



Dimmitt High School
&
Middle School Choir
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Philosophy and Objectives

We believe that the music education program in the Dimmitt ISD should be available to all students who desire to participate. We further believe music should be considered an essential and integral part of the school program. Our concert groups should strive to perform at the highest possible artistic level consistent with their experience and maturity of the group to provide a fundamental and basic musical experience, thereby building a foundation for a continuing experience through the school years. The needs of individuals must not be sacrificed to this end, however.

The objectives of our music program may be stated as follows:

1. To develop in the student an understanding and appreciation of the various types of music which can be beneficial during an entire lifetime.
2. To develop better citizenship. Music participation emphasizes the ability to work with other as a member of a team. It teaches the importance of cooperative effort, acceptance of leadership and the need for discipline and responsibility.
3. To help achieve self-realization through participation in the music program. Some results should be artistic experience, emotional development, creative attitudes, skill and knowledge, physical and mental health, mental stimulation, leisure time activity, self-expression, spiritual development, and personality development.
4. To make students aware of the possibilities music offers as a vocation in the fields of church, radio, television, teaching, therapy, and many other fields.
5. To contribute to and help broaden the cultural life of the students and our community.

General Standards for Choral Programs

Each student shall:

1. Know the value of daily practice and proper practice procedures.
2. Attend all required performances and rehearsals.
3. Demonstrate appropriate rehearsal discipline, including respect for equipment and all members of the ensemble.

No student will keep the director from teaching. No student will keep another student from learning. No student will in any way interfere with the personal rights of any other student in the class. To facilitate these behavioral guidelines, the following classroom rules will be enforced:

1. Be in your seat with music by the tardy bell – stay there!
2. Raise your hand to ask a question. No talking without teacher permission.
3. NO EATING, DRINKING, OR CHEWING.
4. No Studying or work for some other class.
5. Respect others and property.
6. Bring a pencil to all rehearsals. NEVER MARK MUSIC WITH A PEN!

The Choral room is arranged for maximum efficiency in rehearsal. Special care will be taken of pianos, recording and sound equipment, music, chairs, and other equipment available for student use. Such equipment as pianos, tape recorders, and CD players will not be used without permission from the director. Writing on chairs, etc., is PROHIBITED. The student must pay for any damage caused by a student. School music, which is lost, must be replaced with a new copy. Students will be charged for music, which they fail to return; the cost per copy will vary. Fines will also be assessed for damaged music.

Evaluation and Grading

Evaluation is a constant process in music and there is always room for improvement! Your grade and credit in Choir are substantially based on participation; therefore, a premium is placed on your presence and participation. Our many hours of class work culminate in several public concerts. Your participation and contribution in these performances is very important—and REQUIRED! If you ever think you are going to be unable to attend a performance, **contact me, the choir teacher, as soon as possible BEFORE the performance.** This is YOUR responsibility! Unless the absence has been excused IN ADVANCE IN WRITING (barring an extreme situation that makes it impossible), the absence will be regarded as unexcused. An unexcused absence from a performance will lower your grade substantially and may result in suspension from the group and/or a failing grade for that six week period.

* Handling and care of music

1. Music must be brought to all rehearsals unless you are notified otherwise.
2. Never fold or roll music.
3. All marking should be done **lightly**, in **pencil**, and **only** at the direction of the Music Director. A sharpened pencil should be brought to each rehearsal, **Do Not deface any piece of music.** Blank pages or portions of the music are NOT for drawing pictures, writing personal notes, etc.
4. If for any reason a piece of music is in need of repair, please do so properly with clear tape.

Rehearsal Procedures

The following procedures help us achieve the discipline and professionalism for which the Dimmitt ISD Choir Program is known. They are enforced for the singers' safety, to ensure orderly rehearsals and out of respect and courtesy for each other.

1. Arrive on time and go directly into the choir room. There will be no eating of food or drinks in the choir rooms. Singers do not leave the choir room unless special permission has been granted. Please use the restroom and get drinks before I take attendance.
2. At all times show respect for each other, parent volunteers, directors, staff and the facilities. Pay attention to the Director at all times. Do not behave in a manner, which is disruptive to the rehearsal or distracting to students, director or accompanists, or which prohibits a positive and successful rehearsal.
3. **Always bring your Music folder and pencils to rehearsal.**
4. **Choir Members are responsible for taking home any handouts that are distributed at rehearsals.** These notices are important sources of information for parents.