

Davidson

Chorale

Handbook

Handbook for the Davidson Choral Department

Please bring to class the signed form at the back of the handbook by Friday, August 09.

Congratulations on being a member of the Davidson Chorale. You are a part of a wonderful, world-class choral program at Davidson Fine Arts...in fact, the #1 Choral Program in the United States. Don’t just take my word for it, though. The Davidson Choral Program won the 2004 and 2005 Grammy Award for the top U.S. music program, forcing the Grammy Foundation to revamp their rules so that Davidson couldn’t win it every year. We at Davidson are committed to upholding that standard of excellence. The Davidson Chorale is the first step on a 5 or 6 year journey through this amazing program! Former members of the Chorale have gone on to graduate from Davidson, receive substantial vocal and music scholarships in college, and pursue performance careers at the highest level of accomplishment! The musical instruction and grounding that you will receive as a member of the Treble Choir will be the basis for significant musical growth and the performance opportunities will be some of the most important in your life!

Being a member of the Davidson Chorale comes with responsibility and some requirements. This handbook is designed to help you to navigate through the requirements of being a member of this award-winning ensemble, and to help you maximize your learning experience during the years you are a member.

Table of Contents:

1. Discipline Plan
2. Concert attendance policy, attire, fees, promotion and membership, etc.
3. Grading
4. Parent/student contract, fees, and registration form
5. **Discipline Plan**

As a member of the Chorale, students will meet daily for 50 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. The motto of the award-winning Davidson Chorale (the top choral group at Davidson) and also for the entire program is GOOD IS THE ENEMY OF GREAT. Here are the rules for the Davidson Chorale rehearsals:

1. Always Sing
2. No Gum
3. No Talking
4. No Playing Piano
5. No Leaving

As you can see, these rules are simple to remember, yet they cover almost all of the expectations for behavior. In the event that a student breaks one of these rules, the following consequences will occur.

1. When a student fails to uphold these standards, he or she will receive a verbal warning at the first offense.
2. At the next infraction, the student will receive a grade deduction in “Professional Responsibilities.”
3. Excessive rule violations will result in detention and or suspension.
4. **Concert attendance policy, attire, fees, etc.**
5. **Concert Attendance.**
   1. Concerts are a required part of the grade for Chorale. 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.).**
   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. They are strictly enforced. Call times are considered TEST GRADES.
6. **Concert Attire**. Failure to maintain correct concert attire will result in the student’s removal from the concert.
7. Choir polo. Every member of the Davidson Chorale will purchase a Davidson choir polo. It must be tucked in (not tied behind the back). If the polo is lost, worn out, or the student grows out of it, a new one may be purchased.
8. Black dress pants or ankle-length black skirt. Cargo pants with many pockets are not acceptable.
9. Black closed-toed flat dress shoes. Sperry’s or top-siders are not acceptable. Do not wear heels, clogs, or open-toed sandals.
10. Black belt to match shoes.
11. 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). Bangs must be pinned back away from the face. If hair is too short to be in a braid or bun, it must be pinned back tight to the head. Performance requirements for hair are non-negotiable. The following supplies may be needed. They can all be purchased at Wal-mart, CVS, Rite-aid, Target, Walgreens, or a beauty supply store such as Sally’s Beauty Supply.
    1. Pony tail rubber bands, Hair pins, Bobby pins, brush and comb.
    2. Package of Hair nets close to the color of your hair
    3. Hairspray and/or Hair gel
12. Uniforms: Chorale members are issued a uniform that they will wear in all concerts. This uniform is provided by the choral department. At the end of the year, it must be returned, along with a receipt from a dry cleaner. Failure to return the uniform will result in the student account being charged a replacement fee.
13. **Fees.**

Chorale members are required to audition for the Georgia All State Choir as part of the ensemble’s curriculum (this is the equivalent of the AP test in other classes). The cost of the first round audition is **$25** and will take place at South Effingham High School on **Saturday, November 10.** If your student makes it through the 1st round, they can choose whether or not to complete the 2nd round audition in January, and if so, will be charged for music. Additionally, if they get all the way through the 2nd round, they will get to participate in the concert in February, which will be in Athens. The total cost will be in the neighborhood of $160.00, subject to fluctuation.

1. **Membership**

Membership is dependent upon behavior. Excessive behavioral problems may result in removal from the ensemble (disruption, failure to maintain professional standards, etc.).

1. **Grading**

The grading policy for the Davidson Chorale is based on the following criteria:

* 1. Professional Responsibilities 50%

Students begin each 9-weeks with 100. Each infraction results in the loss of points which may not be made up.

* + 1. Each student is required to maintain their music and bring correct materials to class (pencil, folder, etc.).
    2. Students are required to complete homework assignments.
    3. Students must be in place on the risers at the start of class.
    4. Each student will be graded on their daily level of participation. Students are expected to be focused, and engaged.
    5. Missing a sectional without make up

**Failure to adhere to these standards will result in the loss of up to 3 points per infraction.**

* 1. Call Times and Tests 50%
     1. Test are given on average every two weeks and are averaged together with concert Call Times. Call Times for concert and dress rehearsal will be worth 100 points. Students who are late for the called arrival time will be penalized within the following scale:
        1. 1-10 minutes: -10 points
        2. 11-20 minutes: -20 points
        3. 21-30 minutes: -30 points
        4. More than 30 min: -50 points
  2. MISSING A CONCERT RESULTS IN A 0 FOR THAT PERFORMANCE AND MAY NOT BE MADE UP.

Davidson Chorale Choral Department registration. All students must return the following form by ***August 10***

**\*\*\* PARENT MEETING *Thursday, August 8* at 6pm. All State and Uniform FEES due September 7or can be turned in that evening at the parent meeting.**

Dear Parents:

**CASUAL UNIFORM FEE**

* Each member of the Davidson Chorale is required to have a casual uniform, which consists of a black polo shirt with the Davidson Crest. The cost if **$25** per shirt. If you already have one, there is no need to purchase another unless your child has grown out of theirs, lost it, or it has worn out. If your child is new to the Chorale, they MUST purchase a shirt. Please indicate the size.

**Adult Sizes CIRCLE ONE**

S M L XL XXL

**ALL STATE 1st ROUND AUDITIONS FEE**

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Please fill in the following information. Print neatly.

Name of your child\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(REQUIRED. Please print neatly!)

**Total Fees: Check all that apply. Please make checks payable to Davidson Fine Arts.**

**\_\_\_\_$25 All State Audition Only (required of ALL members)**

**\_\_\_\_$25 New polo shirt (required for new members)**

***Remember, you may raise money through the Adopt-a-Singer program to cover these fees!***

***\*\*\*\*\*WE ARE GOING TO DISNEY!!!!!!\*\*\*\*\****