



Matthew Fabilenia & Hope Myers,
Choir Directors

2021-2022
Choir Handbook

Ranchview High School

Choir Handbook 2021–2022

Ranchview Choir members will learn and practice music literacy, singing technique, and basic music theory. They will also build ensemble skills through rehearsal, individual practice, team-building activities, and off-campus events and performances throughout the year.

Nuts & Bolts

Follow directions the first time they are given. This will help us to use our time efficiently.

Class Materials: I will provide you with **one** black, one-inch binder. Students will need to purchase a pencil bag, a pencil, and a highlighter (recommended: orange, pink, blue and yellow). These items are needed for every class. For efficiency in rehearsals, it is necessary to take notes in your music using pencil marks that can easily be erased. Never write in your music using a pen. Expect periodic folder checks.

Use only music that has been assigned to you. If you are missing music, go to the music table for a temporary copy. You are encouraged to take your music home and practice, but do not leave it at home.

Put away all materials in their proper place at the end of class. Music is costly and takes time to process, file, mend, and organize. Students will be charged the replacement cost for loss or damage done to music that is not due to normal wear-and-tear.

Rehearsal time is extremely valuable and we will all benefit by you taking care of your personal business between classes or at a non-class time. Please do not ask to leave class unless there is an emergency. Take care of your business during passing periods or at lunch. Furthermore, you may not have a pass to leave class during the first or last 15 minutes of class. It is your responsibility to inform your choir director of any problems that would prevent you from actively participating in rehearsal before the rehearsal begins. Phones are not acceptable during professional rehearsals. If a student uses their phone, they will receive one warning to put it away. If it is seen again, it will be taken until the end of class. Students that cannot sing due to ailments on a particular day are still expected to participate in rehearsal by making the appropriate marks in their music. **If you do not inform your choir director of an ailment and you are not actively participating in rehearsal, you will not receive full credit for that rehearsal.**

Sectionals, Rehearsals & Performances

Attend all rehearsals during, before, and after school. BE ON THE RISERS & ON TIME with your choir folder, music and pencil.

UIL Sectionals- Before and after-school rehearsals will be required during the months leading up to UIL. A specific calendar for these rehearsals will be released in early January.

Dress Rehearsals are defined as the mandatory after-school rehearsals that occur in the days leading up to the concert in which the students rehearse on stage. Dress rehearsals are the most important rehearsals and will count as a test grade. Verified absences will not count against a student's grade; however, rehearsal time that is missed is detrimental to the choir. The most successful students are those that attend all rehearsals and commit to vigorous effort. After school rehearsals are required and will count towards a student's grade. In most instances, at least 3 weeks notice will be given before each rehearsal and concert.

Work is not an excuse for missing an afterschool rehearsal or performance. Furthermore, **"I didn't have a ride," is never an excuse for missing a rehearsal or a concert.** We understand that sometimes absences cannot be avoided due to illness, a death in the family, or other emergencies. Students are not expected to attend an after-school rehearsal when they have a verified absence from school on that same day. In all other instances, students must provide advance notice of an absence in the form of an email (fabileniam@cfbisd.edu or myersh@cfbisd.edu) with a contact number or by leaving a message on the choir voicemail (972-968-5062) that states the reason for the absence and a contact number. Again, notification of the absence must be given **prior** to missing the rehearsal or concert.

Concerts will make up the majority of the students' grade in choir. Student conflicts with concert dates should be brought to the director's attention ASAP. Compare the choir calendar with all of your other calendars so that we can eliminate all conflicts immediately. Students who miss a concert with an unverified absence will receive a grade of **zero** for the concert. Students who miss a concert with a verified

absence (to be determined by the director) will be given the opportunity to perform the concert repertoire from memory in order to receive credit, or they will receive a written assignment, as determined by the choir director. **Students who fail to complete the alternative assignment will receive a zero for their concert grade.** Choir is a team sport, and one missing voice does affect our final product.

Time conflicts: We appreciate and encourage the fact that many choir students are athletes, actors, instrumentalists, club members and officers. With there being so few after-school required activities in Choir, it is up to the student to speak with their other teachers, coaches, sponsors, etc. when a conflict arises with a dress rehearsal or concert. The faculty at RHS are happy to compromise and work with each other when it comes to sharing our students, so do not skip a choir rehearsal or concert because there is something else you are involved in happening at the same time. You must communicate with your choir director and your other teachers/coaches/sponsors to let us know of the situation and rest assured knowing that the faculty will handle the time conflict.

The Choir Room & Performance Areas

_____ Do not place anything on the pianos, nor use them as a writing surface. Ask permission before playing any piano at RHS.

Please use as much shampoo, soap, and deodorant that is necessary for your own personal hygiene before you arrive at school or a concert. No perfumes, colognes, hair sprays, etc. shall be sprayed in the choir room, practice rooms, or fine arts hallway. These items can trigger allergies or asthma attacks. Also, do not wear perfume or cologne to a concert.

Groom outside of class. School restrooms are the desired places for combing hair, fixing make-up, applying lotion, etc...

There is no gum allowed in the choir room or on stage. Please dispose of gum upon entering the choir room in a trashcan. **Chewing gum while you sing is a choking hazard.** This is also true for any other foreign object that may be in your mouth. (i.e. pen caps, straws, hair, paper, beef jerky, etc.)

Food or drink should not be brought into the choir rehearsal. The exception to this rule is bottled water with a cap. *Every student is encouraged to bring a bottle of water to choir.*

The only materials you should have at the risers are your binder with a pencil bag, music, highlighter and a pencil. Backpacks, purses, etc. will be stored on the shelves near the choir office, NOT on the risers. Extra items on the risers can cause falls.

Get permission to be in a practice room or on stage! No food or drink is allowed in practice rooms or the auditorium.

Dedication to Excellence- 24/7-365

If you have chosen to join the RHS choir, you have chosen to be dedicated to excellence. Part of being dedicated to excellence means actively working in rehearsal. You should be tired when you leave a choir rehearsal. If not, then you are not working hard enough to achieve excellence. Being dedicated to excellence is passing **all of your classes all year long**. This is our goal every year. Another part of being dedicated to excellence is being a leader. Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done. Your friends and teachers should know that you are in choir not only because they hear you sing, but by the way you walk in the hallways and by your hard work in the classroom.

Courtesy Should Be Common

Practice courtesy and respect when dealing with teachers and other students. Negativity only weighs us down and hinders our ability to achieve excellence. Everyone is going to have a bad day, but let's make sure your bad day doesn't cause others to be inhibited from learning.

Uniforms

The CFB school district generously provides most parts of our concert attire. Students are expected to care for and maintain gowns and tuxedos for the 9 months while they are in their possession. Please do not permanently alter these uniforms. In some cases alterations will need to be made to the uniforms for length at the parent's/student's expense. If these alterations are necessary, please do not cut off any material!

Part of your choir fee covered the cleaning of your concert uniform before it was assigned to you. Any cleaning (besides washing dresses on gentle cycle in your washer at home) will be at the student's/parent's expense. If proper care is taken, no additional cleaning will be needed. You must turn in your uniform after UIL in the Spring.

Dress Rental:

You will receive a black formal gown (replacement cost: \$90). It must be hemmed to fit your needs. The bottom of the gown should touch the tops of the shoes you will be performing in.

*You will need to supply the following:

- a) **Black** hose or knee highs (Standard colored hose, socks of any color, and bare legs are not acceptable.)
- b) Shoes that befit a formal gown, such as slipper style or low-heeled pumps are fine. **They must be closed-toed and all black – no other colors or sparkles.** Super-high heels are impractical for standing for long periods of time.
- c) Hair should be pulled back from your face. Those with short hair should make sure it is away from the face and is not to cover the student's eyes.
- d) Hair ornaments, if any, need to match your hair color and should be small.

Tuxedo Rental:

You will receive the following:

- a) Black tuxedo pants (replacement cost: \$50)
- b) White tuxedo shirt (replacement cost: \$35)
- c) Black bow tie (replacement cost: \$15)
- d) Black tuxedo vest (replacement cost: \$32)

*You will need to supply the following:

- a) Plain **black dress** shoes
- b) Solid **black** socks
- c) White undershirt with sleeves
- d) Neatly groomed hair is not to cover the student's eyes

Traditionally, Treble singers wear a dress while Tenor/Bass students wear a tuxedo. If these options cause you to feel unduly stressed, please speak with Mr. Fab or Ms. Myers about wearing the other uniform option for performance.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter. As always, we want to look our best for our friends, family, and adjudicators sitting in the audience.

Choir Fee/Finance

Timely collection of money for choir events is a necessary and crucial part of making our program successful. Each student expected to pay their choir fee according to the table below. The fees will cover purchasing a brand new choir t-shirt, uniform rental, obtaining a choir clinician, paying for our accompanists, cleaning uniforms and helping supplement the cost of travel.

Your choir fee is due Tuesday, August 24th. Online payment, via the choir website, is preferred.

(www.ranchviewchoir.weebly.com) All checks need to be made out to the **Ranchview HS Choir Booster Club**. We are willing to implement a payment plan for any student who needs it, but timely communication on the matter is essential. Students who do not pay their choir fee will go onto the unclear list and will not be allowed to take their finals until they have done so.

A Cappella: \$45

Symphonic Tenor-Bass: \$45

Select Treble: \$45

Concert Tenor-Bass: \$25

Concert Treble: \$25

Grading Policy

40% -- Weekly musicianship grade, after-school rehearsals, sight-singing quizzes, written work, concert reviews, pass-offs, pod work
60% -- Dress rehearsals & Concerts

NOTE: The performance times and dates are listed in the attached choir calendar. **Valid conflicts with these dates should be discussed with your choir director well in advance.** All dates on the calendar are subject to change, but advance notification will be given.

Please sign the handbook agreement form at , and the CFB extra-curricular guidelines forms by **August 24th, 2021.**

Director Contact Information

Mr. Matthew Fabilenia
Ms. Hope Myers

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972.968.5062
972.968.5043

[Click for Student Info Sheet](#)

Ranchview HS Choir Calendar 2021-2022

August

- 10 - First day of school!
- 12 - Junior Rep election
- 17-19 - Musical Auditions ***
 - 17 - acting/singing
 - 18 - callbacks
 - 19 - dancing
- 24 - Choir fee DUE

September

- 1 - Fundraiser Blitz, after school @ RHS ***
- 6 - Labor Day/NO SCHOOL
- 25 - All State Round One, all day @ Alvarado High School

October

- 1 - Fall Concert Dress Rehearsal, 3:45-6:00 PM @ RHS #
- 4 - Fall Concert Dress Rehearsal, 3:45-6:00 PM @ RHS #
- 5 - Fall Concert, 7:00 PM @ RHS #
- 8 - Skating social with BBMS, Interskate Lewisville/more info TBA
- 11 - Student Holiday/NO CLASS
- 15 - Talent Show Auditions, 3:45 PM @ RHS ***
- 22 - Talent Show, 3:00 PM @ RHS ***

November

- 5-6 - A Cappella Retreat, Riverbend Retreat Center/more info TBA
- 12 - All State Round Two, all day @ Benbrook Middle-High School
- 13 - Region Clinic/Concert, all day @
- 16 - Friendsgiving Potluck, 5:00 PM @ RHS ***
- 18 - Musical Elementary Preview, 10:00 AM @ RHS ***
- 18 - Musical Final Run, 12:30-3:30 PM @ RHS
- 19 - Musical Performance, 7:00 PM @ RHS
- 20 - Musical Performance, 2:00 and 7:00 PM @ RHS
- 22-26 - Thanksgiving Break/NO SCHOOL
- 29 - Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal, 3:45-6:00 PM @ RHS #
- 30 - Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal, 3:45-6:00 PM @ RHS #

December

- 1 - Winter Concert, 7:00 PM @ RHS #

3 - Winter Tour, all day @ various locations
7-10 - STAAR testing
22-Jan 5 - Winter Break/NO CLASS

January

8 - All State Round Three, all day @ Texas Women's University
17 - MLK Day/NO SCHOOL
TBA - Community Service event

February

5 - Solo & Ensemble, location/time TBA
9-12 - TMEA/Fab and/or Myers gone
21 - Presidents' Day/NO SCHOOL
TBA - Opera Social

March

14-18 - Spring Break/NO SCHOOL
25 - Pre-UIL, location/time TBA #
25 - Pre-UIL Clinic, 3:45-6:00 PM @ RHS #

April

1 - UIL Preview Concert, 7:00 PM @ RHS #
5 - STAAR
7 - STAAR
9 - UIL Rehearsal, 9:00 AM @ RHS #
11-12 - UIL, time/location TBA #
15 - Holiday/NO SCHOOL
18 - Coffeehouse Auditions, 3:45 PM @ RHS

May

3-6 - FINALS
9 - Coffeehouse Dress Rehearsal, 3:45-6:00 PM @ RHS #
11 - Coffeehouse Dress Rehearsal, 3:45-6:00 PM @ RHS #
12 - STAAR
12 - Coffeehouse Concert, 7:00 PM @ RHS #
20 - Banquet, location/time TBA
25 - Last Day!

denotes dates that are required and will be graded as a summative assignment.

*** denotes events that could use student volunteers. If you are interested in receiving hours for any of these, please let Fab or Myers know before the event so we can assign you a duty.