

Dear Parents and Students of Young Junior High Choral Program:

Welcome to the Young JH Choral Department. We are pleased to have the opportunity to work with each of you and hope that this year will be one of enjoyment and musical excellence.

Music is a vital part of our lives. Your student has chosen to belong to an organization whose main goal is to deepen their appreciation for all types of music through the study of music reading, music literature, music history and music performance. In keeping with the long-standing tradition of excellence, we are pleased to offer a choral music program at Young JH that will ensure that your student will receive experience in all of these areas.

This handbook is designed to acquaint you with the choral program and to help answer as many questions as possible. As the year progresses, any additions or changes will be provided to you via the students.

Cooperation from ALL involved provides for a successful program as active as ours. The support and ongoing involvement of every parent is an invaluable asset for both students and directors.

It is with pleasure and pride that we present this Choral Handbook to answer most of your questions and to inform you of the goals, expectations, calendar dates, etc... Please read the Handbook and return the "contract" with parent/guardian and student signatures. With your support and participation, we can offer your student a quality music experience.

With effort, commitment and enthusiasm, we look forward to a year of continued excellence. If we can be of assistance, please call at 682-867-3400. Our email addresses are cjones5@aisd.net or ddaniel1@aisd.net. We encourage you to use this form of communication as well!

Again, thanks for the opportunity to work with this wonderful group of students!

Sincerely,

Christine Jones
Director of Choirs
Young Junior High School

Keith Daniel
Director of Choirs
Young Junior High School

Welcome to the Young Junior High School Choral Department...

TRADITION OF CHORAL EXCELLENCE



CONCERT EXPECTATIONS

One aspect of the music education that you will receive is learning appropriate etiquette as an audience member or performer in a “formal” concert setting such as our Fall, Winter, and Spring concerts. These standards of concert etiquette should be displayed by persons of any age. Specific expectations will be addressed prior to each performance opportunity, but in general:

- If you arrive late to a concert, wait until the choir’s performance is complete and the audience is clapping before finding your seat.
- Once in your seat, plan to stay for the full length of the concert. Movement of people during a performance is very distracting for the singers and audience members alike. This is a matter of simple courtesy and respect.
- Never talk, whisper, sing along, play with any item, etc during a choir’s performance.
- The ONLY acceptable response to a performance is applause. Never holler, whistle, wave, etc following a performance.

GRADING POLICY

Your students six weeks grade is computed in the following manner:

30%	Performance	30%	Technique (grades given weekly)
30%	Participation (grades given weekly)	10%	Written Work

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

We would like to call to your attention to the calendar of events, which you will find towards the back of this handbook. All of our choir events and each choir’s obligation to that particular event are listed.

Our three major concerts (fall, winter and spring) are curricular events. This simply means that they are required as a part of our curriculum. Therefore, **attendance is required by ALL choir members**. Excused absences will require the same criteria as an excused absence from school -- personal illness and absence from the regular school day, death in the family, or family emergency -- cleared with the director prior to the event, when possible. Excuses for absence or tardiness should be submitted by email, note or phone from the parent directly to the director.

Any student who misses a concert will complete a written evaluation of the concert while we are watching the concert DVD in class. Students who had an excused absence have the opportunity to earn up to a 100, while students with an unexcused absence will only have the ability to earn up to a 50.

Some events are considered extra-curricular and are provided to enhance the standard curriculum. Participation will be governed by the student’s eligibility status and director approval. If eligible, students are required to attend the UIL events. All other extra-curricular events have optional attendance, but students must be eligible to participate. **Please note: participation in extra-curricular events is a privilege, not a right. Eligibility to participate in such events is at the discretion of the director(s), district and campus policies, and the laws of the state of Texas.** Extra-Curricular events include but are not limited to: a contest (individual or group), an event with an admission charge, activities which utilize school transportation, or social activities.

To participate in an extra-curricular event, students must be eligible for the six weeks in which the event occurs. If a student fails one or more classes in a six weeks reporting period (determined by the grade on the report card), he/she becomes in-eligible for the following six weeks. However, a student can become eligible at the mid-six weeks reporting period (effective the Friday of the fourth week) if all seven classes are at a passing (70 and higher) level. This is confusing (to say the least!!!)...please feel free to call with questions as they arise!

Ending times of an event will be published in the detailed information that is sent home prior to each activity. Parents, please make arrangements to have your student picked up at the appointed time. If a student is not met within a reasonable time following, appropriate action will be taken.

MONEY TURN IN PROCEDURE

- Checks should be made to YOUNG CHOIR and should include the student name.
 - Cash or money orders are also acceptable.
- Beginning of the year fees (Choir Fee, T-Shirt, etc.) may be paid in one check.
 - Students will sign a tab sheet when money is collected.
- We will collect Forms and Fees DURING CLASS (not during the passing period!).

CHOIR FEE

There is a \$30 Choir Fee that will be due by Friday, September 4th. This fee will cover your Uniform Rental, Choir Folder, Music, and Supplies for the entire year. If this is a hardship, please communicate with us and we can work out some sort of payment arrangement.

UNIFORMS

- Ladies: Black poly/satin dresses will be provided. You may need to adjust the hem lengths...DO THAT EARLY!!! You must also have black "dress" shoes to wear with your choir dress. Choose something comfortable yet, nice looking. Absolutely no flip-flops or tennis shoes!
- Men: Tuxedo shirts and vests are provided. You will need your own pair of black dress slacks, black dress shoes and black socks. We have a great source for your black dress slacks at a very reasonable cost (\$25.00). Please look for the order information later in this hand-book. Please, NO TENNIS SHOES of any style, for performances...
- Fitting: We will begin fitting for and distributing uniforms the 2nd or 3rd week, during class. This will allow enough time to have alterations, hemming and the possible addition of new uniforms.

Uniforms must be dry-cleaned before they're returned, or a \$10 fee will be assessed.

T-SHIRTS

We have a department t-shirt that will be available for purchase for \$10. To help with costs, we use the same shirt design every year. If you purchased one last year, or have an older sibling who had one, you are welcome to use it instead of purchasing a new one. Students who go to the Ranger game will be required to wear a Young Choir shirt. Concert Choir members (3rd and 6th) will also be required to wear a Young Choir shirt for several different events.

FUND RAISING

Maybe the two most dreaded words...but extremely necessary for a successful organization to exist! Money raised will supplement our choir budget and to help defray costs of uniforms, concerts and social events. Students are not required to participate in the project, but are certainly encouraged to do so! We have an exciting prize program for all participating students. We have implemented a program that has proven to be very successful and generates a high margin of profit (no "middle man"...we take care of everything!). We will be selling **Eagle Express Cards** again this year and will kick-off our program in a few weeks!

YJH CHOIR DEPARTMENT EXPECTATIONS

I. Classroom Rules and Expectations

1. Speak, act and treat others and property with respect.
Including, but not limited to:
 - Respect others in the same manner that you would like to be given.
 - Keep hands, feet and all objects to yourself.
 - Get permission to play the piano, use the phone, or use any equipment.
 - Throughout the year, you will be given music. To avoid any fines to pay for the cost of music, please take care of your music and return it on time. You may make markings in the music in pencil. If you lose your music, you will be fined for the cost of the music.
2. Be prepared each day with your assigned folder, music and a pencil.
 - You must be in your assigned seat with your supplies before the bell begins to ring to avoid being counted tardy.
3. No student shall interfere with the teaching or learning process.
Examples of “interference” would include, but are not limited to:
 - talking without permission
 - grooming (combing hair, applying make-up)
 - spraying perfumes/colognes or applying lotions and creams
 - rocking in chairs (not using all four legs)
 - making any kind of physical contact with another person
 - curling, tearing or in any way, destroying music or folders
4. **Gum, Food, and Candy are not allowed in the Choir room!**
5. Adhere to school dress code at all times.
Including, but not limited to directions concerning:
 - no bare midriffs, low-cut blouses, or sagging
 - heavy coats in the classroom...lightweight jackets and sweaters are allowed!
 - wearing shoes at all times in the Choir Room
6. Follow all directions as given, the first time
Including, but not limited to directions about:
 - posture
 - rehearsal participation
 - behavior
 - excessive talking
 - attitude
 - and respect of others

Corrective Actions

All corrective actions will follow the YJH Discipline Plan.

Rewards

Verbal praise

Class and individual rewards

Continued success in the Young Junior High Choral Department

PRIVATE STUDY

It is the goal of The Young Junior High School Choral Department to provide the very best learning experiences for each choir student. One of these learning experiences is the opportunity for a student to study privately with a professional voice teacher. This enrichment opportunity is available to all choir students and is optional, however there are a limited number of class lesson openings available. Enrollment will be handled on a "first come, first served" basis.

The private lesson program serves a two-fold purpose. It allows interested musicians to receive additional help in their musical training. Secondly, this individual attention generally improves the performance level of the individual student and also has a positive effect on the choir in which the student participates. Credit for the successes that our choir students have individually and collectively achieved is attributed in part to the private lesson program.

You may wonder if you should take voice lessons. We encourage ALL of our students to take lessons for many reasons. Here are just a few:

- if you're an advanced singer and you want to further your abilities
- if you're a weaker singer and you want to get better
- if you're going to All-City auditions, All-Region auditions or Solo and Ensemble Contest (however, you may participate without being in private voice)
- if you want to sing a solo anywhere, anyplace, anytime!
- if you're a guy and your voice is changing and you want some vocal help through that transition
- if you want to be an "extra strong" choir member
- if you think it sounds like fun!!!

Lessons are 25 minutes and are scheduled before school, after school and during the class period. Lessons are \$17.00 and are given once a week. Applications for enrollment in the AMEP (Arlington Music Enrichment Program) are included in this packet. Payment for lessons is due on the first lesson of each month. If payment has not been received by the 10th of the month, lessons will be suspended until payment is made.

Participation in private voice study is an on-going commitment. Private study should not be used just to prepare for an individual contest or performance, but rather a year long commitment to see consistent benefit as your voice matures.

The continued success of this program depends on the proper support of private teachers, directors, students, and parents. Most of the questions that you and your parents may have regarding private lessons will be answered in the guidelines below. We hope that as many choir students as possible will take advantage of this enrichment opportunity.

Student Responsibilities

1. Prepare every lesson thoroughly.
2. Always bring all lesson music and materials to the lesson.
3. Always notify the teacher 24 hours in advance if you must be absent from a lesson.
4. Begin each lesson with an attitude conducive to learning and to follow directions.

Parent Responsibilities

1. Assist your student in having the necessary music and materials.
2. Identify the best time for practice and encourage consistent adherence to that time.
3. Insist that regular practice routine is followed. For example, a practice session should begin with technical warm-ups, followed by solo material and music from choir class.
4. As an expression of interest, periodically observe the practice session.
5. Compliment your student for good work, faithfulness in practice, and any other worthy accomplishments.
6. Attend your student's performances.
7. Have a clear understanding of the progress being made by your student. Some students will mature vocally earlier than others. Contact the voice teacher if you have questions or are concerned.
8. Contact the director if you have any questions, need assistance, or are concerned about your student's progress.

2015-2016 Choir Calendar

Date	Event	Students Involved	Location	Time
4-Sep	Forms and Fees Due	All Students, Required	YJH	During Class
1-Oct	All City Auditions	Interested Students	Nichols JH	Evening, TBA
2-Oct	Ranger Game	Interested Students	Ballpark in Arlington	5:15pm - 10:15pm
8-Oct	Fall Concert	All Students, Required	Martin HS	7:00pm-8:15pm
23-Oct	All Region Auditions	Interested Sopranos	North Richland MS	Evening, TBA
24-Oct	All Region Auditions	Interested Altos, Tenors, & Basses	North Richland MS	Daytime, TBA
26-Oct	Eagle Idol Auditions	Interested Students	Choir Room	Advisory/After School
5-Nov	Eagle Idol Talent Show	Selected Students	Cafeteria	6:00pm
14-Nov	All Region Clinic and Concert	Selected Students	Martin HS	Daytime, TBA
3-Dec	Martin Cluster Dinner Theater	Show Choir	FBC Arlington	Evening, TBA
4-Dec	Martin Cluster Dinner Theater	Show Choir	FBC Arlington	Evening, TBA
5-Dec	Martin Cluster Dinner Theater	Show Choir	FBC Arlington	Afternoon, TBA
TBA	Concert Choir Holiday Tour	Concert Choir (3rd/6th per.)	Various Locations	Daytime, TBA
8-Dec	Voice Recital	Private Voice Students	Young JH	6:00pm
11-Dec	Winter Concert	All Students, Required	Martin HS	7:00pm-8:30pm
TBA	Show Choir Holiday Tour	Show Choir	Various Locations	Afternoon/Evening TBA
11-Dec	Holiday Assembly	Concert Choir (3rd/6th per.)	Young JH	During the School Day
8-Jan	Group Pictures	All Students	Young JH	During Class
22-Jan	Cluster Rehearsal	Concert Choir (3rd/6th per.)	Martin HS	Evening/TBA
23-Jan	Cluster Concerts	Concert Choir (3rd/6th per.)	Martin HS	Afternoon, TBA
26-Jan	Musical Auditions	Interested Students	Choir Room	After School
27-Jan	Musical Auditions	Interested Students	Choir Room	After School
4-Feb	Voice Recital	Private Voice Students	Young JH	6:00pm
6-Feb	Solo Contest	Interested Students	Gunn JH	Daytime, TBA
26-Feb	High School Show Choir Showcase	Interested Students	Bowie HS	Evening, TBA
22-Mar	Pre-UIL	Eligible Students	Young JH	Afternoon/Evening TBA
6-Apr	UIL Concert and Sightreading	Eligible Students	Mansfield PAC	Daytime, TBA
7-Apr	UIL Concert and Sightreading	Eligible Students	Mansfield PAC	Daytime, TBA
8-Apr	UIL Concert and Sightreading	Eligible Students	Mansfield PAC	Daytime, TBA
15-Apr	Eagle Express Grapevine Mills Mall Trip	Students who sell 5+ cards	Grapevine Mills Mall	5:00pm-9:30pm
6-May	Musical	Selected Students	Young JH	Evening, TBA
7-May	Musical	Selected Students	Young JH	Evening, TBA
TBA-MAY	Spring Concert and Awards	All Students, Required	TBA	7:00pm-8:30pm
20-May	Hawaiian Falls Party	Interested Students	Hawaiian Falls Mansfield	Evening, TBA
24-May	Show Choir Auditions	Interested Students	Young JH	Before/After School
25-May	Show Choir Auditions	Interested Students	Young JH	Before/After School
27-May	Choir Banquet, Awards, and Dance	Interested Students	Young JH	6:00pm-8:30pm
31-May	Voice Recital	Private Voice Students	Young JH	6:00pm

Ways to Connect:

Website –

www.yjhchoir.weebly.com

Email –

Mrs. Jones cjones5@aisd.net

Mr. Daniel ddaniel1@aisd.net

Phone number –

682-867-3400

Remind.com Text Reminders

Text your choir's code below to 81010 for updates.

YJH Choir (all Choir students)

Concert Boys (6th period)

Concert Girls (3rd period)

Show Choir

@yjhchoir

@yjhmen

@yjhccgirls

@yjhsc

REQUIRED

YJH CHORAL DEPARTMENT Forms & Fees Checklist and Payment Deadline: Friday, September 4th

STUDENT NAME _____ **PER.** _____
(last name, first name)

Optional Purchases

♪ Department Spirit-wear T-Shirt _____ @ \$10.00 each = _____
(qty)
Shirt YL S M L XL XXL
Additional Shirt YL S M L XL XXL

♪ Black Dress Slacks (boys only!) \$25.00 = _____

Required Fees

♪ Choir Fee \$30.00 = _____

TOTAL PAID = _____

(Cash, Money Order or Check payable to Young Choir...)

REQUIRED

CONTRACT and VOLUNTEER INFO Page

Students: please return this page by September 4th...thanks in advance!

"I have received the Young Junior High 2015-2016 Choir Handbook. I have reviewed the schedule of events and responsibilities of Young Junior High School Choir members and am willing to participate and support the program in every way I can. In addition, I understand the consequences/rewards for my actions while participating in class or any choral department activity."

Student Name (please print)

Parent/Guardian Name

Student's Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

How can I help???!?

And **YES!** We do need your help! Without your participation, some of our events will have to be cancelled. Knowing that Junior High may be a time where you want to allow your students to "spread their wings" a bit, some parents shy away from saying they will help with these extra responsibilities. **However, we do need you...!!!** The more of you that volunteer, the fewer times we will have to ask! Thank you in advance for your willingness... ☺

District policy requires that all volunteers working with our students have a criminal background check. Some of you have likely submitted your application at registration. **If you have not, we encourage you to submit an application online at www.AISD.net at this time if you think you would like to help in some way.** Approval can take anywhere from 2 to 4 weeks to complete. Don't delay!!!

Please check the statement(s) below that best apply:

- I am available during the school day to volunteer.
- I am available on nights and weekend to volunteer.
- I can help any time!!!!!!
- My schedule is varied, but please contact me and I'll help if possible.
- I am unable to volunteer this year.

Please be on the lookout for emails requesting help and reply as soon as possible with your availability!

Volunteer Name(s): _____

Email(s): _____

Home Phone #: _____ Work Phone #: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

_____ *"I have already submitted an AISD volunteer form for the 2015-2016 school year."*

REQUIRED

ARLINGTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

To: Any Physician, Hospital or Other Health Care Provider:

Concerning: _____

Student Name (printed)

We, the undersigned, represent and warrant that we are the parents or legal guardians of the above named student, a minor child and we do hereby give

Christine Jones and Keith Daniel

of the Arlington Independent School District, the power to consent to any and all medical and / or health care which he / she deems necessary in an emergency while said child is in his custody and control while on a district sponsored trip.

Print Name of Parent or Legal Guardian

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date Signed _____

Additional Information

Home Phone: _____ Work _____

Cell Phone: _____

Insurance Company: _____

Insurance Company Phone: _____

Policy Number: _____

Pertinent Medical Information (diabetes, asthma, heart disease, etc.): _____

Medications: _____

Medical Allergies: _____

Family Doctor: _____ Phone: _____

Other Contact In Emergency: _____

It will be the responsibility of the parent to notify the school of any changes in the above information.

REQUIRED

ARLINGTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT PERMISSION TO TRAVEL

To: Parents/Legal Guardian of _____
Student Name _____ Choir Period _____

I give my permission for the above student of the Arlington Independent School District to attend the following district approved trips this school year:

Description of Trip	Date	Means of Transportation
Fine Arts Social – Ballpark in Arlington	10/2/2015	School Bus
All Region Lunch (Region Choir Members)	11/14/2015	School Bus
Elementary Holiday Tour (Concert Choir)	Dec. TBA	Charter Bus
Show Choir Holiday Tour (Show Choir)	Dec. TBA	School Bus
Grapevine Mills Mall (for eligible EE Fund-Raisers)	04/15/2016	School Bus
UIL Concert & Sightreading Contest (eligible students)	04/06/2016	School or Charter Bus
UIL Concert & Sightreading Contest (eligible students)	04/07/2016	School or Charter Bus
UIL Concert & Sightreading Contest (eligible students)	04/08/2016	School or Charter Bus

Please note that all students may not be participating at all of the listed dates & trips see the choir calendar for detailed information.

The supervising sponsors for the trip(s) listed above are **Christi Jones and/or Keith Daniel**

The local board policies governing student conduct and discipline applicable to all students on all district approved trips and the behavior of all participating students is expected to conform to the standards set forth in such policies. All violations of such code of conduct by any student shall be reported to the principal.

Signature of Parent / Guardian _____ Date _____

Persons to Contact in Case of Emergency:

1. _____
Name Telephone #

2. _____
Name Telephone #

Special information or needs:

Student Cell Phone Number - _____

REQUIRED

PHOTO RELEASE

Young Junior High Fine Arts Department

Art, Band, Choir, Orchestra, Theater Arts

I hereby authorize the Young Junior High Fine Arts Department permission to use my likeness in a photograph in any and all of its publications, including but not limited to: printed publications, newsletters, programs, digital publications, organization and school websites. I understand and agree that any photograph using my likeness will become property of Young Junior High Fine Arts Department. I acknowledge that I will receive no financial compensation for the use of photographs in my likeness.

I authorize Young Junior High Fine Arts Department to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish or distribute this photo for purposes of publicizing Young Junior High Fine Arts Department's programs or for any other related, lawful purpose. In addition, I waive the right to inspect or approve the finished product, including written or electronic copy, wherein my likeness appears. Additionally I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of the photograph.

I hereby hold harmless and release and forever discharge Young Junior high Fine Arts Department from all claims, demands, and causes of action which I, my heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, or any other persons acting on my behalf or on behalf of my estate have or may have reason of this authorization.

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Guardian signature required if under 18 years of age

OR

I DO NOT authorize the Young Junior High Fine Arts Department permission to use my likeness in a photograph in any and all of its publications at this time.

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Guardian signature required if under 18 years of age

OPTIONAL

ARLINGTON MUSIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAM REGISTRATION FOR MUSIC ENRICHMENT INSTRUCTION

The Arlington Music Enrichment Program offers individual instruction to students who are enrolled in their vocal music programs. A copy of the Arlington music Enrichment Program General Information is included in this handbook. Please read the information carefully before enrolling your child and then, keep it for future reference. If you have any questions, please contact either Mrs. Jones or Mr. Daniel at 682-867-3400 or at cjones5@aisd.net or ddaniel1@aisd.net

Please return this registration form, along with a check (\$68) for your pledge for the first month's lessons. **Checks are made payable to Linda Ice.** Students will be scheduled on a first come/first served basis. So, please do not delay!

In order to continue participation in this program, students are expected to apply themselves, to maintain good attendance, and to be prepared for each lesson.

Student's Legal Name (print)

Grade

Choir Period

Mailing Address

City/Zip

Parent's E-mail

Home Telephone

Parent Work Phone

Parent Cell Phone

Student Email

Student Cell Phone

Lesson time preference: Rank 1 or 2

During Choir Period _____ Before School _____

Request Scholarship Info? Yes No

I have read and I understand the policies concerning the Arlington Music Enrichment Program.

Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

(To be filled out by the Director)

Name of Instructor

Campus

Signature of Music Director

Scholarship awarded