

August 15, 2024

Dear Choir Parents,

We are thrilled to have your sons and daughters in our choral program this year. Amarillo High School has a rich history of choral excellence dating back almost a century. We believe we have the very best students in the entire school in our choirs and we look forward to working together with you to ensure the success of our students.

The Mission of the Amarillo High School Sandie Choir

“Building a safe community of singers who strive to spread joy and achieve musical excellence.”

The Amarillo High School Choir program pledges to create an organization that produces quality performances in an enjoyable and cooperative atmosphere. The ultimate goal is to help students:

- Become total musicians: “1) A well-trained ear; 2) A well-trained mind; 3) A well-trained heart; 4) A well-trained hand. All four must develop together, in constant equilibrium.” *Zoltan Kodály*
- Enjoy positive, successful experiences and opportunities at all ability levels
- Create memories that will be cherished for a lifetime
- Appreciate a variety of musical styles so that they will seek out opportunities in their adult lives as music performers and music consumers

This packet includes the following:

- Choir expectations
- Academic eligibility guidelines
- Choir calendar (also available on www.sandiechoir.net)
- Information on booster club membership and volunteer opportunities (also available on www.sandiechoir.net)
- Medical form (student and parent will complete and return as assignment)
- Choir contract page (student and parent will complete and return as assignment)
****Must be signed and submitted by August 30****

Both you and your student will need to sign, acknowledging that you both have read and understand the information contained in this handbook.

Thank you in advance for your support of the choral program at Amarillo High School. If we can be of assistance, do not hesitate to call us or email us.

Bryan Hackett, Head Choir Director
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Saucy Reddick, Assistant Choir Director
saucy.reddick@amaisd.org

Choir Expectations 2024-2025

Classroom Expectations

- Be an active participant everyday in class. Bring your best musicianship and attitude to every rehearsal.
- All students must be on the risers, music & pencil in hand, ready to sing when the bell rings daily.
- Take care of your folder and music. Students who destroy their folder must purchase a new one for \$2.00.
- Absolutely **NO** candy, gum, or drinks, other than water, in the choir room or auditorium. Water must have a lid.

Daily Procedures

- Use the restroom, get a drink, etc. before you come into the choir room.
- Put your things by the wall away from the risers. Phones should be in backpacks, not pockets, in airplane mode.
- **Phone, Bag, Binder, Risers:** Follow this procedure every day!

Grading Policy

- Students will be given grades for participation in all performances, extra rehearsals or meetings, and participation grades for daily class work.

Concert and Sectional Attendance

- Concerts are an extension of the music classroom as set forth by the Texas Education Agency through the state required music curriculum. They are a culmination of an extended period of learning and serve as an assessment. Therefore, choir concert attendance is mandatory for all performances. **Because all dates are on the calendar from the beginning of the year, work and transportation issues are not excuses.** An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a grade penalty and may result in dismissal from the choir. A make-up assignment may be assigned for an excused absence. Only emergency situations or extenuating circumstances will be excused and at the discretion of the director.
- Bel Canto sectionals, Sandie Revue rehearsals and any other extra rehearsals are mandatory.
- A "Notice of Conflict" form must be filled out for any required event that will be missed. The form must be submitted at least **TWO** weeks prior to the event (except in the case of illness or emergency). The form can be found at www.sandiechoir.net, Canvas, QR code in the choir room and in the directors' email signature.

Uniforms

- Each choir member will have a uniform that will be worn for most concerts.
 - Women must wear black flats. Men must wear black socks and black dress shoes.
- Uniform rental is included in the Choir Fee.
- Uniformity of appearance is one of our performance goals. If a student draws attention to him/herself individually at a performance, the student will not participate and will be asked to leave the performance. Students are expected to follow these guidelines for any choir performance:
 - no facial piercings or gauges in ears
 - no excessive jewelry of any kind
 - natural hair color and traditional hair styles are highly preferred
- Each choir member is responsible for the condition of the uniform for the entire school year.

Choir Fee

- Each choir member will pay a choir fee. *If necessary, you may pay in installments until the fee is paid.*
- **Non-Varsity: \$80 Choir Fee.**
- **Varsity Choir (Bel Canto): \$100 Choir Fee**

- Online payments through SchoolCash (<https://amaisd.schoolcashionline.com>) are preferred. Cash or check made payable to AHS Choir is also accepted.
- Choir fees pay for student binders and supplies, music, choir t-shirt, uniform rental, all-district entry fees, UIL solo & ensemble entry fees, classroom equipment, accompanists, clinicians, etc. The fee does NOT pay for extra activities, state solo & ensemble fees, dress alterations (except Bel Canto) and solo accompanists.

Social Media

- Any choir member who attacks another choir member or director on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat or any other social media may be removed from choir. We support and celebrate each other and the directors at all times.

Behavior

- Choir is an elective course. Students will be held to the standard contained in the AISD Student Code of Conduct. Each student has chosen to be a part of our choral program. If any student becomes a consistent distraction to the choir, that student will be removed from choir. Any student who displays an attitude of disrespect toward the directors will be removed from choir.

Code of Conduct (taken from the AISD Code of Ethical Behavior)

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Each sponsor, along with the principal, shall have the authority to establish specific guidelines for membership and leadership eligibility. Because of the demands and responsibilities of elected offices, appointed positions, and varied activities in organizations, participants must be able to commit time and effort while still maintaining high standards. Therefore, if participants meet the eligibility requirements and are selected to represent an Amarillo secondary school, they agree to comply with the behavior guidelines set forth in the Amarillo Independent School District Discipline Management Plan, the Student Code of Conduct, and the Code of Ethical Behavior for Extracurricular Activities.

The Code of Ethical Behavior shall govern not only conduct at school and school-sponsored activities, but also conduct at any time outside the school day. If any participant violates either the Code of Conduct or the Code of Ethical Behavior in any way, he/she may lose the privilege of participation.

Academic Eligibility

To be eligible for any six weeks period after the first six weeks, a student must not have recorded a six weeks average lower than 70 for the preceding six weeks. Any student who has an average lower than 70 in ANY course at the end of a six weeks will be suspended from participating in extra-curricular activities for the coming six weeks. However, a student who is passing ALL courses at the end of the three-week grading period may regain eligibility seven calendar days after the three-week report. Ineligible students will continue to participate in daily rehearsals, but may not participate in any activity that is considered extra-curricular. Pre-AP, AP, and IB courses do not count against eligibility. We will check grades regularly. We are required to enforce the guidelines set forth by TEA and AISD.

Events requiring eligibility:

District/Region, Pre-Area, and State Auditions
 Men's Workshop and Women's Workshop
 Sandie Revue
 UIL Solo & Ensemble
 UIL Choir Contest

AHS Choir Boosters

Please see www.sandiechoir.net for information about how to volunteer, join the Boosters, buy Sandie Revue ads and videos.

Thank you for your support of AHS Choir!

Booster Meeting Dates 2024-2025

September 23 - 7:00pm (*Immediately following Open House*)

October 15 - 7:00pm

January 14 - 7:00pm

February 25 - 7:00pm

April 15 - 7:00pm

INSURANCE INFORMATION

Company Name Policy Number Policy Holder

Parents Name Work Phone Home Phone

Parents Name Work Phone Home Phone

Home Address City State Zip Code

In case of **emergency**, please list two other names and phone numbers:

1. _____

2. _____

PARENT PERMISSION SIGNATURE

Amarillo High School Choir Contract

*** Please read this page in its entirety***

I have received a copy of the Amarillo High School Choir handbook for the 2024-2025 school year. I understand and agree to all policies set forth in the handbook.

_____ **I have paid/enclosed choir fees (Checks payable to AHS Choir).** Fees are due Friday, September 20.

_____ **I have filled out the Medical Release Form.**

_____ I have subscribed to the choir calendar (QR code).

_____ Please provide a box of tissues. With 300 students in the choral program, they will be necessary throughout the year.

Don't forget:

1. Go to www.sandiechoir.net.
2. Join the **AHS Choir Boosters** via the website! Joining the Boosters is optional, but the Boosters are a huge reason why we are so successful in AHS Choir.
3. Sign up to **volunteer** via the website! Our program of almost 300 students needs a lot of parent help to successfully do all of our activities.
4. Buy **Choir Gear** and **Sandie Revue** ads.

Student's Printed Name

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Email

Parent Phone

THIS FORM, ALONG WITH ITEMS IN BOLD ABOVE, MUST BE RETURNED BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2024. THIS WILL BE YOUR FIRST GRADE IN CHOIR.