



Alamo Heights High School Choir Department

6900 Broadway St. | San Antonio, TX 78209

Choir - Piano - Guitar - Music Theory

Alamo Heights Choir Handbook

Welcome to all of our choir students and families! We cannot wait to begin the year with your child, and want to assure you that Alamo Heights Choir is a safe and supportive place for all students. On a busy, populous campus like AHHS, our students find their home here in the choir room, and we are eager to welcome them in. Thank you for trusting your students to us on this journey, as we grow together in learning and loving music.

I. CALENDAR

See the attached calendar for the entire year. Required activities are **BOLDED**.

II. UNIFORMS

The school provides your child with a formal uniform: concert uniform gown or formal tuxedo. Students are required to purchase and maintain their own shoes and socks. Footwear for dresses are to be closed-toe black shoes; tuxedos require black dress shoes and socks. Once assigned, students are responsible for their uniform, and liable for any loss or damages beyond normal wear and tear.

III. CONCERTS

ALL CONCERTS ARE REQUIRED. Choir is a team activity; student attendance has an impact on the entire ensemble. Concert performances are the culmination of weeks of hard work and preparation, and are graded as a test/major project grade. Failure to attend and perform may result in a failing grade for that nine-weeks grading period. Repeated concert absences may result in removal from choir. Concert absences may only be excused in cases of personal illness or family emergency, as well as COVID-19 precautions consistent with the AHISD health protocols. A work conflict or transportation complication may not be considered as an excused absence.

IV. EXTRA REHEARSALS

There are no regularly scheduled choir rehearsals outside of the school day. Region choir and other tutoring opportunities will be posted in the choir room. Should the need for a mandatory out-of-school rehearsal arise, students will be notified at least two weeks prior to the required rehearsal.

V. ELIGIBILITY

The directors will be working with choir students to monitor their grades and maintain academic eligibility in all of their classes. Academic eligibility is a requirement for participation in UIL Solo/Ensemble, TMEA Region, Pre-Area, and Area competitions, the AHHS Musical, and any other competitive vocal event.

VI. GRADING

Assessments in choir vary throughout each nine weeks. These may include assessments of music literacy, sight reading, recorded singing tests, written work, concert performances and critiques, and measurement of daily classroom achievement. The grading categories and weighting are as follows:

Classwork: (60%) Daily grades, in-class activities, and assignments
Major Grades: (40%) Concerts, major projects, and tests

VII. STUDENT FEES

Students enrolled in choir must pay a \$50 activity fee before the first performance (10/13.) This fee covers uniform dry cleaning and repairs, class materials, and a choir t-shirt. A breakdown of the choir costs and fees will



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be provided at the parent informational meeting. Students with any outstanding obligation may not be allowed to participate in choir activities until the obligation is paid.

The choir fee can be paid in class by check payable to AHISD or online at the AHHS PTSO Website:
alamoheightspto.membershiptoolkit.com

IX. Student Expectations

The following is expected at each rehearsal:

- 1) Be on time
- 2) Have your music and a pencil
- 3) Be engaged in rehearsal by listening and participating
- 4) Behave with respect towards teachers and classmates

X. VOICE LESSONS

Optional voice lessons are available from our accomplished and professional voice teacher Ms. Julieta García Reyes through in-class pullouts in the Music Building practice rooms. The lessons are \$25/each. A limited number of partial scholarships are available through the Choir Boosters. If interested, please request, fill out, and return a scholarship form ASAP. If you are interested in private voice lessons with Ms. García Reyes, please ask your director for an information sheet and contract.

XI. CONTACT

Choir Director email addresses

David Short dshort@ahisd.net
Linda Wilson lwilson@ahisd.net

Choir Office Phone: (210) 820-8850 ext. 5751

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

Learning proper behavior during a concert is part of your child's choral music education. We ask students and parents to abide by the following rules of concert etiquette

- 1) Late arrivals should wait to be seated during applause between numbers.
- 2) Remain seated for the entire concert. Leaving early is a sign of disrespect for the performers and is a distraction for the audience.
- 3) Hold your applause until the director's hands are lowered at the conclusion of each song.
- 4) All children must remain seated with parents and should be removed immediately if restless or crying.
- 5) Yelling or calling out an individual's name is not appropriate in a formal concert. Strong performances merit strong applause; superior performances merit a standing ovation.
- 6) Turn off all cell phones and sound devices for the duration of the concert.
- 7) Refrain from talking during a performance.
- 8) Please take photographs between numbers. A flash photo will cause students to lose concentration on stage.