

PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE HANDBOOK FOR THE CHORAL PROGRAM. STUDENTS WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR ALL INFORMATION IN THE HANDBOOK. STUDENTS AND PARENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SIGN A DOCUMENT STATING THAT THEY HAVE READ AND ABIDE BY THE NCISD/KCMS CHORAL HANDBOOK.

KEEFER CROSSING MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORAL HANDBOOK

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Mission- The New Caney Independent School District Choral Program will develop confident, successful, literate musicians and will foster love and appreciation for music through high quality artistry. This is accomplished by creating a culture of excellence through student-centered instruction with parental and community engagement.

Objectives:

1. To emphasize the development of singing and music reading skills necessary to make an enjoyable contribution to a quality choral organization.
2. To enjoy making music. **Music is fun, but there is no fun in mediocrity.** *To ensure the success of the group, each student, parent, and director must realize his/her responsibilities. Each must be willing to sacrifice individual desires for the betterment of the choir.*
3. To have a good attitude about choir. The amount of satisfaction and fun you receive from your choir will be no greater than the amount of hard work and enthusiasm you are willing to consistently contribute. Your attitude will have a direct impact on your achievements.
4. To understand the importance of proper conduct, consideration of others, and courtesy as a vital part of the choir.

General Expectations

- A. Upon entering the choir classroom, a student should immediately retrieve their assigned choir materials and place their personal materials on the provided benches. Nothing should be on the risers except the student and the correct choral materials.
- B. Students must be sitting in their assigned seats in the choir room with their assigned materials and a sharpened pencil when the bell rings, or the student will be marked tardy. (This means sharpen the pencil in a previous class or before the bell rings)

- C. Students are not allowed to play the piano without permission from the teacher.
- D. Permission must be granted to enter the office, or practice rooms.
- E. Gum is not permitted during rehearsals or performances. No food or drink will be allowed. Water is available at the water fountain in the classroom. No water bottles at the seat.
- F. Students are allowed to write directions (notes) on his/her music with PENCIL only.
- G. The teacher, not the bell, dismisses students.
- H. When a visitor enters the room, pride in the choir program will be demonstrated by the courteous behavior of each student.
- I. Honesty, integrity, and self-discipline are a must at all times.
- J. Behavior Expectations and Consequences will be based on Campus Expectations

Classroom Grading

Students begin each grading period with a grade of 100 and are encouraged to maintain that average by their diligent effort, quality mastery of work, and daily rehearsal participation through regular attendance and punctuality. Daily grades are assessed for each day's rehearsal and may include such areas as class rehearsal attendance: having music and pencil in hand and ready to use, rehearsal focus, consistent positive class participation, promptness in getting on risers, breathing technique, energy and interest in class work, posture, attentiveness in rehearsal, vowel production, diction, and choral and vocal techniques.

Grading:

- The grades will follow district guidelines. Students will receive a minimum of 9 daily grades and 3 major grades each nine week grading period. Daily grades account for 40% of the grade average while Major grades account for the remaining 60%.
- The process of student assessment will include the evaluation of individual performance, achievement and improvement, knowledge of music performed, class assignments and assessments, attendance, and participation in rehearsals and concerts.

Class Participation: includes attending class and exhibiting appropriate rehearsal behaviors as well as coming prepared to class; music/pencil/folder, following classroom direction; participating in singing, sight reading, and all activities.

Assessments: for the following categories: sight-singing, rhythmic dictation, melodic dictation, music theory concepts, and voice testing

Class Assignments: any assignment to be completed during the class period

Concert participation: **All concerts are a major grade.** Concerts throughout the year allow students the opportunity to showcase their hard work and achievements. Since each and every student is a valued, contributing member of the ensemble, **attendance and participation in all concerts is required.** *In the event that a student must miss a*

concert for unforeseen circumstances, a doctor's note or parent excuse will be required and a makeup assignment must be completed. I MUST have a written excuse (from the parent, NOT the student) BEFORE a concert for it to be considered excused.

Eligibility (for Competitions and Festivals - NOT school performances)

No student shall take part in choral extra-curricular activities that is not passing all classes at the end of each six week grading period with a grade of 70 or above. A student may "regain" their eligibility after 3 weeks if they are passing everything with a grade of 70 or above. **This is mandated by House Bill 72 and is not a negotiable issue.** These dates do not line up with the 9 weeks' report cards.

Concerts and performances are considered part of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Choir and all students can participate regardless of eligibility unless otherwise specified by the director. All students are required to participate in concerts unless excused by the director prior to the event.

UNIFORMS

Every student within the KCMS Choral Program will be required to have a uniform. The uniform requirements vary from choir to choir. Please find your students choir class below and read the required uniform and information.

Beginner Choir - 6th grade boys and girls - choir t-shirt (\$10 choral fee) and nice jeans. No holes, rips, frays, or bleached spots are acceptable dress for on stage. Closed toe shoes are the required footwear. Flip flops and sandals are not allowed on stage.

Intermediate Choir - 7th and 8th grade boys and girls NOT in a competitive choir class. - choir t-shirt (\$10 choral fee) and nice jeans. No holes, rips, frays, or bleached spots are acceptable dress for on stage. Closed toe shoes are the required footwear. Flip flops and sandals are not allowed on stage.

CHAMBER CHOIR - *Competitive choir. Chamber Choir will have at least two separate uniforms, possibly three this year. Keefer Crossing Middle School Choir has purchased the majority of the uniforms. However, it is the responsibility of the student to keep all the uniform clean and pressed and ready to go. Some of the uniform does require dry cleaning. The student assumes the fee for dry cleaning the uniform*

Boys -Chamber choir t-shirt (provided by school)
white tuxedo shirt (provided by school)
Blue vest/tie (provided by school)
Black pants
Black socks
Black closed toe shoes

Girls - Chamber choir t-shirt (provided by school)

Floor length black dress (provided by school)
Blue and silver sashes (provided by school)
Pearl necklaces (provided by school)
Black pants
Black closed toe flats

Let's have a great year! We have lots of singing to do!

Ms. Lisa

KCMS Handbook Signature Page

My student and I have read the handbook and we agree to follow all guidelines outlined in the choral handbook including fees and grading policies.

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____