Abell Junior High Instructional Plan for Choir

Course Overview

Junior High Choir in Texas is a performance-based music course with a strong emphasis on vocal technique, music literacy, and ensemble collaboration. Students will explore a wide variety of musical styles and genres while developing their ability to read music, sing in harmony, and perform confidently both individually and as part of a group.

Instruction is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), with a focus on building fundamental musicianship through daily rehearsals, sight-reading exercises, and public performances. Students will engage in active music-making, practice critical listening, and reflect on musical expression and interpretation. The course emphasizes teamwork, discipline, and self-confidence as students prepare for concerts, contests, and community events.

Throughout the year, students will:

- Daily Rehearsals: TEKS-aligned practice focused on vocal technique, pitch accuracy, and ensemble skills
- Performance Modeling: Listening to and analyzing recordings and demonstrations
- Collaborative Music-Making: Small group sectionals, peer feedback, and full ensemble rehearsal
- Creative Projects: Activities such as composing simple melodies, arranging vocal parts, or creating performance reflections
- Ongoing Skill Reinforcement: Continuous review and application of key music literacy and performance standards throughout the year

Contact Information

Teacher Name: Danah Watson
Email: danah.watson@midlandisd.net
Classroom Phone: (432) 240-2699

Choir Classroom Expectations

Our choir room is a safe, supportive space that encourages teamwork, musical growth, and mutual respect. Students are expected to be respectful of one another, listen attentively to the teacher and their peers, and contribute positively to the rehearsal and learning environment. In choir, every voice matters, and every student plays an important role in the success of our ensemble.

Abell Junior High Instructional Plan for Choir

Expectation 1: Be Prepared

- Arrive on time with your choir binder, pencil, and any assigned music
- Prioritize daily attendance—every rehearsal builds on the last
- Be mentally and physically ready to sing and learn

Expectation 2: Participate Fully

- Give your best effort during all singing and music literacy activities
- Contribute positively during rehearsals, discussions, and group work
- Practice responsibility by keeping up with assignments and performance dates

Expectation 3: Be Safe and Respectful

- Treat instruments, equipment, and materials with care
- Follow classroom procedures and remain in your assigned space
- Use kind, appropriate language and actions toward others

Positive reinforcement, consistent routines, and clear communication will help students meet these expectations and grow as musicians.

If expectations are not met, the teacher will:

1. Reteach and remind the student of expectations
2. Redirect behavior if needed
3. Contact parents/guardians if the issue continues
4. Refer to administration if the problem persists after interventions

Our goal is to create a rehearsal environment where **every student can thrive and every ensemble can succeed.**

Abell Junior High Instructional Plan for Choir

Attendance Policy & Its Importance

Regular attendance is essential to your student's success in choir. Choir is a performance-based class that relies on consistent group rehearsal and individual participation. When students attend regularly, they develop strong vocal skills, build music literacy, and grow as confident performers and team members. Each rehearsal contributes directly to our ensemble's progress and performance readiness.

Please notify the school if your student will be absent. Frequent or extended absences can make it challenging for students to learn their music, prepare for concerts, and contribute to the success of the group. Strong attendance supports not only individual growth but also the strength of the entire choir.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the school year, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate appropriate rehearsal and performance behavior
- Compare and contrast different vocal tone qualities and styles
- Distinguish between head voice, chest voice, and mixed voice in singing
- Compare tempo and dynamics to understand musical expression
- Analyze the effects of vocal technique on pitch accuracy and tone quality
- Identify patterns in rhythm and melody to improve sight-reading
- Understand the structure and form of choral music
- Evaluate the impact of ensemble collaboration on overall performance

These objectives reflect the foundational skills needed for success in choir and future musical experiences.

Course Resources

- Chromebook (provided by Midland ISD)
- Binder (provided)
- Writing utensils

Abell Junior High Instructional Plan for Choir

Grading Policy

According to Midland ISD Grading Policy:
The summative evaluation of a student's grade during a recording period should be based on sufficient data collected in class in the form of various assessments. Regular and periodic assessment of student progress ensures a student has ample time for remediation.

Students must receive feedback on every graded assignment within three to seven days. Major assignments will receive feedback within ten days. Teachers will, at a minimum, communicate with students and their guardians every ten school days regarding upcoming assessments, classroom reminders, learning topics covered in class, and/or expectations. Regular communication may be electronic through the adopted Student Information System or other messaging applications. Teachers will maintain a parent communication log during each grading cycle.

Major assignments - 60% Minor assignments - 40%
Semester exams count as 15% toward the final semester grade

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Abell Junior High Instructional Plan for Choir

Abell JH Choir Handbook Acknowledgement Form

I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the Choir Handbook. I understand that the handbook contains important information regarding choir expectations, policies, rehearsals, performances, attendance, behavior, dress requirements, grading, and other responsibilities.

By signing below, I agree to:

- Read and follow the policies and expectations outlined in the Choir Handbook.
- Attend rehearsals, performances, and required choir activities as scheduled.
- Arrive on time and prepared to participate.
- Demonstrate respectful, responsible, and appropriate behavior.
- Take care of choir uniforms, music, equipment, and facilities.
- Communicate appropriately with the director regarding absences, conflicts, or concerns.
- Accept responsibility for understanding and following choir procedures.

I understand that participation in choir is a commitment and that failure to follow the expectations outlined in the handbook may result in appropriate consequences in accordance with school/organization policies.

Student Acknowledgement

I have read and understand the Choir Handbook and agree to follow the expectations and policies contained within it.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement

I have received and reviewed the Choir Handbook with my student. I understand the expectations and policies described in the handbook and agree to support my student in meeting their choir responsibilities.

Parent Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Please return this completed form to Mrs. Watson by: Friday, August 28th