

Davidson

Beginning Choir

Handbook

Handbook for the Davidson Beginning Chorus

Please bring to class the signed form to the back of the handbook by Friday, August 11th.

Congratulations on being a member of the Davidson Treble Choir. The Davidson Chorale Program won the 2004 and 2005 Grammy Award for the top U.S. music program. We are committed to upholding that standard of excellence. The Davidson Treble Choir is the first step on a 5- or 6-year journey through this amazing program! Former members of the Treble Choir have gone on to graduate from Davidson, receive substantial vocal and music scholarships in college, and pursue performance careers. The musical instruction and grounding that you will receive as a member of the Treble Choir will be the basis for significant musical growth.

Being a member of the Davidson Treble Chorus comes with responsibility and some requirements. This handbook is designed to help you to navigate the requirements help you maximize your learning experience.

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5. **Discipline Plan**

As a member of the Beginning Choir, students will meet daily for 24 minutes for rehearsal in addition to dress rehearsals and concerts. Rehearsal times are extremely important to the success of the ensemble, and students will be expected to maintain a strictly professional rehearsal demeanor. Our motto is GOOD IS THE ENEMY OF GREAT.

1. Always sing
2. No gum
3. No talking
4. No playing piano
5. No leaving class without permission
6. Know your music

If these standards are not upheld:

1. First offense: verbal warning
2. Second offense: email or phone call to parent
3. Third offense: detention

1. **Concert attendance policy, attire, fees, etc.**
2. **Concert Attendance.**
   1. Concerts are a **required** part of the grade for Beginning Choir. Failure to participate in a concert represents a 0 for that performance which is graded as a test. **The only excuses accepted for missing a concert are dire family emergency (injury, funeral, etc.) and sickness (must have a written doctor’s excuse.) and with Mr. Streetman’s permission.**
   2. Call time. In order for our concerts to be successful, chorus members must arrive early in order to set up, rehearse, etc. Call times will usually be communicated in the week prior to the concert and are strictly enforced.
3. **Concert Attire**. Failure to maintain correct concert attire will result in the student’s removal from the concert.
4. Choir polo. Every member of the Davidson Treble Choir will purchase a Davidson choir polo. If the polo is lost, worn out, or the student grows out of it, a new one may be purchased.
5. Black dress pants or ankle-length black skirt. Jeans, cargo pants, leggings and cropped pants are not acceptable.
6. Black closed-toed flat dress shoes. Do not wear athletic shoes, heels, clogs, or open-toed sandals.
7. Black belt to match shoes (for pants with belt loops).
8. Hair: Hair color must fall within RCBOE dress code policy (no unnatural colors). For girls, long hair MUST be worn in a French braid or bun (ballerina hair).
9. **Fees.**
   1. Each member of the Beginning Choir is expected to pay an annual $45 Choral Department supply fee per family. This fee goes to help offset the cost of music, materials, recordings, programs, etc., and does not represent all of the costs in the program*. Included in this fee is the cost of the Beginning Chorus polo*, which will be used in concerts. If a student purchased a polo in a previous year and does not need a new one, the Beginning Choir fee is $20 instead.
   2. Additionally, students who elect to audition for All-State (7th grade and up) will be assessed the audition fee. Other events which *may* be open to Beginning Choir members and which have a fee are 6th Grade State Honor Chorus, All-District Chorus, and All-County Chorus.
10. **Membership and promotion**

Promotion from one year to another is at the discretion of the Director. Additionally, membership is dependent upon behavior. Excessive behavioral problems may result in removal from the ensemble (disruption, failure to maintain professional standards, etc.).

1. **Grading**
2. Minor Grades 60%

Examples: weekly in class singing quizzes or weekly Canvas singing quizzes, etc.

B). Major Grades 40%

Examples: Major Concerts, music application of concert expectations, etc.

**PERFORMANCE PARTICIPATION POLICIES (Davidson Code of Conduct)**

Fine Arts performances and after-school rehearsals are an important part of the experiences of students at Davidson and

are graded activities.

1. Attendance at after-school rehearsals and at the performance(s) is MANDATORY for your grade and should not be

taken lightly.

2. Please do not schedule after school appointments or schedule yourself for work on rehearsal days. Please place

performance dates and rehearsals dates on your personal and family calendars, so that there are no conflicts between

personal appointments and fine arts class requirements.

3. There are four valid excuses for missing an after-school rehearsal or performance without penalty (a "0"):

a. Serious, contagious illness or an injury for which a physician has been consulted and a written excuse from

him or her is provided.

b. A death in the family.

c. Suspension from school.

d. A conflict in scheduling for another fine arts performance, honors activity or other similar event about which

the instructor has been informed a minimum of two months in advance.

4. The acceptance of such absences is at the discretion of the fine arts teacher. Disciplinary action and grading penalties

will be assessed if procedures are not followed.

5. You are excused from Student Council and Club meetings during the week of production without penalty.

6. Family trips, church trips, and other such extra-curricular activities will not be accepted as valid excuses for missing a

performance.

7. STUDENTS WHO ARE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL ALL DAY FOR AN EXCUSED OR UNEXCUSED

ABSENCE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PERFORM THE EVENING OF THAT ABSENCE. BE REMINDED

THAT YOU ARE CONSIDERED ABSENT IF YOU CHECK OUT BEFORE 11:30AM OR IF YOU ARRIVE AFTER

11AM.

8. Students involved in performances should be aware of the following guidelines:

a. The student is responsible for wearing the assigned performance attire or costume for the performance. If not provided for the production by the instructor or department, additional performance attire may be required and must be provided by the performer.

b. Proper rehearsal and performance etiquette is required of students at all times. Students are expected to exhibit diligence, self-discipline, skill, purpose, teamwork, dignity, and professional grooming during the rehearsal and

performance process. Performers are expected to conduct themselves as professionals and abide by the following procedures:

c. Performers are responsible for all performance information that is distributed by the director concerning the

performance. If a performance contract is provided, the student is responsible for returning the contract by

The deadline for a homework grade. School-wide late penalties will apply

d. Remain in your assigned location during rehearsals and performances as assigned by the director or the

Stage manager

e. Follow the stage directions of the director, technical director, stage manager, assistance stage manager, or

other authorized member of the technical staff before, during and following rehearsal and performances

onstage

f. NO FOOD OR DRINKS ARE ALLOWED IN THE WINGS OR IN THE THEATER AT ANY TIME.

Bottled water is permissible at the discretion of the director and technical theatre staff

g. If a student displays improper performance or rehearsal etiquette the student will be disciplined at the

discretion of the director or an administrator

h. General rules of rehearsal & performance etiquette include:

o Arriving promptly (if not earlier) than your call time

o Come to rehearsals with all supplies and be prepared to work

o Accept direction and corrections with respect; your director gives you feedback in order to improve your

performance

o When given directions or warnings by an authorized member of the production or technical staff, always

say, “Thank you,” in reply

o Don’t leave your rehearsal or your assigned rehearsal location until dismissed by the director. This may

lead to your missing an entrance cue

o NO TALKING in the backstage or in the theatre during a rehearsal

o It is inappropriate to be seen in costume/makeup before a performance by the audience

o Unless given permission by the director, performers are required to remain until the end of their

performance

o Props, set pieces, lighting equipment, etc. are under the jurisdiction of the technical theater staff and

should not be touched or moved by a performer without permission

Beginning Chorus Choral Department registration. Please sign and return this form by ***Friday, August 11!***

Please fill in the following information. Print neatly.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Beginning Choir

Grade level for 2023-2024 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student’s Height (needed for concerts) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_City\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ST\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ZIP\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Phone Number\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (REQUIRED)**

**REQUIRED CHORAL DEPARTMENT SUPPLY AND UNIFORM FEE**

New students in the program are assessed an initial supply and uniform fee of **$45.** If your child is a returning student, or if you already have a choir polo shirt (for example, your child has an older sibling who has already gone through our program), the supply fee is **$20 (1 per family)**

Please check one:

**\_\_\_\_$45:** My child is new to the choral program and I do not already have the Davidson Beginning Chorus Polo Shirt, or I need a new replacement polo shirt for my child

**\_\_\_\_$20:** My child is a returning student and they already have a polo shirt (that fits well and isn’t faded).

If you indicated that you need a choir polo shirt, please indicate the size.

**Youth Sizes CIRCLE ONE or Adult Sizes CIRCLE ONE**

S M L S M L XL XXL

**OPTIONAL ALL STATE 1st ROUND AUDITIONS**

If your child is in the 7th grade or up, they are eligible to audition for the Georgia All State Choir. This is a voluntary audition. The cost of the first-round audition is **$25.00** and it will take place at Effingham MS on **November 4.** If your student makes it through the 1st round, they will have to complete the 2nd round audition in January and will be charged for music. Additionally, if they get all the way through the 2nd round, they will get to participate in the concert and trip in February, which will be in Athens. The total cost of this trip will be about $180.00, subject to fluctuation.

\_\_\_\_Yes, my child is at least in the 7th grade and plans to audition for All-State and I have included the **$25.00** fee.

\_\_\_\_No, my child will not audition for All-State.

Total Fees: Check all that apply. Please send cash or check made payable to Davidson Fine Arts for the total due.

\_\_\_\_$20 Choral Dept. Supply Fee (required of all students, 1 per family)

\_\_\_\_$25 DFA Choir Polo Shirt (required of all new students)

\_\_\_\_$25 All-State 1st Round Registration (optional for 7th grade and up)

**\_\_\_\_TOTAL ENCLOSED**

I have read and understand the policies contained in the Davidson Beginning Choir Handbook. I acknowledge my responsibilities to the Davidson choir program and will abide by the department’s behavioral expectations. I understand that participation in the Davidson choral program is at the discretion of the Director of Choral Studies.

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_