**Dieterich Middle School Choir Handbook**

**2022-2023**

Gabi Guest, Choir Director

gabi.guest@misd.gs

Dieterich Middle School Choir Dates 2022-2023

Please tear this page out for you to reference!

**Bolded events are MANDATORY for ALL students**

*Italic events are mandatory for Varsity Treble and Tenor/Bass choirs*

**Fall Semester**

* August 12th: Back to School Party, 4-5pm, Choir Room
* **August 18th: Parent Meeting, 4:30pm, Choir Room and Zoom**
* August 26th: Choir Fee/Form Due
* August 26th: Choir Officer Applications Due
* August 31st: Start Cookie Dough Fundraiser
* *September 10th: Heritage Day Performance, Varsity Treble only*
* September 15th: End Cookie Dough Fundraiser
* September 15th: Trebles Sing the National Anthem @ MHS Football game
* September 19th: Solo Contest Registration Opens
* October 6th: Solo Contest Registration Closes
* October 8th: Board Leadership Training
* October 20th: Cookie Dough Delivered
* October 22nd: Solo Contest, Dieterich MS
* November 3rd: Guys Night In, 4-6pm,
* *November 11th: Veteran’s Day Assembly Performance, Tenor/Bass only*
* November 17th: Girls Night In, 4-6pm, Dieterich MS
* **November 29th: Winter Concert, Dieterich Stage, 6:30pm**
* *December 2nd: All-City Choir Concert - Varsity Treble Only*
* December 13th: Winter Party & Caroling, 4-6pm
* December 14-16th: Elementary Recruitment Visits *tentatively* during Choir Final Times

**Spring Semester**

* January 21st: Region Choir Auditions, Young JH
* February 4th: Region Clinic/Concert, Arlington CVPA
* February 16th: Cold Choir Convergence (Winter Party), 4-6pm, Choir room
* **February 28th: Pre-UIL Concert, 6:30pm, Heritage HS**
* *March 7th & 8th: UIL Concert & Sight Reading Contest*
* **April 27th: Spring Concert, 6:30pm, Dieterich MS**
* May 6th: Scarborough Faire Day

\*ALL DATES ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*

**CLASSROOM RULES**

1. **Respect.** All the time, to everyone and anyone.
2. **Be prepared.** Have your music, a pencil, and folder ready.
3. **No food/drink in class, EXCEPT for a water bottle.**
4. **No students in the choir office without permission.**

**CLASSROOM PROCEDURES**

1. **Get your music and a pencil immediately upon entering.**
2. **Students are expected to be in their seats, ready to go, when the bell rings, or they will receive a tardy.**
3. **Class will begin with a warm up & stretches.**
4. **We will then move into sight-reading and/or theory work.**
5. **We will close class with working on repertoire.**
6. **Students will exit class calmly.**

**I will utilize a time out symbol to ask the class to quiet down and listen**

**There will be no put downs permitted. Every put down MUST be counter-acted with 2 compliments**

Any choir student who violates a rule or procedure related to choir or Dieterich Middle School is subject to disciplinary action that may include receiving a warning (which will affect their weekly participation grade), withdrawal of privileges, parent/guardian/teacher conferences, lunch detention, alternative assignments, and/or office referral.

**COMMUNICATION**

The best way to communicate directly with Mrs. Guest is by emailing her at gabi.guest@misd.gs. The vast majority of communication to parents is by email to your address associated with your Powerschool account. **Please make sure your email in Skyward is updated and current to receive all choir communications.** We will also use the Remind App for more regular, smaller reminders. Please have both you and your student join the Remind associated with their choir.

**(1st Period)** Junior Varsity Treble Choir: Text the message “@dmsjvtreb” to the number 81010

**(2nd Period)** Tenor/Bass Choir: Text the message “@dmstbchoir” to the number 81010

**(3rd Period)** Varsity Treble Choir: Text the message “@dmsvtreb” to the number 81010

**GRADING**

**Participation - Minor**

**Weekly Participation**

Choir is a participation based class. Therefore, not participating is the easiest way for a student’s choir grade to suffer. A student’s participation grade is a weekly grade based on their classroom participation and behavior.

* The first action taken for discipline will be issuing the student a **1st Warning.** The Warning will be clearly given to the student so they have the opportunity to correct behavior, and will result in a **5 point** **deduction** from their weekly participation grade. Chewing gum, lack of supplies, or lack of participation in class activities will also result in a **5 point** **deduction** for each offense.
* If a student has already received a 1st Warning and continues to disrupt learning in the same class period, they will receive a **2nd Warning**. It will also be clearly given to provide the opportunity to correct, will result in an additional **10 point deduction** from their weekly participation grade, AND a **phone call or email home**.
* If a student has already received a 1st and 2nd Warning, and continues to disrupt learning in the same class period, they will receive a **3rd Warning**. It will be clearly given to students, and will then result in an additional **20 point deduction** from their weekly participation grade, an after school detention, AND a **phone call or email home**.

**Excessive participation and/or attendance issues could result in removal from the class, and not being allowed to attend extra-curricular choir events.**

**Assignments/Homework**

Students will regularly have assignments and worksheets they will need to complete to reinforce concepts taught in class. These assignments are typically given on Monday and due on Friday. **Students can turn their assignment in early for the opportunity to make corrections *- as many times as desired* - until it is due Friday by midnight.**

**Performance - Major**

**Quizzes**

Students will be regularly evaluated using sight-reading, ear-training, and singing quizzes, as individuals, and in groups. Students may also have a responsibility quiz grade based on whether they turn in needed paperwork on time.

**Performance/Concerts**

Performing is the central aspect of any choir, and an essential skill listed in the TEKS for choir. Performances are one of our few opportunities to present the progress we have made as an ensemble throughout the year. **Attendance is required and mandatory for all performances.** The performance dates are given in advance so that students can schedule and work, school, or other obligations around our performances. **An unexcused absence for a performance will result in a grade of a zero.** An excused absence may be given, with the fulfillment of an alternative assignment, at the director’s discretion only for personal illness or family emergencies. The alternative assignment will consist of the student scheduling a time with the director either before or after school, to perform their portion of the concert by themselves to show knowledge and earn their performance credit. No other performance absences will be considered excused unless the director is contacted **24 HOURS PRIOR** **to the event with a parent note**.

**CHOIR FEE**

This year, students will be asked to pay a $30 choir fee. This will help cover supplies throughout the year including music, concession stand materials, classroom supplies, meals, travel, and student’s choir shirts. **If your student has previously purchased a choir shirt, they will still need to pay the full $30 fee. You may purchase an additional shirt, or opt out of another shirt.**  Choir Fees and Signature forms are due by Friday, August 26th. Please let Mrs. Guest know if you need an extension on paying your fee. Donations will also be accepted to help cover choir fees for other students.

**UNIFORMS**

Students will be provided uniforms to wear for UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest, and any other concerts/performances the director sees fit. Students have the option of either:

1. Black, full length dress.
2. White dress shirt, black dress pants, and a blue tie.

Students choosing option 1 will need to provide their own black, close toed, flat shoes. Students choosing option 2 will need to provide their own black dress shoes, plain black dress socks, and an undershirt. All students will need to have their hair pulled out of their face and eyes, and will only be allowed to wear stud earrings. No necklaces, or bracelets may be worn, and rings are at director’s discretion. At concert time, it is about WE not ME, and nothing should be worn that distracts from the ensemble as a whole. If there are any concerns or questions about performance wear, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Guest so we can work something out!

**If a student loses or damages part of a uniform, they will be responsible for the price of it.** The prices are as follows: Dress: $70; Pants: $30; Shirt: $20; Bowtie: $5

**FUNDRAISING**

We operate two fundraisers each year. One is running the concession stand for home volleyball and basketball games, and the second is a sales based fundraiser that changes from year to year. All funds raised are used to help supplement the budget for student travel, food, fun activities, learning supplies, and more.

**Concession Stand**

Choir & Art operate the concession stand for all home volleyball and basketball games. We need both donations of the food items for the stand, and donation of your time working! **This is our most lucrative fundraiser!** We need 2 parent volunteers per game, with their choir student having the option of helping. Volunteers will meet at the concession stand at 5:30pm and work until approximately 8:30pm.

**Sales Fundraiser**

As well as the concession stand, we also will have one sales based fundraiser each year. This year we will be selling cookie dough through Cash Cow! If you do not want your child to take part in the fundraiser, you are more than welcome to make a donation to the choir program! Checks can be made out to Dieterich Choir.

**TMEA REGION CHOIR AUDITIONS**

Auditioning and participating in the All-Region choir gives students the opportunity to meet and perform with students from other schools in our region, and to rehearse with other highly esteemed directors. We will provide sheet music, rehearsal tracks, and time with the director to work on music. **Parent volunteers will be needed for all events!**

For the audition, students will select a voice part to audition on (Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, or Bass) and learn the pieces listed below. About two weeks before the audition date, students will be told which of the pieces listed will be used for the audition. A section of the pieces approximately 2-3 pages (referred to as the “cut”) will be used for the audition. When the student auditions, there will be a curtain in between them and the judges, so they cannot see each other. A room monitor will start the accompaniment track, and the student sings their cuts back to back for the judges. At the end of the auditions, the rankings are released and it is announced which students have made the region choir. Students who make an All-Region choir come to the Clinic and Concert on a separate day to work with their director, and perform in a concert that evening!

**All-Region Choir Dates** (Set aside all day on the weekends for auditions)

Auditions: **Saturday, January 21st**

Region Clinic/Concert: **Saturday, February 4th**

**Pieces Auditioned:**

Treble:

1. *I Will Lift My Voice* - Farnell
2. *In Paradisum* - Faure/Rentz
3. *Plena* - Saez

 Tenor/Bass:

1. *Courage Lives* - Patterson
2. *O Magnum Mysterium* - Ramos
3. *Dies Irae* - Jones

**Students who are interested in auditioning for the All-Region choir must commit to BOTH audition dates *and* the Clinic/Concert date before they audition.**

**Dieterich Middle School Choir 2022-2023**

**PLEASE RETURN BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 26TH**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student phone number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact other than parent: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please check one of the following boxes:**

* We would like our $30 choir fee to go towards purchasing a shirt of the following size:

 YM YL AS AM AL AXL

* We would NOT like to purchase another choir shirt with our choir fee (Additional choir merchandise such as hoodies, sweatshirts, and long sleeve shirts will be available for individual purchase through an online Rally store).

**Choir Handbook 2022-2023 Acknowledgement**

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the policies and procedures of the Dieterich Middle School Choir Handbook 2022-2023.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteering**

Please check whichever box expresses your interest to volunteer with choir events. Many of our events away from home require a chaperone to be with students when directors are preoccupied with judging responsibilities.

☐ Away trips ☐ I would not be interested in volunteering to help the choir

☐ Events at home

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_