

Krum Middle School/Krum High School

Choral Handbook

2022-2023

Krum HS/MS CHORAL Mission Statement

To empower students with:

- ~Qualities of character, specifically integrity, responsibility, citizenship, service, pride, cooperation, and respect
 - ~The competency to achieve and maintain a competitive edge in a free market system, continued support for the Future of the Arts, and
 - ~The compassion to exercise their gifts for the betterment of all humanity
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(email is the best way to reach us)

A note from the Directors...

Happy 2021-2022!! We are excited you've chosen to be a part of our Bobcat Team and look forward to all the opportunities and growth which will take place over the next ten months! We believe in music education as a vital part of social, academic, and emotional growth. Students will learn teamwork, organization, time management, group problem solving, and leadership skills, and confidence (to name a few)!. Fine Arts is a wonderful place where these qualities, plus more, will emerge, be encouraged, and be strengthened.

FINE ARTS IS:

-**Social**: Choir is a group to belong to and a way to invest yourself in people. Choir provides a number of social opportunities as well as a great place to hang out.

-**Academic**: It is proven that music education enhances academic performance. The study of music enhances academic skills as it contributes to the development of cognitive thinking.

-**Emotional**: Students need to develop their ability to express in some way, through some form of art. Music is innate, and students can benefit from finding that part of themselves for a lifetime.

Philosophy of Choral Music

The philosophy of the Krum Choral Department is to provide students with a well-rounded choral music experience. Through participation in choral music, students learn musical skills such as literacy, history and culture, vocabulary, improvisation, technology, and much more. The skills learned in music will enhance performance in any career a student chooses.

The study of choral music also helps the student to develop many non-musical skills they can draw upon in different situations throughout their lives. These include, but are not limited to, social skills, patience, teamwork, responsibility, accountability, risk-taking, leadership, pride, self-confidence, and self-respect.

Through selection, rehearsal, and performance of diverse repertoire, the choral music experience at Krum High School promotes diversity both inside and outside of the schools. This provides students with an unbiased look into different languages, religions, and cultures, while honoring each student's personal beliefs and opinions.

We are all consumers of music; the evidence is seen daily. It is the philosophy of the Krum High School Choral Department to provide students with an outlet of expression through the singing and performance of choral music. The musical skills learned in the classroom are important; however, when those musical skills are combined with non-musical skills, the learning experience becomes holistic and assists in the creation of a better, more knowledgeable child and society.

State & National Music Education Standards

While at Krum ISD, choir members learn a wide range of quality choral repertoire, ranging from classical and jazz to spirituals and multicultural music, spanning from the Medieval to Contemporary genres. KISD choral rehearsals are centered on the six standards listed in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS):

1. Perception: the student describes and analyzes musical sound and demonstrates musical artistry.
2. Creative expression/performance: the student sings, individually and in groups, performing a varied repertoire of music.

3. Creative expression/performance: the student reads and writes music notation.
4. Creative expression/performance: the student creates and arranges music within specified guidelines.
5. Historical/cultural heritage: the student relates music to history, to society, and culture.
6. Response/evaluation: the student responds to and evaluates music and musical performance.

In addition to learning strong choral repertoire, KISD choral rehearsals also address the nine national standards of music education, as determined by the Music Educators National Conference (MENC):

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
5. Reading and notating music.
6. Listening to, analyzing, and notating music.
7. Evaluating music and music performances.
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

Krum Choral Department: Curricular
MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIRS

Bel Canto

Bel Canto is a non-auditioned ensemble open to 6th through 8th grade girls. This course serves as the training choir for Concert Choirs. Students enrolled in the course will develop their singing, listening, sight-reading, and music theory skills, as well as develop an understanding for music of different styles and cultures. Membership requires attendance at extra-curricular activities, including concerts, UIL, rehearsals, and/or sectionals.

Men's Chorale

Men's Chorale is a non-auditioned ensemble open to 6th through 8th grade men. This course serves as the training choir for Concert Choirs. Students enrolled in the course will develop their singing, listening, sight-reading, and music theory skills, as well as develop an understanding for music of different styles and cultures. Membership requires attendance at extra-curricular activities, including concerts, UIL, rehearsals, and/or sectionals.

A Cappella Mixed 7th/8th

A Middle School Varsity Choir is open to seventh and eighth grade musicians upon the director's discretion. Students enrolled in the course will develop singing, listening, sight-reading, and music theory skills. The choir travels to UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest each year and competes in local and regional choral competitions. Membership requires attendance at extra-curricular activities, including concerts, rehearsals, and/or sectionals.

HIGH SCHOOL CHOIRS

A Cappella Women 9th-12th

A women's non-auditioned choir open to 9th through 12th grade women. Students enrolled in the course will develop singing, listening, sight-reading, and music theory skills. A Cappella Women travel to UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest each year and compete in local and regional choral competitions. Membership requires attendance at extra-curricular activities, including concerts, rehearsals, and/or sectionals.

A Cappella Men 9th-12th

A Cappella men is a non-auditioned choir open to ninth through twelfth grade men specializing in the performance of men's choral music and mixed choral music. Students enrolled in the course will develop singing, listening, sight-reading, and music theory skills. A Cappella men travel to UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest each year and also compete in local and regional choral competitions. Membership requires attendance at extra-curricular activities, including concerts, rehearsals, and/or sectionals.

Chamber Choir - A Cappella Mixed (10-12)

This is an auditioned Varsity choir. Performance opportunities include concerts, community groups, and UIL Concert & Sight-reading. Members must have previously taken a choir class at KHS and are expected to attend all weekly rehearsals. Students participating in Advanced Chamber Singers must also participate in Solo & Ensemble contest. Students must express their commitment to the Chamber Choir via a contract at the beginning of the year.

SOLO & ENSEMBLE

All students have the opportunity to take a memorized solo and/or ensemble to participate in Solo & Ensemble contest for adjudication by an impartial judge. This is held in the spring.

Fees & Expenses (dues will not be collected for 2021/22; we will pay as we go)

Most costs of participating in choir are covered by the KHS/KMS Choral Department's budget; participation in choir does require some financial commitment such as uniforms, t-shirts, and competition fees.

Fundraising

The KISD Choral Department will be participating in fundraising activities throughout the year. There are many costs that go into operating a choral program and the school district provides only a portion of that money. All money raised through choir fundraisers must be used for choir purposes.

Note: Finances should never affect a student's participation, progress, or potential in choir. In the event that finances become a concern, please contact the director—arrangements may often be made in these situations.

Choir Section Leaders

Choir officers are selected by the director based on their leadership qualities, participation in, and service to the choir program. Choir Section Leaders are expected to aid the director in maintaining high standards of behavior and choral singing and should thus be respected by the membership for their efforts. These individuals must maintain good academic records, be great leaders, have good behavior, and have a positive attitude. *Section leaders may be auditioned on sight-reading and rhythmic abilities.

Section Leaders and Co-Section Leaders:

The director will choose this office, and there will be one for each voice part in each choir.

- ♪ Leads sections in daily sight-reading material
- ♪ Helps plan and lead sectionals when necessary
- ♪ Represents their section in a positive way, as a strong singer and leader
- ♪ Relays information to director about student problems
- ♪ Takes attendance
- ♪ May be asked to help plan and aid in extra-curricular choral events.

Being a section leader is a privilege, not a right. The directors have the right to remove any section leaders from their position due to poor behavior, abuse of power, or lack of motivation.

We are under the belief that the KISD choirs will excel both musically and non-musically if these rules are followed. We ask that each student show administrators and their peers respect, take responsibility for their words and actions, be prepared with the necessary physical materials for class; exhibit a good attitude, focus, and concentration. When the bell rings for choir class to start, students will be respectfully standing on risers. Students will stand or sit in proper singing stance during rehearsal and performance.

Student & Director Expectations

What to expect of the directors

1. To invest a great attitude, effort, and commitment to the Krum ISD Choral Program.
2. To develop musicianship in each student by teaching fundamentals of singing, music reading, and exposing students to music literature.
3. To provide meaningful experiences for each student while developing teamwork within the choir.

What to expect of the students

1. To invest a great attitude, effort, and commitment to the Krum ISD Choral Program.
2. To be ready with music, folder, and pencil; be in your place when the bell rings every day!
3. To encourage other members and be respectful to the directors.
4. To attend and participate in each rehearsal with 100% effort, including any extra rehearsals as scheduled, and to perform, in appropriate uniform, every performance.
5. To abstain from disruptions such as talking out during class that inhibit learning for others.
6. Persistent Unexcused absences, failing grades, participating in skipping, drugs, alcohol or any other activities that jeopardize the Choir Program and its members will incur the following consequences.

Consequences

- 1st offense: Warning
- 2nd offense: Detention/***Parent Called***
- 3rd offense: ISS/Parent Conference
- 4th offense: Removal from the Choir Program

Students must also follow all school rules. Any violation of school rules will be dealt with by the directors as well as the appropriate school officials.

When attending off-campus events, such as trips or contests, all school rules apply. Remember, character counts! We will always strive to be good citizens of Krum and Krum ISD.

Other consequences may include disciplinary referrals such as in-school suspension and Saturday school.

WE ARE A TEAM!!!

The rest of your choir is depending on you for the following:

- To come to each rehearsal with a positive attitude about working hard.
- To attend all rehearsals and performances **required** of your choir.
- To come to class each day on time, wanting to sing and eager to tackle the task at hand.....**MAKING MUSIC!!**

Required Materials

In order for successful rehearsals to take place, all students must be prepared for class each and every day. Failure to bring required materials will result in a grade reduction. All students will be provided music and will be responsible for maintaining it throughout the school year.

- Music

Throughout the year, you will be given music which the KHS/KMS choral budget purchases. Like your textbooks, you must return all of the music to us in good condition at the end of the semester. If you lose your music, or it is in poor condition upon return, you must pay the replacement cost. When marking in music, always use a pencil. This ensures that the music will be able to be used for future choirs.

- Binders

STUDENTS will need to supply a ½ inch 3-ring binder (1 inch for High School Varsity Choir) or, for the middle school, a 3-bradded folder.

- Pencils

STUDENTS will need to supply a mechanical pencil and have it on their person at all times during every rehearsal.

- **Other materials** (worksheets, homework assignments, etc.) will also need to be brought to class on their due dates or when instructed by the director.

High School Uniforms

There has been a lot of money invested in the choir uniforms. We expect you to do everything to keep them looking and smelling good. Keep uniforms hung up at all times. The following are guidelines for you to follow:

CONCERT UNIFORM:

High School Ladies: Concert Dress, Closed Toe Black Dress Shoes with black stockings/socks

HS Men: Long-sleeved Black Dress Shirt, Tie, Black Dress Pants, Black Dress Shoes, Black Socks

Middle School Boys & Girls: **BOYS** - Long-sleeved Black Dress Shirt and Pants /OR/ Black Shirt & Skirt/**Black GIRLS** - Dress, Black Dress Shoes, Black Stockings or Socks

CASUAL UNIFORM:

Ladies: Choir Shirt, Blue Jeans (this means denim and no holes), Closed Toe Shoes.

Men: Choir Shirt, Blue Jeans (this means denim and no holes), Closed Toe Shoes.

* **Women Take Note:** Hair should look neat (hair out of the face). Refrain from wearing any jewelry (i.e. necklaces, watches, bracelets, rings, etc.). This ensures that our choir is uniformed and looks like a team!

* **Men Take Note:** Your appearance should be neat, tidy, and your hair should be out of your face. We follow all Krum ISD dress code policies.

HIGH SCHOOL FORMAL UNIFORM PROCESS:

- Each high school woman will be assigned a Concert Dress, men will supply their own aforementioned black attire - ties will be provided by the school.
- Arriving at a performance with a wrinkled, torn, damaged outfit is unacceptable and will result in an immediate 15% reduction in your grade, and you may or may not perform in the concert. TAKE CARE OF THE UNIFORMS.
- At the end of the year, each student will be held responsible for his or her numbered uniform. If the entire uniform or parts of the uniform are lost, or if there is damage beyond the normal wear and tear, that student will have to pay to replace the uniform, or the parts that were lost/damaged. The replacement cost of the uniform is itemized below.

Tie	\$10.00
Tux Pant	\$35.00 *if borrowed from the choir department
Dress	\$65.00

- **Students are to return the uniforms at the end of the year clean – Uniforms may be washed according to the directions found on tag or dry cleaned.**

Facilities

Choir Room

Maintaining the choir room should be a top priority for our students. No food or drink (except water in a clear sealable container) is allowed in the choir room.

Piano/Stereo

To maintain safety for everyone, the piano/stereo and all other equipment is **COMPLETELY OFF-LIMITS AT ALL TIMES DUE TO COVID.**

Choral Office Open Door Policy- If the door is open, come on in! Door closed, please knock, then enter!

To maintain safety for everyone, our offices are off-limits due to COVID.

Concert Attendance Participation in rehearsals and performances outside of class time is part of the choral program at Krum ISD. It is impossible to make up a choral rehearsal or concert experience. Concerts are considered co-curricular activities by the University Interscholastic League (U.I.L.) unless admission is charged. Therefore, attendance and participation in all concerts are mandatory and part of the student's grade. Concerts are the ultimate culmination of many weeks of preparation and class work. Choir members are expected to be present for the entire duration of each performance. Other choir members depend on you to be there - WE ARE A TEAM.

Types of Excused Absences:

1. Personal illness

If personal illness prevents you from attending a scheduled event, email the Director immediately. Please email even if you are absent from school that day.

2. Family Emergency/School Conflict

The student is responsible for notifying the director of a family emergency or school conflict. School conflicts MUST be approved prior to the event. FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE WILL RESULT IN A LOWERED GRADE.

For illness or family emergencies, a written note from the parent is required. In the event of an absence, the following policy will be observed:

1. Student will receive two zero's for any missed concert if their absence is unexcused by their director.

2. Students shall makeup an excused, missed concert by completing the Concert makeup form within 48 hours of the missed concert. Part of completing this form is singing the music performed at the concert for a choir director outside of regular rehearsal time. This form will need to be completed and turned to their director. A student will receive two zero's if they do not complete the Concert makeup form within the time allotted.

Punctual attendance is required. On time is late!

If a concert is missed due to an unexcused or excused absence, the test grade must be made up by an alternate assignment. Two zero's will be given if the student fails to turn in the assignment. 20 points will be deducted each day the assignment is late.

1. The student must get a recording of the concert

2. Review recording during tutorials

3. Write 6 sentences critiquing (positive and negative) the performance

4. Write 5 sentences on what song was their favorite song and why?

5. Write 5 Sentences on what song was their least favorite and why?

The paper must be legible, clean, include your name, choir and date of concert, and turned in to the Director no later than 5 days after the concert.

You are responsible for following through with this activity. It is not the Director's responsibility to remind you to take care of this issue.

Grading Policy

Weekly sight-reading and/or music pass-offs, quizzes, essays, and daily work are given as an assessment of the student at an individual level. Quizzes/Tests are labeled as "Tests/Projects" in the online grade book.

Summative grading includes concerts and the application of music theory/TEKS concepts. Students are expected to be on time to all concerts, sectionals, and outside rehearsals. Concert grades are double-weighted (2 grades, each worth 100 points)- One grade is given for performance and the other is given for concert etiquette. Performance is labeled as "Tests/Projects" in the online grade book. Concert grades are figured with the following guidelines:

Concert Performance

Tardy (-10 points)

Attire Problems (-10 points, will not perform)

Misbehavior Backstage/During Concert (-50 points)

Talking on Stage (-30 points)

Attendance Policies

Unlike other academic classes, it is impossible to make up activities that occur during a choral rehearsal, thus attendance is imperative at all rehearsals, concerts, and extracurricular activities. Excused absences are in accordance with KISD policy. These will be handled on a case by case basis. Communication with the conductor is paramount for good relations between parents, students and conductor. Any conflicts, including appointments, athletics, other student organizations, etc. should be brought to the director as soon as possible. Do not assume that the absence is going to be excused. Again, communication is the key.

Independent Practice Resources (also listed on our school website):

[Click for Warm Ups](#)

www.musictheory.net (click to watch a [video](#) explaining how to use this site)

www.sightreadingfactory.com

www.teoria.com

www.therhythmtrainer.com

www.tonesavvy.com

[Music Theory Worksheets](#)

[Music Theory Worksheets cont'd](#)

[Music Theory Worksheets again](#)

If you wish to further strengthen your music theory skills, sit in on these [AP Music Theory classes](#)

Assignments and Grades (subject to change platforms)

Assignments and activities for musicians will be posted to Google Classroom. Always be checking the “Classwork” tab on your Google classroom page to find posted assignments and due dates.

Concert Etiquette & Performance Expectations

We desire our students to be able to participate in everything. Unfortunately there are times we may have to overlap events- please know we will collaborate with our coaches to ensure a positive experience.

Choir students will exhibit proper concert behavior during all performances in order to reflect positively on the KHS/KMS Choir program. Students will be graded on their concert etiquette. The following rules will be followed at all performances:

1. Be Respectful: Do not talk. It is disrespectful to the performers on stage and audience members who wish to hear the performance and does not show support for the KHS/KMS Choir program.
2. Do not leave your seat for any reason. Use the restroom and drinking fountain before concerts begin. If you must leave, ask your choir director or a parent chaperone first. If permitted, leave quietly only between songs or during applause (making sure doors do not slam shut).
3. No food or drink is allowed in the performance area, including the stage, backstage, and seating area. This includes water bottles.
4. Support your fellow choir members with appropriate applause. Yelling, whistling, shouting names, etc. are not acceptable. The audience should never cause attention to be shifted from the performers on stage.
5. During serious music, applaud only after the conductor has lowered his or her arms. During pop or jazz music you may applaud for a soloist during the song.

6. In songs that have multiple movements, applaud only after the final movement. This will be noted in the concert program. The conductor will lower his or her arms when the final movement is over.
7. Set a good example for the audience and other students.
8. Cell phones are strictly prohibited during concerts and rehearsals. Cell phones should NEVER be visible during concerts or rehearsals.
9. Enjoy the concert. This is the only time you will ever get to see it!
10. Stay for the entire concert.

Eligibility

All members of the choir program are expected to maintain eligibility throughout the course of the school year so that he/she can participate in all required activities and earn a grade. I must enforce all the eligibility rules of Krum ISD and UIL. Should a student become ineligible, he/she will continue to participate in all curricular activities to earn a grade. UIL is the only exception to this rule. A written assignment will take the place of a UIL grade. Ineligible students will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular choral trips, activities, or performances.

Eligibility: (As outlined by UIL/TEA requirements)

- In order to be eligible by TEA, UIL, and KISD requirements, students must pass ALL classes each six weeks. Students who fail any single class at the end of six weeks will become INELIGIBLE seven days after the last day of the six-weeks in which they failed. Students who fail at the end of a six weeks period will be able to regain their eligibility by passing ALL classes at the end of the 3rd week of the next grading period. A student who does not regain eligibility at that time will have to wait until the following six weeks grading period. For further information visit: <https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/eligibility>

*All members of the choir program are expected to maintain eligibility throughout the course of the school year so he/she can participate in all required activities and earn a grade.

Volunteer

In order to volunteer at your student's campus, please fill out and turn in a background check form online. Click on the following link to complete the form: <https://krumisd.quickapp.pro/>

We leave you with a note...

“A music program has to begin with standards of literature and performance, and in either regard, is compromise tolerable. The young person of middle/high school age has the intelligence, vitality, and physical ability to cope with a considerable amount of the world’s great literature, and to give him anything other than this or to demand less than a near professional standard of performance is to betray both the student and the art.”

- Robert Shaw

Choir Contract Acknowledgement Form 2022-2023
KRUM High School & Middle School Choral Department

STUDENT:

I have **read and understand** the KHS/KMS Choir Handbook concerning my participation in the KHS/KMS choir program. **I accept personal responsibility in abiding by the guidelines established in this handbook. Please click the link below to digitally sign your name in acknowledgement.**

PARENT(S)/LEGAL GUARDIAN:

I acknowledge reading the KRUM MS/HS Choral Handbook regulations governing my student's participation in the Krum choral program. I accept responsibility in supporting my daughter/son in living up to the expectations and obligations as outlined.

[Students & Parent\(s\)/Legal Guardians: Click to sign the choir handbook](#)

Any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Wheless or Mr. Hall:

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Mr. Brent Hall, Associate Director of Choral Activities

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(the best way to reach us)

Remind and Sportsyou is no longer utilized in Krum ISD. The method of communication for parents and students will be through ParentSqaure. Download the app to better manage notifications for reminders, etc. The Krum choral department is an all digital department aside from the beginning of the school year. All reminders and information will be sent via ParentSquare. You are welcome to use this platform to communicate with Directors or via email. Thank you very much!

Follow us on Instagram!



[@KrumChoirs](#)