiz grade if they provide any of these following materials the last week of each six weeks. 10 points per item, no more than 40 points will be given.

- Tissues
- Paper Towels
- Lysol Spray
- Wet Wipes
- Highlighters
- Dry-Erase Markers
- Disinfecting Wipes

DAILY EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to follow and abide by all the classroom procedures that have been learned in class. Most importantly students should respect themselves, others, materials, equipment, and the property.

CONSEQUENCES

These are the consequences for not following the proper behavior and expectations:

- 1st offense: Verbal Warning
- 2nd offense: Teacher/Student Conference
- 3rd offense: Parent email/Phone call
- 4th Offense: Parent Conference
- 5th Offense: Office Referral

*****Students may lose eligibility to attend field trips and other events due to behavior issues*****

If a student cannot properly behave at school, I cannot trust them to behave off campus.

CHOIR T-SHIRT and SUPPLIES

Each student in choir is required to have their own 2019-2020 Rosemont Choir T-shirt for the whole school year. The cost of the shirt is \$25.00 per student. This choir t-shirt is mandatory and will be used for all informal concerts and all extra-curricular events. If paying with check, please make it out to Rosemont Middle School.

The t-shirt includes the following mandatory supplies:

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|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| •Pencils | •Highlighters | •Uniform Rental | •Sanitary Supplies |
| •Heavy Duty Black Binder | •Dinner and Bus for Winter Concert | •Uniform Cleaning | •Pencil Bag Rental |
| •Music for the Year | •Pianist Fees | •Dry Erase Markers | •Competition Fees |

NOTE: Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Romero if you need any financial assistance with the choir t-shirt and supplies money by sending a handwritten note or email explaining the situation. Payment plans can be established on an individual basis as needed.

ADDITIONAL CHOIR COSTS Field Trips and Hoodies will be an additional cost. Throughout the year we will also fundraise, which will help lower anticipated costs.

MUSIC AND UNIFORMS

Wearing the correct uniform is for a grade. You will be responsible for a Choir uniform and music throughout the year. Just as you are expected to return textbooks to the school, we expect you to return your music and uniform to the choir department. Your choir uniform will be checked out to you a few hours before each concert. The uniform should be returned in excellent condition after the concert. If the choral uniform is lost or damaged, the student will be financially responsible for a replacement. Please take care of things to avoid fines or replacement fees. The replacement cost for the ladies' black dress is \$75 and the replacement cost for the men's tuxedo set is \$100. Uniform for events is the following:

- **Uniform for Field Trips, Informal Concerts, Events, and Spring Concert:** 2019-2020 Rosemont Choir T-Shirt, CLOSED-TOED shoes, and BLUE JEANS. No shorts, sweatpants, or joggers (unless otherwise specified).
- **For formal Concerts and UIL the uniform is the following:**

- Ladies- Black dress which will be provided by the school. Student must provide black knee-high socks/pantyhose and black flats/low dress heel.
- Gentlemen-Black Slacks, Black Shirt, Black Vest, and Green Tie/Bowtie which will be provided by the school. Student must provide black dress shoes and black dress socks.

Black dress socks/pantyhose can be found at Dollar Tree! Black Flats and Black Dress shoes can be found at thrift stores or Ross for a better price. Shoes do not have to be new, however, they must be clean and look presentable.

Hair must be combed out of the face for ALL students. Ladies are required to have a have their hair half up/half down for all formal concerts (example UIL and Winter Concert). Example pictures will be available on the choir website (rosemontchoirs.com). A rhinestone headband and necklace will be provided for the ladies to wear at UIL competition. No other jewelry will be allowed for any performance other than small stud earrings.

FUNDRAISING

Throughout the school year, the Rosemont Choir will be hosting several fundraisers. The profit made from these fundraisers is for the students' benefit. Proceeds will go towards the following: Purchase of more uniforms, bus transportation cost, UIL pianist fees, competition fees, new audio equipment, food for social events, reduce price of field trips, reduce the cost of the Musical Arts Banquet at the end of the year, and miscellaneous expenditures that may arise.

***Choir Students are expected to participate in all fundraisers. This year, our two major fundraisers will be selling World's Finest Chocolate Bars in September and Cash Cow Gourmet Popcorn in January.

ROSEMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Be in your assigned seat with all supplies BEFORE the bell rings
2. Please refrain from talking during rehearsal unless directed to do so.
3. Do not chew gum or bring any kind of food, candy or beverage (except water) into the Choir Room.
4. Be an active participant in rehearsal! If you are unable to do this, consult with a director before class begins.
5. Check all dates for rehearsals, sectionals, concerts and other events on the choir calendar. Be there! (Attendance at after school rehearsals and Concerts is mandatory and is considered separate grades!) Transportation issues, work or babysitting will not be accepted as excused absences from rehearsals, sectionals or concerts.
6. I have read and understand the Rosemont Middle Choral Department grading procedures.
7. I am personally responsible for the upkeep and return of my assigned choral uniform.
8. Actively Participate in all fundraising Events.