

RMS SINGING RAMS



Choir Handbook
2018-2019

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Dear RMS Singing Rams:

Richland Middle School



Choir

It is a true pleasure to welcome you to the Richland Middle School 'Singing Ram' Choir program! We are so excited for another great year working with the wonderful students and parents here at RMS. This choir handbook is being provided to you so you can understand the policies, rules, and procedures in choir. We appreciate your time in reading through the information contained within. At the back, you will find the choir event and rehearsal calendars, **please put all relevant choir dates on your family calendar NOW!** We can do this to help avoid future conflict, stress, and confusion.

I believe choir should be a fun, positive experience, where students develop musical and vocal skills, learn valuable lessons about self-discipline as well as being part of a team, develop an environment of mutual respect and understanding, and learn exactly what it means to work towards a goal they can be truly proud of!

Through hard work and determination, I know that we can accomplish our very best together.

Sincerely,

Kellie Alderman, Associate Choir Director

Jeff Smith, Choir Director

Choir Fees:

Choir fees are a necessity for keeping your students' choir program running strong and providing them the BEST opportunities. Choir fees are split up into fall and spring payments. You may pay both fees up front if you would like. Listed below are choir fees for the 2018-2019 school year, as well as what those fees will be spent on.

Fall Fees – Due by Friday August 31st

| | | |
|----------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6th Grade: | \$10 | (<i>choir t-shirt</i>) |
| 7/8th Concert Choir: | \$20 | (<i>choir t-shirt; uniform fitting, cleaning, and rental</i>) |
| 7/8th Varsity Choir: | \$30 | (<i>choir t-shirt; uniform fitting, cleaning, and rental; All-Region entry fee</i>) |

Spring Fees – Due by January 12th

| | | |
|------------------|------|---------------------------------|
| Everyone: | \$10 | (<i>spring contests fees</i>) |
|------------------|------|---------------------------------|

These fees cover the cost of all *required* events. Some optional events and opportunities may require additional payment.

Permission Forms:

The back page of the choir handbook is a double-sided form. This form includes a field-trip permission slip for the whole year, an acknowledgement of the choir rules and calendar, and a contact information/volunteer form. This form needs to be filled out on both sides, and signed by both the student and a parent. Please return these forms by Friday, August 31st.

Choir/uniform fees and the permission slip/information form (p. 15 and 16) are due by August 31st. An ice cream party will be held to reward students who have turned in their fees and forms by August 31st.

Classroom Expectations:

In order to be successful, we must work as a team in class. The following rules are for your benefit and the success of our choir. Your enjoyment of choir depends on following these rules.

- Follow directions the first time.
- Keep hands, feet and all objects to yourself at all times.
- You need permission to use the phone, touch the piano, sound equipment or computer, leave the room, speak during class or move off risers.
- Students are expected to be in assigned spots with all required materials *5 seconds after the bell rings*.
- Besides our required materials, only water bottles are allowed on the risers.
- We must use our voices often in choir, therefore chewing gum, paper, plastic, or anything else can be unsafe and will not be allowed.

Each class will develop its own social contract. Adherence to the social contract is expected of all students AND adults in the choir room.

Consequences:

Failure to adhere to the rules of the choir room, as well as our social contract, could result in the following consequences:

First offense: Verbal warning

Second offense: Temporary removal from activities or other appropriate consequence

Third offense: Student/Teacher conference and Detention and Parent phone call

Fourth offense: Office referral
Parent-teacher conference

Any serious behavior that compromises the safety of the teacher or learning environment of the students will result in an immediate office referral.

Persistent failure to meet classroom expectations may result in removal from the RMS choir program.

General Choir Policies:

Rehearsal will begin every day 5 seconds after the bell rings. If you are not in your spot with all required materials at this time, you will receive a tardy



Each semester, students will receive a bathroom pass worth 6 uses. Students who have used or lost their pass will not be allowed to use the restroom during class time, **no exceptions.**

All students will receive a choir binder which is to remain in the choir room. This binder is the property of the RMS choir and should be treated with respect. Students who deface their choir binder will be expected to provide or pay for a replacement.

Only pencil may be used in the choir room. No exceptions.

All BISD and RMS rules and policies are in effect when we go on trips. Students who consistently follow the rules and procedures in choir and all other classes Students who do not consistently follow the rules and procedures in choir and all other classes will not be invited to go on field trips.



All field-trip payments are non-refundable for any reason. If a student is unable to attend a field trip they have paid for due to a conflict, lack of preparation, or poor behavior, there are no refunds.



Cell phones should not be on the risers at any time. Students may not text ANYONE during class time. Students violating this policy will lose their cell phone until the end of class. Students who refuse to surrender their phone will receive an office referral and have their phone turned in to the front office.

Varsity Choir members who miss 2 or more required events may be removed from the varsity choir.

GRADING:



You will receive a grade in choir based upon daily and test grades. 50% of your grade is based upon daily grades, and 50% is based upon test grades.

Daily Grades: Each student has the opportunity to earn 20 points per day through active and engaged participation. 20 points are earned each day by demonstrating the skills that choir students are expected to use on a daily basis. At the end of each week, a daily average will be entered adding up the points for the week. Daily grades can also consist of written assignments, quizzes, and performance tests.

Test Grades: Test grades are earned in several ways. Singing and sight reading tests are given throughout the year to monitor the progress of each student. Written tests are also given. Each of the required concerts (see calendar) count as two test grades.

Concert test grades are determined in the following manner:

1. Arriving on time in your chair in the auditorium.
2. Dressing in the correct uniform, making sure that all parts of the uniform are present and extra parts are not!
3. Listening quietly to the other choirs and following audience behavior expectations.
4. Walking on and off stage correctly.
5. Performing on stage in the manner that has been instructed.



**Students who participate with energy,
enthusiasm and cooperation make
excellent grades in choir!**

Concerts:

Concerts are a very important display of all of our hard work in the RMS Choir Program. Please see the calendar on the attached sheet and note the dates of our concerts on your family calendar. Concerts are a required part of the RMS Choir Program and are graded events.

Conflicts with other RMS activities will be worked out between the choir director and other RMS sponsors. **Conflicts with non-RMS activities are not excused absences.** Absences that are considered unexcused will result in two test grades of zero. Unexcused absences include (but are not limited to):

- Transportation problems
- Babysitting siblings
- Doctors appointments
- Family vacations
- Non- RMS athletic or dance events



Uniforms:

All RMS Choir students will receive an RMS Choir t-shirt.

This t-shirt will be worn on concert days and can be worn ANYTIME by our choir students who want to show their choir pride!

Concert attire for RMS Choir Students consists of the following:

- **All 6th graders:** Choir t-shirt and jeans
- **7th and 8th grade boys:** White tux shirt and black bowtie rented from RMS. Each boy provides black pants, black socks and black dress shoes.
- **7th and 8th grade girls:** Black choir dress rented from RMS. Each girl provides black close-toed, flat dress shoes and hose. Please leave all necklaces and bracelets at home. Small earrings are allowed.

Students are graded on their adherence to these requirements. Students must wear the complete and correct uniform or they risk removal from the performance.

All-Region Choir:

The All-Region audition process is an incredible opportunity for a singer's personal growth! For this reason, auditioning for the All-Region choir is **REQUIRED** of all members of the 7/8th grade Varsity choir, as are the weekly sectionals, and All-Region Choir Camp on Saturday 9/9. 7/8th graders from the Concert choirs are encouraged to participate!

At the beginning of the year students receive audition music which they are to prepare for the All-Region auditions in October. Students will prepare two full pieces of music, and audition on an assigned segment. Though students will receive help learning their music in class, in sectionals, and at the all-region choir camp, **students must also practice at home in order to be truly successful**. Practice tracks will be posted on CharmsOffice.Com. (See page 10)

Students will compete against singers from many other surrounding districts, and if selected, students will get to participate in a weekend event that culminates in the All Region Choir Concert. All Region Choir members are also awarded a patch. This is the highest honor that a middle school singer can earn!

Solo and Ensemble Contest:

Solo and Ensemble Contest is held in the spring after UIL season is over. Students who choose to participate will work with the directors to select a vocal solo or an ensemble (small group) piece, then receive personalized singing instruction before or after school. Much like All-Region, students participating in Solo Contest will be expected to practice at home!



Students competing in Solo Contest are not competing directly against other students, but rather trying to achieve the highest score possible! A score of a "1" is the best that can be achieved at solo contest, and is a true accomplishment!

Renaissance Rams:

Renaissance Rams is another extracurricular opportunity for students. Rehearsals are held after school from 4:00 – 4:45, and a bus is available for transportation home from the rehearsal. Renaissance Rams is a **NON-AUDITIONED** choir, meaning any choir member may join. The only requirement for membership is regular attendance at rehearsals and a commitment to attend the Scarborough Renaissance Festival Madrigal Competition in May.



Renaissance Rams gives students an opportunity to be a part of a mixed gender choir that performs music from the renaissance era (1300 – 1600AD), it is a unique opportunity, and is highly encouraged for all choir students looking for another opportunity to grow.

7/8th Grade Mixed Choir:

In the Spring after UIL the Varsity choirs begin preparing for Hurricane Harbor competition where they will perform as a single mixed gender choir. This choir and competition is required for all Varsity Choir students, and is highly encouraged for members of the men's and women's concert choir. Rehearsals will be held from 4:00 – 4:50pm on Thursdays in spring. Busses may not be available to take students home on these days; bus riders will be responsible for finding alternate transportation home for these rehearsals. Transportation issues will NOT be considered an excused absence.

Officers:

I look forward to developing leaders in the Richland MS Choir Program! A few weeks into the school year, students that want to be on the leadership team will submit a letter of intent for what position they are interested in. Mr. Smith will hold interviews and will select who will be an officer. Each choir will have the following leadership roles:



President - The president will start the class daily by leading basic warmups. The president will also act as a spokesperson for the class, should the need ever arise.

Vice – President – The Vice-President will fill in for the President at the beginning of class should they be absent or otherwise unable to fulfill their duty. Additionally, the Vice President will take the class attendance daily.

Librarian – The Librarian is tasked with handing out music and getting replacement copies of music should music ever be lost.

These student leaders will assist the directors in a variety of ways. Mostly, the leadership team will be an amazing example of what it means to be a SINGING RAM! If you are interested in serving on the leadership team, make sure you are setting a great example each day!



Fundraising:

Fundraising is an important aspect of our choir program because it offers the opportunity to provide wonderful things for our students! Every dollar earned goes towards things like sheet music for concerts, busses for field trips, CD's, replacement uniforms, paying our accompanist, and contest fees. We simply cannot provide all the experiences that our students deserve without fundraising. Our first fundraiser this year is a cookie dough fundraiser which has been highly successful in the past, and this dough is DELICIOUS!

CHARMS:

WWW.CHARMSOFFICE.COM/

CLICK "ENTER"

SCROLL TO "PARENT, STUDENT"

SCHOOL CODE = RICHLANDMSCHOIR

STUDENT PASSWORD = RMS ID#



Upon logging in you will be asked to change your password. If you have previously logged into charms last year, your password should still be the same.

Charms is an online service used by the Richland Middle School Choir program. All choir students should be set up in the system, and should be able to log-in. If there are any issues logging in, please contact me and if I am unable to help you, I will get in contact with a system administrator. Here is an incomplete list of all the things students and parents can do with Charms:

- **Pay choir dues and fees online via credit card!!!**
- View student balance for dues and fees
- Track cash and check payments
- Find and print receipts for all payments
- Find practice tracks for all-region, solo contest, and more
- View and print digital copies of all notes that are sent home

Parents and students should become familiar with Charms, as it is an incredible tool and will continue to be used through High School Choir. Students will receive a Charms 'Scavenger Hunt' assignment within the first few weeks of school.

RMS Choir Schedule & Director Information:

If you have a question or concerns, please reach out to us. Email is the preferred form of communication, we are also available via phone.

Jeff Smith – Head Choir Director
Jeffrey.Smith@BirdvillesSchools.net

Kellie Alderman – Associate Choir Director
Kellie.Alderman@BirdvillesSchools.net

817.547.4573 Choir Room

Appointments to meet in person should be made through the front office. Parents/guardians are welcome to visit any of our classes or rehearsals if they notify me in advance

RMS Choir Daily Schedule

| Class | Standard Times (Tues-Thur) | Advisory (Mon, Fri) | Choir | Director |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 st | 8:40-9:25 | 8:40 – 9:22 | 6 th Grade Boys | Alderman |
| 2 nd | 9:29-10:14 | 9:26 – 10:08 | 6 th Grade Treble | Smith/Alderman |
| 3 rd | 10:28-11:03 | 10:12 – 10:54 | Concert Treble | Alderman |
| 4 th | 11:07 – 11:52 | 10:58 – 11:40 | Varsity Tenor-Bass | Smith |
| 5 th | 12:30 - 1:15 | 12:14 – 1:00 | Conference | |
| 6 th | 1:19 - 2:12 | 1:36 – 2:18 | Varsity Treble | Smith |
| 7 th | 2:16 - 3:01 | 2:22 – 3:04 | 6 th Grade Treble | Smith |
| 8 th | 3:05 - 3:50 | 3:08 – 3:50 | Concert Tenor-Bass | Smith |

RMS CHOIR – EVENT SCHEDULE

| DATE | TIME | EVENT | WHO | LOCATION |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Fri 8/31 | N/A | Permission Slips Due | Everybody | N/A |
| Fri 9/7 | 4:00pm – 5:00pm | Choir Ice Cream Social | Students with paperwork and dues turned in | RMS Choir Room |
| Sat 9/8 | 8:30am – 12:30pm | Region Choir Camp | All Varsity Choir Members | Birdville HS |
| Wed 10/10 – Fri 10/12 | TBA | All Region Choir Mock Auditions | All-Region Auditioners | RMS Choir Room |
| Sat 10/13 | TBA | All Region Choir Auditions | Varsity Choir Members | North Richland MS |
| Tue 10/16 | 7:00pm – 8:00pm | RMS Fall Choir Concert | Everyone | RMS Auditorium |
| Thur 10/18 | 4:00pm – 7:30pm | National Anthem at BHS Var FB Game | All 8th Graders | BISD FAAC |
| Tue 10/23 & Thu 10/25 | 4:00pm – 6:00pm | Musical Cast Auditions | Students interested in the Musical | RMS Choir Room |
| Sat 11/3 | 8:00am – 6:00pm | All Region Choir Clinic and Concert | All-Region Choir Members | RL Turner High School |
| Tue 12/11 | 7:00pm | RMS Winter Choir Concert | Everyone | RMS Auditorium |
| Wed 12/19 | 4:00pm – 5:00pm | Choir Tour Rehearsal | Students Attending Holiday in the Park | RMS Choir Room |
| Thur 12/20 | TBA | Holiday in the Park Field Trip and Performance | Optional Everyone | Six Flags Holiday in the Park |
| Thur 12/20 | TBA | Varsity Choir Tour | Varsity Choir | TBD |

| DATE | TIME | EVENT | WHO | LOCATION |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Fri 1/11 | 4:00pm | Treble Night | Any 7/8 th Treble Choir Member | RMS |
| Fri 1/18 | 4:00pm | Tenor-Bass Night | Any 7/8 th Tenor-Bass Choir Member | RMS |
| Fri 1/25 | 4:00pm | 6 th Grade Night | Any 6 th Grade Choir Member | RMS |
| Wed 1/30 – Fri 2/1 | 6:00pm | RMS Musical Performances | Musical Cast Members | RMS Auditorium |
| Thu 2/21 | TBA | Pre-UIL Contest | 7/8th Grade Choir Members | Birdville HS Auditorium |
| Thu 2/28 | TBA | UIL Contest | 7/8th Grade Choir Members | Birdville HS Auditorium |
| Thu 3/7 | TBA | Beginner Choir Festival | 6th Grade Choir Members | Watauga MS Auditorium |
| TBA (Early April) | TBA | Solo and Ensemble Contest | Optional 7/8 th Grade | TBA |
| Tue 4/24 – Fri 4/27 | TBA | Hurricane Harbor Choral Festival | All Choir Members | Birdville HS |
| Sat 4/28 | All Day | Hurricane Harbor Field Trip | Optional All Choir Members | Hurricane Harbor |
| Mon 5/20 | 7:00pm | RMS Spring Choir Concert | All Choir Members | RMS Auditorium |
| Tue 5/21 | All Day | Scarborough Renaissance Festival Madrigal Competition | Renaissance Rams Choir Members | Scarborough Renaissance Festival |

All dates in **BOLD** are required events for the students listed. Thank you for putting these dates on your calendar today!

Richland Middle School Choir

Emergency Care Permission

This is signed in lieu of a permission slip for each choir trip

Name of Student _____ Home Phone _____

Name of Physician _____

Physician Phone _____ Parent Emergency # _____

Mom/Grandma Cell phone # _____ Dad/Grandad Cell Phone # _____

TRIP PERMISSION

I give my permission for _____ to participate in all Richland Middle School Choir Field Trips. This includes: contests, festivals, choir camps and concerts at locations other than Richland Middle School. I will not hold the choir directors, the field trip sponsors or the Richland Middle School administrators responsible for any problems that might occur with my student's behavior, health or loss of personal items.

Commitment and Code of Conduct

The Richland Middle School Choir follows school policy regarding enforcement of the BISD Code of Conduct for extra-curricular activities.

Return this page with required signatures

Participation in the RMS Performing Choirs requires:

1. Regular School Attendance
2. Attendance at extra rehearsals and performances
3. Consistent Grade Eligibility
4. Acceptable behavior as defined in the BISD code of conduct
5. Some investment in uniform dress.

Students and parents acknowledge and accept these responsibilities when placing their signature on the registration form.

Student/Parent Response

Participation in the Richland Middle School Choir program involves awareness and acceptance of the requirements and policies outlined in this handbook. By signing below, you acknowledge and accept the following:

- I have read the **2018 - 2018 RMS Choir Dates** and I have marked them on our family calendar.
- I have read the **RMS Choirs Grading Policy**.
- I understand that **ALL DRESS REHEARSALS and CONCERTS** are **required performances** that count as **major test grades**. We will notify the director in writing **in advance** of any schedule conflicts so that my son/daughter can be assigned an appropriate project or assignment to make up the grade!

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Richland MS Choir STUDENT Information Sheet

STUDENT NAME: _____ Grade: _____

Choir Class Period: _____ ID#: _____ Birthday: _____

Parent/Guardian 1: _____

Parent/Guardian 2: _____

Home Address: _____ City/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Parent Email Address #1: _____ Parent Cell #1: _____

Parent Email Address #2: _____ Parent Cell #2: _____

Student Email: _____ Student Cell: _____

Parent Volunteers

I am interested in assisting with choir activities. Please contact me concerning the following:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chaperone a field trip, festival, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with fundraiser pass-out |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with Uniform Fittings | <input type="checkbox"/> Stage Decorations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plan a party/choir outing | <input type="checkbox"/> Sit with choir during concert |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Call other Parents to Relay Messages | <input type="checkbox"/> Help drive to special activity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide food for activities | |

When are you available?

During the School Day _____ After School/Evenings _____

If you are not able to assist in volunteering, but would like to help our program, please consider donating to our special needs:

- Kleenex Boxes
- Colored Copier Paper
- Pencils