

Danny Jones
Choir Handbook
2016-2017

Dear Parents,

It is my pleasure to work with your son or daughter this year in the Danny Jones Middle School Choral Program. I hope that you will take an active part in supporting our endeavors. I am confident that this year can be excellent if we each give 100 percent of our efforts.

Research has shown that the value of music participation can be crucial to a student's overall intellectual development. The study of music strengthens critical thinking skills and is considered an academic discipline by researchers. Musical expression utilizes the creative part of the brain and nurtures a positive self-image. Danny Jones Middle School is pleased to offer a quality choral music program that will provide you and your student with experience in all areas of music education.

As a member of this choir, your student will learn that hard work will reap great success. We are a team and it takes every member of our team, giving their all, to be the success I know we can be.

Please pay close attention to the Choir Calendar and mark the concert dates as well as other choir events on your personal calendar so that you can plan around the events to avoid conflicts. All of the work that we do in class is geared toward putting on excellent programs and performances for you. I want every parent to be as involved as possible. All dates on the calendar in bold, are required events that ALL students MUST attend.

Attached are some forms that need to be filled out and returned to me. Those of you who paid your Activity Fee to me during registration have been credited. Please look at the "Forms, Forms, Forms" page in your handbook to find which forms and fees are required.

Please complete, sign, and have the forms and choir fee returned to me on or before Thursday, September 22nd. The choir members and I thank you for your support. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time!

Email: karynmyers@misdmail.org

School Phone: 682-314-4600

Choir Phone: 682-314-4619

Sincerely,
Karyn Myers
Choir Director

Welcome to the Bulldog Choir

Welcome to the Danny Jones Middle School Choir. This handbook is a guide to membership in the 7th and 8th grade choirs. Each member is expected to know and uphold every policy as outlined in this handbook. Please read it carefully and be sure to address me with any comments or questions you may have.

There will be three concerts this year, as well as Pre UIL and UIL competition, that are mandatory (for a grade) for each student. There may also be some added concerts in December and May (singing at retirement communities, caroling in neighborhoods, Six Flags Festival etc.) that will not be mandatory. The three main concerts include: a Fall Concert, a Winter Concert and a Spring Concert. We will also have a Pre UIL and UIL concert/competition. Along with Pre UIL and UIL concert/competition, students are also required to attend all UIL group rehearsals. (I will keep any extra rehearsals limited.) These rehearsals are generally held in February and March. In addition to this handbook, members will have calendar updates throughout the school year to remind them of opportunities and obligations. I highly suggest that you subscribe to the Danny Jones Choir Edmodo Account. You will get reminders and pertinent information through this site. Log on to your Edmodo account or create one and join the appropriate groups with the codes below.

Beginning/Intermediate Girls Choir group code: d3hf7e

Men's Choir group code: zjh99i

Advanced Girls Choir group code: 2m899w

Please be sure to keep me updated on your current email address so that I can keep in contact with you in that way as well.

Upon entering choir and familiarizing oneself with this handbook, the student must do the following: (Please note that a signature on the personal commitment form will be an indication that all policies and concert dates are understood and accepted. Make sure to store your calendar in a safe place for future reference.)

Required Forms and Fees

- 1) Complete the Personal Commitment form with the student's and parent's signatures.
- 2) Pay the \$30.00 Activity Fee (Helps pay for partial field trips and other choir events, Uniform and T-Shirt).

Required Materials and Performance Apparel

Required Materials List

1. ½ inch Black Binder
2. At least one Pencil with eraser and highlighter
3. Pencil Bag to keep in your black binder
4. Several pieces of notebook paper to keep in your black binder
5. Choir T-Shirt (students keep)
6. Formal Choir Uniform (partially provided by the Choir Department)

Just as you are expected to return textbooks to the school, I expect you to return your music and uniform to the Choir Department. Your music should be returned with all pencil markings erased and all pages intact. Your choir uniform should be returned in excellent condition. Please take care of things to avoid fines or replacement fees. Always write your name on the front of your music (**IN PENCIL**) and label your uniform.

ANNUAL ACTIVITY FEE: \$30.00

Each student is required to pay the Activity Fee. We use this fee to purchase choir t-shirts, help pay for field trips and choir parties, and to begin the process of purchasing choir uniforms. Please have your \$30.00 activity fee to me no later than **Thursday, September 22nd**. If you pay by check, please make the check out to DJMS Choir, with your child's name in the memo. (If you paid your \$30 activity fee to me at registration, you have been credited.)

Girl's Uniform: We will be striving towards purchasing the girls formal uniforms this year. Depending on the success of our fundraiser will determine the uniform we are able to purchase. The girls will be wearing black dress shoes with their uniform and are responsible for purchasing them (NO flip flops, boots, or tennis shoes are allowed).

Men's Uniform: We will be striving towards purchasing the men formal uniforms this year. Depending on the success of our fundraiser will determine the uniform we are able to purchase. The men are responsible for purchasing black dress slacks (no jeans), black socks, and black dress shoes (no tennis shoes). The men are to tuck in their shirts for all Choir Concerts.

Curriculum

The Choir curriculum follows the requirements of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for performing choirs, along with studies including music history, theory, rhythm, and performance of music literature from many cultures. Both the TEKS requirements and the Texas Education Agency state that live performances in front of an audience are required each semester to receive credit for performance classes.

Essential Elements and Goals:

1. Study of vocal techniques
2. Music Theory
3. Ear Training
4. Sight-reading
5. Creative self expression
6. Performance skills
7. Concert etiquette
8. Development of appreciation for all performing arts
9. Development of responsibility, citizenship, self-discipline, and positive self-esteem
10. Development of personal standards for teamwork in rehearsal and group performances
11. Music History and study of composers

Grading Procedure

Choir is different from other courses in that grades are not given just from written tests and assignments. Choir is a performing organization and grades will be given in a number of ways as it applies to rehearsal and performance. A student will have the opportunity to earn 100 percent each six weeks in the following ways:

Daily Rehearsal Points (40%)

Each day the students will have the opportunity to earn rehearsal points. If the student is on task, the points will be awarded automatically. In a six week time period, this will equal up to 100 points, averaging 6 grades together, one grade per week. This grade is averaged in with any quiz, test, or concert grades the student may have for that six weeks. A student will not receive the full 100 daily rehearsal points for a particular day for failing to meet 2 or more of the following requirements:

- 1) Be in proper place with music folder and pencil, ready to rehearse when the tardy bell rings.
 - Stay in seat for duration of class unless permission is granted to be out of seat
- 2) Stand or sit in the proper singing position.
- 3) Watch and follow directions from the director.
 - Follow instructions first time given
 - No non-refusal to directions
- 4) Sing and talk only when it is appropriate to do so.
 - No blurting out or making noises
 - Participate
- 5) Show respect to the teacher and other students.
 - No profane language or vulgar gestures
 - No harmful comments or insults
 - No argumentativeness
 - No fighting

Written Assignments, Sight Reading and Theory Quizzes (20%)

Several times per six weeks, the students must be prepared for a written assignment, a sight reading quiz or theory quiz. The sight reading quizzes will be given in medium sized groups at first, then smaller groups and eventually individually as the year progresses. The students can earn up to 100 points for each quiz.

Concerts (Attendance, Performance and Etiquette 40% each)

Students will receive 100 points for each concert. Each concert is worth 3 test grades. If a student does not attend a concert, they will receive 3 zeros. Students are expected to attend all required concerts. No student will be excused from a performance for any reason except extreme illness (must have a doctor or parent note to be excused) or family emergency (must receive a call, note or email prior to the concert). Unexcused absences include, but are not limited to: homework, lack of transportation, baby-sitting, birthdays or parties, athletic events or other events not sponsored by MISD. If there is a problem with finding a ride, please let me know ahead of time, and I will work to find a ride for the student. Please contact me by email (karynmyers@misdmail.org) or phone (682-314-4600) if these situations arise. Students can make up a missed concert by singing the concert pieces for their class period and by turning in a written etiquette assignment. Students can earn up to a 70 on each assignment for an unexcused absence or up to a 100 for an excused absence.

Promptness is very important for these concerts. All unexcused tardies will result in a 90 (or lower for extreme tardiness). Points will also be deducted for students who are not in uniform. Students are expected to stay for the entire concert. Students who leave early will lose attendance points. Concerts

are key to the Choral Program's survival. The students count on each other for successful performances. I cannot stress enough the importance of all choir members attending each required concert.

Students are given ample notice of scheduled events so that conflicts are minimal, and every effort is made to avoid conflicts with other DJMS activities. In the case that there is a schedule conflict with another school activity, it will be resolved by the DJMS faculty. Do not assume that if you have a school game the same night as a concert that you will be excused from the concert. The Athletic Director works well with us to insure that each student is attending the proper event. It is the student's responsibility to inform the director and coach/teacher of the conflict.

Extra Credit

Each student may turn in any 3 (not to exceed 3) of the following projects to earn extra credit for a six weeks. For each project, 10 points will be added on to the student's lowest grade. Extra credit projects **MUST** be turned in one week before the six week grading period is over. Extra credit assignments include:

- 1) Type a one page report on a musical subject.
- 2) Attend a musical program or concert and bring me the program.
- 3) Other suggestions or ideas, just ask.

Extra Rehearsals

I rehearse with students for Solo and Ensemble and All Region Choir before and after school. I normally hold these rehearsals from 8:10 a.m. until 8:40 a.m. in the morning, and from 4:15 p.m. until 4:45 p.m. in the afternoon.

During UIL time (February – April), there may be a few additional rehearsals that the students will be required to attend to prepare for this important contest. These rehearsals will go until 5:10pm.

Assertive Discipline Plan

Students will receive a citizenship grade every six weeks. All students begin with an E. Any behavior that hinders the process of making music is unacceptable, and will merit a citizenship mark. **NO ONE** will be allowed to keep the class from learning and becoming the best musicians they can be. Choir members are expected to follow all classroom, school, and district policies. Choir members represent not only themselves, but also Danny Jones Middle School and our community. Therefore, they will be expected to conduct themselves in a manner which exhibits respect and consideration for the feelings, property, and safety of others.

Classroom Rules

- 1) Respect your teacher, your classmates, and yourself.
- 2) Be in your correct seat with folder, music, and pencil when the bell rings.
- 3) No talking without permission.
- 4) No gum, food, candy or drink in the choir room at any time.
- 5) Respect the classroom and its property.
- 6) Always give 100%.

Consequences for not following Classroom Rules

1. Verbal warning
2. Second verbal warning and conference with student
3. Separated from group
 - Alternative written assignment
 - Possible Detention issued
 - Parent may be contacted
4. Choir Detention issued and parent will be contacted
5. Referral to Assistant Principal, Parent will be contacted

Tardies

If a student is tardy, they will be sent to the “tardy machine” to print out a tardy slip before returning to class. Consequences for tardiness will be given through the tardy machine.

Detention

Students will receive a detention from me for repeated minor behavioral infractions in class. Detentions received from me will be served in the choir room before or after school, Mondays through Thursdays from 8:20am to 8:40am or from 4:15pm until 4:35pm. Failure to attend a detention will result in additional consequences.

Severe Clause

Any act of disrespect or insubordination as outlined in the Danny Jones Middle School handbook is an immediate office referral. Respect towards the teacher is imperative.

Volunteers

I will need help from parents at various times during the year. Whether it is by helping as a chaperone for concerts, on a field trip, going to UIL Contest, or helping to decorate for a concert, party or other event, you as parents are invaluable. If you would like to become a volunteer, make sure you have completed all volunteer paperwork for MISD. I truly appreciate you and your dedication to your child's education.

Choir Dates and Concerts Note

Please note that the Choir dates in bold are REQUIRED for all Choirs specified. All other dates are optional. But remember, the more you and your student are involved, the more they will get out of the Danny Jones Choir experience. Please don't allow fees to prohibit involvement. If your student would like to be involved, please let me know. The director will use her discretion when deciding whether a student will be invited to attend the non-required events. If a student has not passed one or more of their classes, has not followed directions in class, has not shown responsibility, or has shown disrespect towards the teacher, that student may not be allowed to attend non-required choir events.

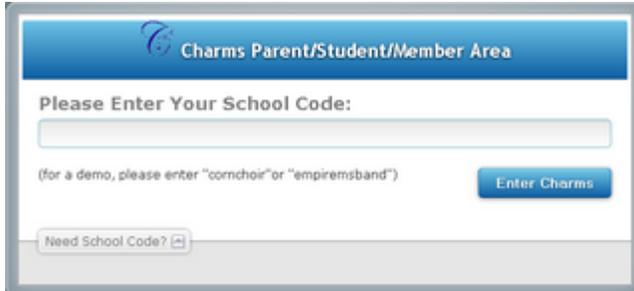
Charms Instructions

Charms is an easy way to keep track of student information and for parents to stay informed. At your earliest convenience, please use the instructions below to enter your student's information into Charms.

Log into www.charmsoffice.com and save it to your "Favorites".

Click on ENTER on the top right and on Parents/Students/Members.

Type "JonesMSC" as the school code.



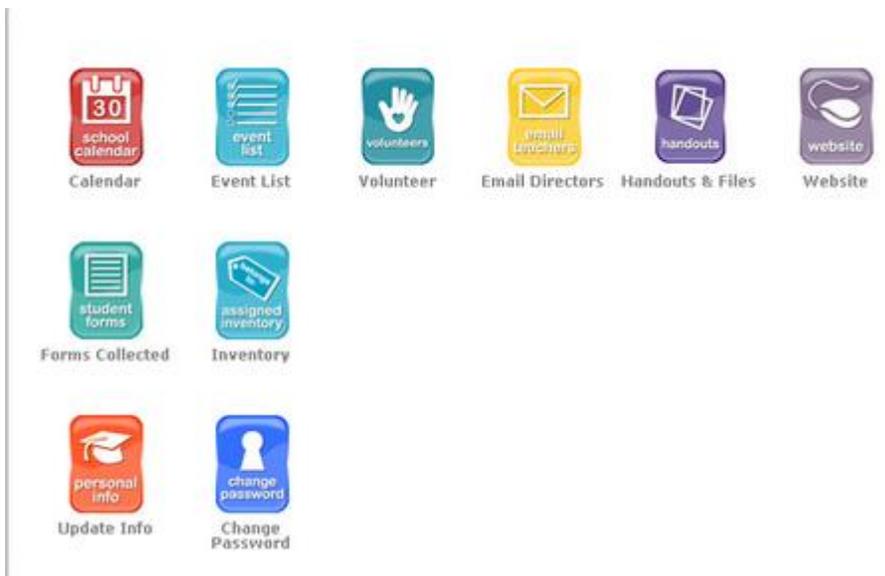
The screenshot shows the 'Charms Parent/Student/Member Area' login interface. It features a blue header with the Charms logo and the text 'Charms Parent/Student/Member Area'. Below the header, there is a prompt 'Please Enter Your School Code:' followed by a text input field. A note below the field reads '(for a demo, please enter "cornchoir" or "empiremsband")'. To the right of the field is a blue button labeled 'Enter Charms'. At the bottom left, there is a link that says 'Need School Code? [?]'. The entire interface is enclosed in a light gray border.

Type your child's student ID as their student password.



The screenshot shows the 'Student Area Password' entry page. It has a light gray border and contains the text 'Student Area Password:' above a text input field. To the right of the field are two blue buttons: 'Enter' and 'Show Hint'. Below the input field, there is a note: 'If this is the first time you have logged in to Charms, your password is your ID number.'

Click on "Update Info" and update the requested information.



Mansfield Music Enrichment Program Voice Lessons

I am privileged to offer a wonderful opportunity on our campus for your singer. MMEP (Mansfield Music Enrichment Program) is a program that allows your child to receive Voice Lessons by approved and degreed Voice Instructors on our campus during their choir rehearsal (or before or after school, if needed). The weekly 25 minute lessons are \$17 each, and your singer is required to pay monthly.

In their Voice Lessons, your singer will receive instruction in vocal techniques, healthy vocal hygiene, and sight reading. The students are required to participate in any voice recitals held by the instructor, as well as All-District, All-Region, and Solo & Ensemble contest.

If you are interested in having your student participate in this excellent program, please fill out the application in the handbook and return it to the choir director. Space is limited and scheduling is on a first come, first serve basis.

FORMS! FORMS! FORMS!

The following pages of the handbook contain a variety of forms of many types. I appreciate your time and prompt attention in returning these forms to me.

Return all required forms by Thursday, September 22nd .

The following pages include:

1. Enrollment for Private Voice Lessons (optional)
2. **Personal Commitment Page (required)**
3. **\$30.00 Activity fee (required)**
4. **Please go to charmsmusic.com and fill in your address, email and phone numbers.**
8. **Please follow Danny Jones Choir on Edmodo.**

*If you find that you are having financial difficulties, please let me know. We will work out a solution.

Private Voice Lessons

Student Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Address: _____

Parent Name: _____

Choir Class Period: _____

Grade in School: _____

Voice Part: (circle one)

Soprano Alto Tenor Baritone/Bass

____ I am unsure if I can take Private Lessons. Please contact me with further information.

____ I want to take Private Lessons this year. Please contact me to set up lesson times.

Parent Signature: _____

**Please read, sign, and return this page no later than
Thursday, September 22nd.**

Danny Jones MS Choir Personal Commitment Form

I have read the Danny Jones MS Choir Handbook and understand all the rules and expectations for being a member of this group. I understand the positive and negative consequences for the choices that I will make this year in choir. I am aware of the dates of the Choir Concerts and will make sure to be in attendance barring an extreme emergency. I know which concerts are required of me to attend, and that these concerts are for a grade. I will strive to adhere to all of Choir's rules and expectations.

Student's Signature: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Throughout the year I will need parent help for many of the activities we do with the Choir. I normally send an email a couple weeks prior to an event asking for parent help for concerts and field trips. Please look at the Choir Calendar page, and if you see a specific event that you know you want to help chaperone, please note that below. I thank you for being willing to help.

Event Name/Date: _____

Event Name/Date: _____

Event Name/Date: _____

*Please note that to chaperone a choir event, you must be on the approved volunteer list.

Choir T-Shirt Size Order Form

Student Name: _____

Number of Shirts Purchased: _____

Circle your correct size/sizes:

Youth

Large

Adult Sizes

Small Medium

Large X-Large

XX-Large

(Additional Shirts ordered are \$10.00 each.)

Choir Activity Fee

_____ Here is my \$30 Activity Fee.

**Please make checks out to Danny Jones MS Choir, and place
your child's name in the memo.**

Due Thursday, September 22nd