

Choral Handbook Dimmitt, TX—ISD

Middle School & High School

2008-2009



Directed by
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Introduction

The Dimmitt ISD Choral program includes singers in grades five through twelve. Students will be auditioned and placed in the appropriate area based on grade level and ability. The Choir is a music performance and education program for children emphasizing the development of musical skills and understanding. The mission of the organization is to provide quality music education with the goal of attaining the highest level of artistic excellence in choral music performance. The organization endeavors to enrich the lives of children from all religious, racial, cultural and economic backgrounds. The program strives to foster the personal and social growth of its members and to promote their sense of self-esteem, discipline, accomplishment and pride.

This however cannot happen without parent support. True learning begins in the home. The choral student needs to receive encouragement in his/her practice habits. Providing a separate area of the house and specified time of day have been found to greatly increase the benefits of student practice. In addition, attending area concerts develops his/her own musical tastes more fully. Of course, your attendance at concerts in which your child is performing will be the single most important way in which you can encourage his/her development. Please try to attend as many concerts as you possible can.

The Dimmitt ISD Choral program is a special learning environment designed to provide a rich and rewarding musical experience for each child. The children study and perform a variety of music from simple unison folk songs to more challenging romantic and contemporary literature. Masterpieces of music from all styles and periods form the foundation for musical learning and serve as the basis for the curriculum. Concepts about music (melody, rhythm, harmony, timbre, dynamics, form, style and performance practice) and musical skills (singing, theory, sight-reading, etc.) are taught throughout the rehearsals. Musical concepts are taught through singing, listening, and analysis. Singing is the major focus of the musical experience in the Dimmitt ISD Choral Program. Singing is a powerful means of musical expression. We hope this experience will form the foundation of a life-long relationship with music for the singers and families.

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.

Fees-Uniform and Music

- * The Dimmitt ISD Choir Program requires each member to purchase **\$15.00** for his or her choir uniform. This fee will cover the purchase of a nice polo or T-shirt (which ever is most cost effective at the time) with a Dimmitt Choir design, TBA. Students will also be required to have Kaki pants and brown dress shoes. (A uniform look is important in a choir performance!)
- * Folders and music are issued to each singer, and are the responsibility of each singer. All music and folders must be turned in by the last rehearsal in the spring. If the music or folder is lost, irreparably damaged or not returned, an additional fee will be charged to cover replacement cost. The fee could range from \$2.00 per piece of music. \$10-20 for a lost music book.

* 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.

Schedule of Events

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.

Student Contact Information/ Signature Page

Name of Member _____ M ___ F ___ Birthdate ____/____/____

Parents/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

Day Phone (____) _____ Evening Phone (____) _____ Cell _____

Parent email _____ Student email _____

School Location _____ Are you in band? _____

What instrument if so? _____

What are the other major activities in which you are involved in (school, church, sports, clubs...)

All Singers and Parents: As members of the Dimmitt ISD Choral Program, we acknowledge that we have read the choral handbook and commit to its procedures and requirements. We also agree to make singing in the choir a high priority and agree to be a member for the entire season (August 2008-May 2009)

Singer's signature

Parent's/Guardian's signature