

Danny Jones
Choir Handbook
2021-2022

Dear Parents,

It is our pleasure to work with your son or daughter this year in the Danny Jones Middle School Choral Program. We hope that you will take an active part in supporting our endeavors. We are 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 we 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. We want every parent to be as involved as possible. All dates on the calendar in bold, are required events that ALL students MUST attend.

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 on or before Thursday, September 30th.** The choir members and faculty thank you for your support. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time!

Sincerely,
DJMS Choir Directors

Cassie Arrington
Email: cassiearrington@misdmail.org

Karyn Myers
Email: karynmyers@misdmail.org

School Phone: 682-314-4600
Choir Website: dannyjonesmschoir.weebly.com

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 four concerts this year 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, end of the year Festival etc.) that will not be mandatory. The four main concerts include: a Fall Concert, a Winter Concert, a Pre UIL Concert and a Spring Concert. We will also have UIL concert/competition for all eligible students. Along with Pre UIL and UIL concert/competition, students are also required to attend all UIL group rehearsals. (We 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. Each student needs to check Canvas regularly. You will get assignments and rehearsal tracks through this site.

Parents please sign up for Remind 101 so that you can get quick updates from us. Notice that the codes are different for each choir. Be sure to put in the correct code. Text the codes to phone number: "81010"

Class Name: DJMS Var Boys (3rd P)
Text: "@djmsv"

Class Name: DJMS Varsity Girls (4th P)
Text: "@djmsva"

Class Name: DJMS Beg Girls (5th and 7th P)
Text: "@djmsbegg"

Class Name: DJMS Int Girls (6th P)
Text: "@djmsi"

Class Name: DJMS Beg Boys (8th P)
Text: "@djmsbeg"

Please be sure to keep your current email address updated in Skyward so that we 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. You can also find this information on the Choir website: dannijonesmschoir.weebly.com; also found on the DJMS website, under choir.)

Required Forms and Fees

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

Required Materials and Performance Apparel

Required Materials List

1. ½ inch Black Binder (1 inch is too big for the binder slots)
Your name and folder slot should be written on your binder.
2. Three Pencils with erasers and 2 highlighters
3. Pencil Bag to keep in your black binder
4. About 20 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 and returned to the Choir)

Just as you are expected to return textbooks to the school, we expect you to return your choir uniform to the Choir Department. Your choir uniform should be returned dry cleaned and in excellent condition at the end of the year. Please take care of things to avoid fines or replacement fees.

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, bus transportation, and for our choir uniform rental fee. Please have your \$30.00 activity fee to me no later than **Thursday, September 30th**. If you pay by check, please make the check out to DJMS Choir, with your child's name in the memo.

Girl's Uniform: The girls will be receiving a long black choir dress. 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). The girls are not to wear necklaces, bracelets, watches, or large earrings with their uniforms.

Boy's Uniform: The boys will be receiving a long-sleeved black tux shirt and a long green tie. The boys are responsible for purchasing black dress slacks (no jeans), black socks, and black dress shoes (no tennis shoes). The boys are to tuck in their shirts for all Choir Concerts. Please do not untie the tie, or dry clean the tie. Spot clean only.

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 (60%)

Each day the students will have the opportunity to earn rehearsal points. If the student is 100% on task, the points will be awarded automatically. We will average each daily grade for the week together to get a weekly grade. This will equal up to 6 grades per six weeks. 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 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 (60%)

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 are conflicts with an MISD sponsored event, please let us know ahead of time so that we can work out a solution. Please contact me by email (karynmyers@misdmail.org) or phone (682-314-4600) if these situations arise. Students can make up an EXCUSED missed concert by singing the concert pieces for the directors before or after school, and by turning in a 2 page written etiquette assignment. Students can earn 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. We 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 ensure 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

We rehearse with students for Solo and Ensemble and All Region Choir before and after school. We normally hold these rehearsals from 8:10 a.m. until 8:40 a.m. in the morning, and from 4:20 p.m. until 4:50 p.m. in the afternoon. Your original copies of Region music should be returned with all pencil markings erased and all pages intact. Always write your name on the front of your music (**IN PENCIL**).

During UIL time (February – March), 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
 - Detention issued
 - Parent may be contacted
4. Choir Detention issued and parent may 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 us for repeated minor behavioral infractions in class. Detentions received from us will be served in the choir room after school, Mondays through Thursdays from 4:20pm until 4:40pm. Failure to attend a detention will result in a secondary opportunity to attend a detention. If the second detention is not attended, the student will receive an office referral.

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. For repeated issues, student may be removed from the Choir Program.

Volunteers

We 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, found on the MISD website under volunteers. We truly appreciate you and your dedication to your child's education.

Choir Dates and Concerts

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 students 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 us know. The directors will use their 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.

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 \$20 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, 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. Return the form as quickly as you can to ensure that your student receives a spot.

FORMS! FORMS! FORMS!

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

Return all required forms and fees by Thursday, September 30th.
Go to dannyjonesmschoir.weebly.com to see the entire handbook.

The following pages include:

1. Enrollment for Private Voice Lessons (optional)
2. **Personal Commitment Page (required)**
3. **Permission to Travel Form (required)**
4. **\$30.00 Activity fee (required)**
5. **Follow us on Remind 101**

Class Name: DJMS Var Boys (3rd P)

Text: "@djmsv"

Class Name: DJMS Varsity Girls (4th P)

Text: "@djmsva"

Class Name: DJMS Beg Girls (5th and 7th P)

Text: "@djmsbegg"

Class Name: DJMS Int Girls (6th P)

Text: "@djmsi"

Class Name: DJMS Beg Boys (8th P)

Text: "@djmsbeg"

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

Choir Supplies Needed:

1. ½ inch Black Binder (1 inch is too big for the binder slots)
2. Four Pencils with erasers and highlighter
3. Pencil Bag to keep in your black binder
4. 20 pieces of notebook paper to keep in your black binder

Private Voice Lessons
(\$20 per lesson)

Student Name: _____

Parent Name (printed): _____

Parent Phone Number: _____

Parent Email: _____

Address: _____

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: _____

Due by
Thursday, September 30th

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. I understand that if I cannot adhere to the expectations, that I may be removed from Choir.

Student's Signature: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Throughout the year we will need parent help for many of the activities we do with the Choir. We 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. When we send out the email, please respond if you are still available to help with that event. We thank you for being willing to help.

Event Name/Date: _____

Event Name/Date: _____

Event Name/Date: _____

*Please note that to chaperone a choir event that is not a concert, 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
(the student's t-shirt is included in the \$30 fee).

Cash or Please make checks payable to Danny Jones MS Choir,
and place your child's name in the memo.
Due Thursday, September 30th

Permission to Travel Form

I give my child, _____, permission to travel with the DJMS Choir, under the supervision of Karyn Myers and Cassie Arrington on the events listed below. My child has permission to ride the bus, and I give Karyn Myers and Cassie Arrington permission to attend to any emergencies my child may have while in their care.

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Choir Event

Date

Solo & Ensemble (LRHS)

Nov. 6, 2021

Elementary Tour (within MISD)

Dec. 2021 TBA

Cluster Concert

Jan. 18, 2022

All-Region Auditions (Young JH, Arlington)

Jan. 21-22, 2022

All Region Clinic/Concert (Arlington CPVA)

Feb. 5, 2022

Pre UIL (Mansfield ISD PAC)

March 7-9, 2022

UIL (Arlington CVPA)

March 31 & April 1, 2022

Choir Festival

May 2022 TBA