

*Harmony*

*Rhythm*

# Era Concert Choir

## Syllabus

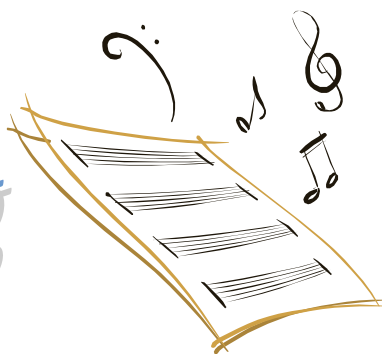
2023-2024

*Pulse*

*Meter*

*Cadence*

*Sight-Reading*



*Theory*

*Solfege*

*Melody*

*Time Signature*

*Sub-vocalization*

*Polyphony*

Miss Valerie Burns, Director  
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I am very excited for this year of choir at Era ISD! This syllabus has information on classroom expectations, grading & attendance policies, calendar of events, and many other things students will be responsible for knowing. Please read through the entire handbook, sign, have your parents sign, and return the acknowledgement form by **Monday, August 21, 2023**.

-Miss Burns 🎵

## General Course Information

**ENROLLMENT:** Choir is a year-long course. *Every member is important to the choir as a whole.* Students are expected to perform to the best of their ability every day for the betterment of the entire choir.

### **MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

All students are required to have the following materials at *every* meeting:

- Choir folder (will be provided for you).
- Pencils that are to be kept inside of your choir folder *at all times*.
- All music inside your folder.
  - Sheet music will be provided for each student for all choir performances. It is the property of the Era ISD Music Department. Students should only write on this music with **PENCIL**. Students are responsible for the cost of replacing any damaged, permanently marked, or missing music. The cost varies on a piece by piece basis.
  - If the school owns the music for your Solo & Ensemble piece, you may borrow it with the expectation that it will be returned in good condition or replaced at the student's expense.

### **BEHAVIOR/PARTICIPATION/MATERIALS**

- Students, just as your attendance is important, so are your actions during rehearsals. Distracting or interruptive behavior will lower a student's grade. Active participation in what we are doing is needed to accomplish the goals set out for the day. Attending without the required materials hinders or halts the student's ability to participate.
- Students are expected to:
  - Be on time for class.
  - Bring all necessary materials.
  - Be an enthusiastic and contributing member of the choir.
  - Demonstrate proper vocal technique as learned in class while singing.
  - Talk only when it is appropriate and helpful.
  - Demonstrate a willingness to cooperate in every way your talent permits.
  - Actively participate every day in all activities.
  - Respect *everyone* in the room.
  - **Never** have **gum, food, or drink** of any kind except plain water in the choir room!
  - **Cell phones** are to be silenced and out of sight.
- Consequences for non-compliance:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> time: Verbal warning.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> time: Written behavior reflection assignment/Phone taken up & brought to the office for the rest of the day.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> time: Additional written assignment and parent(s) notified.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> time: Office Referral.

**COMMUNICATION:** *Students are expected to check these **daily**.*

- Canvas Here you will find announcements, messages from the teacher, music, recordings, and anything else needed for class.

- Email will also be utilized.
- Remind. For any new students, please download the remind app if you don't already have it. I will send you an invitation to the choir group.

## FIELD TRIPS

- TMEA Region/State auditions and performances. Optional for all members.
- UIL Solo & Ensemble, optional for all members.
- **Mandatory for all members:** Choir Music Festival performance at 6 Flags! Students *may* be responsible for the cost of their ticket if there is not enough in our travel budget. Fund raisers may be done to help off-set the cost. If cost is an issue, we will work something out!

## Concert/Performance Information

### ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION:

- Students are expected and **required** to perform at all school concerts, UIL competitions, and any festivals that may be scheduled. Performances count as test grades.
- Everyone is expected to be at the school **30 minutes** before a concert, fully dressed in the appropriate attire, ready to go.
- Proper concert etiquette is expected at all times, including when you are performing, and when you are not, whether it is during a transition or while you are an audience member). Failure to do so will result in a lower grade and a behavior reflection assignment.

### CONCERT ATTIRE:

- **Informal performances** (field trips, festival performances, etc. Student provided.)
  - Each student will need to purchase a choir shirt for the school year.
  - All students will also need blue jeans (must cover entire leg and be free of tears and holes) to be worn with choir shirt.
  - Closed toe shoes.
- **Formal performance** (U.I.L, concerts, and solo & ensemble.)

#### --School provides:

- Dress or tuxedo (pants, shirt, bow tie, cummerbund).

#### --Students provide:

- If we do not have enough dresses in the right size, female students will wear their own **black** dress, shirt and skirt, or shirt and dress-up pants.
- To be worn with dresses: black nylons or knee-high stockings, and black closed-toe dress shoes, flats or up to a 2 inch heel.
- To be worn with tuxedo: White t-shirt, black dress socks and black dress shoes.
- Accessories: Any jewelry or hair accessories must be tasteful and subtle. Must be approved by the teacher at least a week before the performance.
- Christmas Concert only: Holiday themed accessories (including jewelry, hair bows, neck ties, etc.) may be worn at the discretion of the director. No Santa hats or anything else

that sticks up from your head are permitted as they may obstruct the view of other choir members.

## TMEA Region/State Auditions and UIL Solo & Ensemble

### **PARTICIPATION & FEES**

- Participating in these activities is voluntary.
- Students will pay for any entry fees when they sign up. After the event, the student will be reimbursed if they have participated. Any non-participant will forfeit the fees.
- Students are expected to come to practices outside of choir class. If you are unable to do this, do not sign-up.
- Students are expected to spend time at home practicing their music. If you are unable to do this, do not sign-up.
- If a student signs up for an event but does not come to extra practices, does not practice at home, or is unprepared for any other reason, they will not be allowed to participate, and their entry fee will be forfeit.

### Grading Procedures/Policies

#### **GRADES:** *Grades are earned based on:*

- The contribution you make to the success of the group (which includes active participation, positive attitude, and behavior)
- Class and concert attendance and etiquette.
- Vocal progress.
- Progress in learning about music and in the ability to read music.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Test Grades- 55%  | Daily Grades- 45%  |
| Concerts, sight-singing tests, quizzes, rehearsals and other required events. | Music Theory worksheets, sight-reading, daily work, written reflections, and active participation. |

#### **CONCERT ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

- As a whole, choir is a team activity, and every member's contribution is important to the success of a performance. All students have a responsibility to the rest of the team, and are expected to be present. Performances may be during or outside of the school day. Concert participation is mandatory.
- For each individual member, a concert is a TEST in which a student demonstrates what has been learned in rehearsals. It is a cumulative assessment of their work. A missed performance is the equivalent to missing a major test. If an absence qualifies as 'excused' (see below for details) a student has the ability to make up the point for a missed concert. Students may NOT make up points for an 'unexcused' absence.
- **EXCUSED ABSENCES**
  - Pre-Approved Absence, **READ CAREFULLY:** Student should give notice of a concert

absence to Miss Burns by turning in a note from the parents/guardian for approval to Miss Burns as soon as possible; no later than one week prior to the concert.

- Illness or Emergency Absence, READ CAREFULLY: If an emergency arises the day of the concert, a parent must call and leave a message explaining the absence no later than 1 hour prior to the performance.
- Emergency Absences: If due to the nature of the emergency your parent is unable to call prior to the concert, a written note or phone call explaining the reason for the absence from a parent should be turned into Miss Burns *within 2 days* of the missed concert.

## WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

- Worksheets for practice of a skill taught in class *may* be given out periodically.
- Students may be given reflective essay assignments. This may be a reflection of music we have listened to, practiced, or performed.

## Performance Calendar

Items in **BOLD** are mandatory for all choir members.

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Mon, October 16       | Region 2 Choir Auditions @ Krum HS, 3:15pm-9pm                      |
| Sat, Oct. 22          | MS Region Choir Auditions @ Krum MS                                 |
| Sat, Nov. 11          | Region 2 Choir Clinic/Concert @ TBA, 9am-6:30pm                     |
| Wed, Nov. 29          | Choir Pre-Area Auditions @ Krum HS, 3:15pm-8pm                      |
| <b>Tues. Dec. 12*</b> | <b>Holiday Concert</b>  |
| Sat, Jan. 6           | Choir Area (State) Auditions @TWU                                   |
| Sat, Feb. 17          | Choir Solo & Ensemble @ Sanger HS                                   |
| Wed, Feb. 7           | All-State Choir @ San Antonio, TX                                   |
| <b>Fri, May 10*</b>   | <b>Director's Choice Choir Festival and 6 Flags or Epic Waters!</b> |
| <b>Tues, May 21*</b>  | <b>Spring Concert</b>   |
| May 25                | State Solo & Ensemble @ Austin, TX                                  |

\* As conflicts arise with other school activities, *dates may change*. You will be notified as soon as this happens.

**Please read and sign the Acknowledgement of the 2022-2023 Era Choir Syllabus, and the student travel permission slip on the next page and return to Miss Burns.**



# HORNETS Era ISD Music



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## **Student Acknowledgement of the 2023-2024 Era Choir Syllabus**

I have read, understood, and agree to abide by all items on the pages of this document. I understand what is expected of me, and am willing to participate to the best of my ability. I understand and accept all of the consequences/rewards for my actions during class and all other choral events.

## **Rules and Regulations for School Sponsored Trip and Student's Certification of Agreement**

Each student is under the jurisdiction of, and subject to, the directions given by the group sponsor(s) at all times during the trip. Each student is to remain with the group at all times, except when granted permission to leave by the sponsor.

Each person is to refrain from damaging any property not his or her own. Property damage, either intentional or unintentional, will be paid for by the person or persons responsible. All members of the trip are representing Era ISD and are expected to conduct themselves in such a manner as not to bring discredit upon themselves, the group, or Era ISD.

This is to certify that I am willing to abide by the rules and regulations outlined above, that I will accept cheerfully all direction and suggestions given by any of the sponsors while on the trip; that I will abide by any other rules which the sponsors may find necessary to make during the trip. I promise I will conduct myself in such a manner that I will not discredit or embarrass myself, the group, or my school.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Parents sign the next page\***

# HORNETS Era ISD Music



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## Parent Acknowledgement of the 2022-2023 Era Choir Syllabus

I have read and understood all items on the pages of this document. I understand what is expected of my child, and all of the consequences/rewards for their actions during class and all other choral events.

### Permission to Attend and Transport

I, \_\_\_\_\_, give permission for my son/daughter, \_\_\_\_\_, to travel with Era ISD staff members to school sponsored activities in the 22-23 school year.

Please list any medical information of which we should be made aware:

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I hereby authorize a representative of the Era Independent School District to consent to medical treatment for my student in the event of an emergency on the trip.

I hereby waive, release and discharge the Era Independent School District, its trustees, officers, agents, and employees from any liability, claim, demand, or cause of action arising out of the activity herein described and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Era Independent School District and its trustees, officers, agents, and employees from all claims for loss, damage, or injury sustained by me or my student.

I, the undersigned, have read this Release and Consent to Medical Treatment and understand all its terms and conditions. I execute it voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian phone number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian email address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN TO MISS BURNS BY MONDAY, AUGUST 21!**