

Sunset Ridge Choir

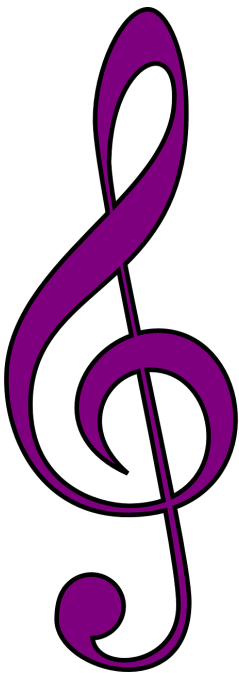
Student Handbook 2023-2024



Mr. Travis White
Director of Choirs
travis.white@dvusd.org
(623) 335-2529 - Choir Hotline (call and text)
(623) 445-7878 - Classroom Phone (call)

Table of Contents

Choir Descriptions	Page 3
Classroom Policies, Safety and Rehearsal Etiquette	Page 5
Rehearsal, Concert and Event Attendance	Page 6
Materials	Page 6
Concert, Festival and Event Attire	Page 7
Grading	Page 8
Practice	Page 9
Communication and Media Release	Page 9
Program Donations and Help	Page 10
Choir Calendar	Page 11
Handbook Acknowledgement Form	Page 12



Sunset Ridge Choir Objectives

Our choir program’s mission is to empower young musicians through the joy of singing and connect them with opportunities to create, perform and share their talents through excellent music.

Our choir program’s vision is to create lifelong supporters of the choral arts and to foster a sense of acceptance, friendship and community through singing.

Choir Descriptions

Da Capo Choir



The Sunset Ridge Da Capo Choir is a before school choir club offered to the 3rd-6th graders at SSR! This choir is split into two sections. The Wednesday morning 3rd/4th grade choir will meet from 7:30am to the school bell while the 5th/6th grade choir will meet from 7:30am to the school bell on Thursday mornings. The Da Capo choir will teach the fundamentals of singing, performing and musicianship and offers a great start in singing choir, regardless of experience! This choir performs in 2 school concerts. Additional opportunities for performing may be available throughout the school year. Students do not need to audition to join this

choir. Enrollment for all interested singers into this choir will happen twice during the school year, once in August for Semester 1 (Aug-Dec) and once in January for Semester 2 (Jan-May). When a student is enrolled, they are minimally expected to complete the semester in which they are enrolled.

Concert Choir

The Sunset Ridge Concert Choir is a during school choir class offered to the 7th and 8th graders at SSR! This ensemble meets every school day for first hour, 8:45-9:30am. This choir is a graded course and a year-long commitment! Students do not need to audition to join this choir. While no audition is necessary and singers of all experience are welcome, middle school students in this choir will be held to a high standard for their education in singing, musicianship and performance. This choir will have additional opportunities throughout the school year to perform for the school, district and community.

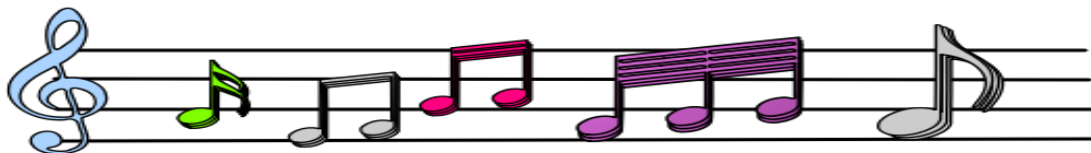
This choir performs in 2 school concerts. This choir also participates in the DVUSD choral assessment festivals in the Fall and Spring. Enrollment for this choir is year-round. When a student is enrolled, they are expected to complete the school year in which they are enrolled.





Sunset Ridge SoundWaves

The Sunset Ridge SoundWaves is an advanced singing ensemble that performs pop, musical theater and show choir music. This high energy auditioned small group (8-12 singers) choir is available by audition to 5th-8th grade students at Sunset Ridge. *** For the 2023-2024 school year, this club will be formed by auditions in December and expect to begin in Spring 2024. The group will meet for rehearsals from 7:30am to the school bell on Friday mornings. Singers in this choir will be held to an exceptionally high standard for rehearsing, practicing and performing music for the school and will have incredible opportunities to showcase their talents often. Upon being accepted into this choir, students are expected to complete the school year in which they are enrolled, and provided their membership stays in good standing through regular attendance, hard work and good behavior/grades, students can be invited back to perform in the group in subsequent school years until completion of 8th grade.



Classroom Policies, Safety and Rehearsal Etiquette

Classroom Policies and Safety

During all choir activities, including before school, during school and after school rehearsals, performances and events, students are expected to adhere to all procedures and safety guidelines set forth in the [Deer Valley Student's Rights and Responsibilities Handbook](#), the [Sunset Ridge SOAR Matrix](#), and the [Sunset Ridge Parent/Student Handbook](#). In addition, all choir students are expected to observe the following rehearsal etiquette:

1. All students must be on-time to their scheduled choir rehearsal. (please see "choir calendar", pg. 13 for more information)
2. All students will be held accountable for their behavior and will be expected to commit to a "WE/US over I/ME" mentality, meaning all actions during rehearsals demonstrate a commitment to the overall health and growth of the choir and its mission to provide a safe, enjoyable and challenging music learning environment for all students. Singing in choir is a team/group activity, and students should prioritize the success of the choir at all times.
3. Students will show respect for all materials used in the choir rehearsal (please see "materials").
4. All singers of the Sunset Ridge Choir program will be held accountable for their attendance to rehearsals, concerts and events. (please see "rehearsal, concert and event attendance" section for more information.)
5. If a student's behavior, attendance and/or school performance is believed to be inhibiting their academic goals for the school and/or choir program, the student may be removed from the Sunset Ridge Choir program after a meeting with 2 or more of the following parties: Mr. White, parent and/or guardian, school teacher or administrator.
6. For Sunset Ridge Concert Choir ONLY: Some musical pieces (typically in a foreign text) may be of religious origin and contain references to faith. It is important to note that many pieces of advanced choral literature are continued to be performed by choirs in a school setting. The selection, practice and performance of these pieces are a part of the choral tradition, and will only be used to teach music academically to students, and Mr. White nor the school at any point shall use the text to teach lessons of faith or any religion to students. Many musical concepts can be taught to students through the use of such repertoire, including proper singing technique, vowel blending and more. If a student or parent/guardian does not grant permission for the student to perform such repertoire, that does not mean the student will be dismissed from the choir. Rather, that student shall not participate in the singing of such pieces of music. The signature of the student and parent/guardian acknowledges the performance of such music in the Concert Choir.

Rehearsal, Concert and Event Attendance



A student's regular attendance for all choir functions is **critical** to the success of the choir program and students are **expected** to be on time, attend to the best of their ability and to be focused and ready to learn and perform. Understandably, situations arise where a student is unable to attend a rehearsal, concert or event. If such a situation occurs due to illness, family illness, vacation etc., an either written or electronic communication must be made from the parent or guardian of a singer informing Mr. White of their absence at least one day prior. If this is done, the absence will be excused. (for Concert Choir singers, a typical excused school day absence suffices as excused and does not need to be communicated with Mr. White)

If a student has 3 or more unexcused absences in a given semester, they may be asked to leave the choir program.

Materials

1. Water bottles are highly recommended.
2. Students are REQUIRED to have a pencil.
3. Concert Choir and SoundWaves singers will be given a folder with sheet music. Da Capo Choir singers will be given lyric, one sheet and sheet music material to be used in class and to take home and practice (please see "Practice" section for more details). Students are expected to treat all music materials with respect.

Concert, Festival and Event Attire

Sunset Ridge Concerts

Communication will be sent out closer to concert dates about the expectations for a chorister's attire.

Festivals and DVUSD Choral Assessments

For any students (3rd-8th grade) accepted into a DVUSD, ACDA or ACE choir festival (or event), communication will be sent out closer to the dates of the event about expectations for a chorister's attire.

For DVUSD Choral Assessments (one in Fall, one in Spring - **for Concert Choir students only**), the attire requirements are as follows:

Attire Option One	Black Concert Dress	Black Top and Black Skirt	Black professional shoes (Heels, Flats, or black concert shoes)	Splash of Purple
		Black Buttoned Down Shirt and Black Pants		
Attire Option Two	Black Buttoned Down Shirt and Black Pants		Black Concert Shoes	Purple Tie



Stay tuned for information later this school year about our first year choir program t-shirts!

Grading

Da Capo (3rd-6th Grade) and SoundWave (3rd-8th Grade)

Sunset Ridge Da Capo and SoundWave choirs are considered “clubs” and are before school activities. Therefore, students do not receive grades for their attendance and participation in these choirs. However, students in these choirs are expected to stay committed to their attendance and participation in these choirs for the semester and/or school year in which they enroll.

Sunset Ridge Concert Choir (7th and 8th Grade)

7th and 8th grade students enrolled in the SSR Concert Choir participate in the choir program through a regularly scheduled class. Therefore, a student’s attendance and participation is regularly evaluated and graded. A singer’s coursework and assignments will be assessed as follows;

1. *Student Management of Music - 10%*

Students will be regularly evaluated for the upkeep of their choir folders and music. This includes: the management of music, files, folders and pencils. This will be assessed 10 total times throughout the school year at 1% each time.

2. *Sight Reading - 25%*

Students will be regularly evaluated for their growth of musicianship. Through the use of online and in-person assignments, singers will learn how to read, write and sing music from sight. This will be assessed 5 total times throughout the school year at 5% each time.

3. *Part Checks - 40%*

Students will be regularly evaluated for their ability to learn their part in various 2-4 part pieces of music throughout the year. In small groups, students will be assessed for the learning of their choral part. This will be assessed 4 total times throughout the school year at 10% each time.

4. *Performance - 25%*

Students earn a quarter of their grade for their completion of performances including assessments and concerts. Students are evaluated at 5% per performance. (In the event of an EXCUSED absence from performance, a student may receive the opportunity to make up their grade through a performance evaluation assignment.)

Practice



Throughout the school year, students will have the ability to practice their music on the “MusicFirst” (7-8th Concert Choir) and the Canvas (Da Capo and SoundWaves) online platforms as well as through our website. Students are expected to regularly practice their music at home through the use of these great online tools! Students are expected to practice the pieces put on these sites to adequately prepare for all concerts and events.

Communication and Media Release

Students, parents and the community can expect regular communication regarding all rehearsals, concerts, events and more through the use of email, CANVAS, Blackboard (email and text) and MusicFirst platforms. In the event of more immediate communication, phone numbers for the classroom as well as a choir hotline have been established for anyone who may need additional information about the choir program, its expectations or events. Signing of this handbook also gives parent/legal guardian consent to the submission of photos and videos of students performing and participating in choir activities on platforms such as email, CANVAS, Blackboard and the school’s social media accounts.

Mr. White

travis.white@dvusd.org

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Program Donations and Help

Tax Credit

YOU can greatly support the choir program at Sunset Ridge through your generous tax credit donation! The best part - you support our choir AND get a tax break for helping your young musicians thrive! Up to \$400 per family (married/file jointly) or \$200 (single/file separately) can be donated. Please see <https://www.dvUSD.org/taxcredit> for more information! Thank you!

Volunteering

Parents and/or guardians will/may be needed to help us chaperone trips and other events throughout the school year! If interested, any volunteers will need to have completed the DVUSD Volunteer training. Please contact Vicki Chitwood at 623-445-7806 for more information about volunteering and training. Please note that any volunteers chaperoning overnight trips must have official fingerprint clearance.

Fundraising

There will be multiple opportunities throughout the school year for students and the community to help out choir program fundraise. Please be on the lookout and participate often! Remember, *every bit of fundraising we do directly benefits US in our pursuit of fantastic resources and opportunities for our singers to become better musicians!*



Choir Calendar

Weekly Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Concert Choir 8:45-9:30am	Concert Choir 8:45-9:30am	Da Capo Choir (3rd-4th) 7:30-8:30am Concert Choir 8:45-9:30am	Da Capo Choir (5th-6th) 7:30-8:30am Concert Choir 8:45-9:30am	SSR Soundwaves 7:30-8:30am Concert Choir 8:45-9:30am

2023-2024 Choir Event Yearly Schedule (please expect later communication about any “TBD” dates)

July 2023 Jul 31 - First Day of School	August 2023 Aug 30th - 3rd-4th Da Capo Choir First Rehearsal Aug 31st - 5th-6th Da Capo Choir First Rehearsal	September 2023 Sep 29th - D'Backs Choir Night
October 2023 Oct 5th - Middle School Choir Assessment (Concert Choir)	November 2023 Nov 13th - DVUSD Honor Choir Festival Nov 18th - AZACDA Cantaremos Festival TBD - Veterans Day Assembly Performance	December 2023 Dec 1st - SoundWaves Auditions Dec 13th - Sunset Ridge Winter Choir Concert
January 2024 Jan 12th - SoundWaves first rehearsal Jan 17th - 3rd-4th Da Capo Choir Semester 2 First Rehearsal Jan 18th - 5th-6th Da Capo Choir Semester 2 First Rehearsal	February 2024	March 2024 Mar 7th - Middle School Choir Assessment (Concert Choir) TBD - ACE ES/JH Choral Festival
April 2024	May 2024 May 14th - “A Starry Night” - a Spring Choir Concert at Sunset Ridge	



Sunset Ridge Choir Student and Parent Acknowledgment

Student Name (print)

Student Grade

Student's Teacher (3rd-6th Grade Only)

Please select a student T-Shirt Size:

YS (smallest Size)	YM	YL	YXL	Adult Small	Adult Medium	Adult Large	Adult XL	Adult 2XL

Parent/Guardian Name (print)

Phone Number

Email

By the student signing below: This student acknowledges all information, expectations, calendar dates and understands that joining the choir is a semester long commitment (Da Capo) and a year long commitment (Concert Choir and SoundWaves). This student understands and promises their attendance, effort and commitment to the Sunset Ridge Choir program for school year 2023-2024.

By the parent/guardian signing below: The parent/guardian acknowledges all information, expectations, calendar dates and understands that joining the choir is a semester long commitment (Da Capo) and a year long commitment (Concert Choir and SoundWaves). The parent/guardian thereby gives their permission for the student to participate with their attendance, effort and commitment to the Sunset Ridge Choir program for school year 2023-2024.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

