Welcome to the Hutto MS Choir family! This handbook contains schedules, procedures and expectations for choir members, please go over it carefully and contact me at Adam.Reemts@huttoisd.net if you have any questions.

Communication

There are several ways to keep up to date with HMS Choirs.

- My HISD teacher webpage (bit.ly/HMSReemts) has links to our performance calendar, classroom documents, and other resources.
- I will use Canvas for posting assignments as well as practice materials so singers can work on their music at home. Students can access Canvas by logging into Classlink with their school email address. The link to Classlink can be found at the top of the district web page.
- I use Remind.com to send updates and reminders periodically throughout the year, especially for last-minute important news. You can download the free Remind app from the App Store or Google Play, or you can sign up online. To sign up, follow the directions on the instruction sheet attached to this handbook.
- I will also send emails home about news and upcoming events.

Expectations for Choir

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then is not an act but a habit.” ~ Aristotle

Our goal is to be an excellent ensemble, but to reach that goal every choir member must practice excellence every day in class. These classroom expectations will help us meet those goals.

- Listen and follow directions quickly the first time they’re given.
- Raise your hand silently before speaking or leaving your seat.
- Make smart choices. Respect yourself, your classmates, your teacher, and your surroundings.

The consequences for not following HMS or classroom rules are:
- First offense = verbal warning
- Second offense = lunch detention and parent phone call
- Third offense = after-school detention and parent phone call
- Fourth offense = office referral and parent phone call
- Repeat offenses = suspension, loss of trip privileges, or removal from choir program

ANY SERIOUS OFFENSE, SUCH AS FIGHTING OR DEFIANCE WILL RESULT IN AN IMMEDIATE OFFICE REFERRAL, AS OUTLINED IN THE HMS STUDENT HANDBOOK.
**Classroom Supplies**

Your singer will need to have the following in class for choir:

- A pencil
- Your school-issued Chromebook
- A set of headphones or earbuds (They don’t have to be fancy or expensive.)

**Grading Policy**

All performance-based assignments (singing tests, concert grades, etc.) will be based on a rubric which will be posted in Canvas. Your grade in choir will be made up of the following components:

**Daily Grades (40% of overall grade)**

These will include our daily activities such as singing skill checks (posture, vowel shape, sight-reading handsigns, etc.), in-class written or online assignments, and daily journals/exit-tickets.

**Assessments (60% of overall grade)**

These will include in-class or online singing tests, sight-reading tests, written or online tests or quizzes, and concert performance grades. **All concert performances are graded and mandatory.**

**Concerts**

Concerts are the cumulative evaluation of many weeks of preparation and classwork and will count for multiple test grades. **All choir members are expected to be at EVERY performance of their choir.** I have provided a calendar with all of our currently scheduled performances so that you can prepare well in advance. Reminders will be sent home 2-3 weeks before a performance. Illness, family emergencies, or religious obligations are generally the only absences that will be considered excused. Some form of parent/guardian contact (phone call, email, or written note) is necessary for a missed concert to be considered excused.

If a student misses a concert, they may make up the grade by writing a one-page critique of their choir based on a recording of the performance. They will also need to schedule a time before or after school to meet with me and sing their voice part for all concert pieces. Both parts of the make-up assignment must be completed no more than three days after the missed performance to receive credit.

**Concert Attire**

Unless otherwise specified, Choir members will wear an HMS Music Department t-shirt with a pair of blue jeans (no holes, please) for all performances this year. The choir shirts have been pre-ordered and should arrive by the end of August. **Students will receive their first shirt for free, if a student loses or damages their shirt they will need to pay $10 for a replacement.** Choir t-shirts are not to be altered in any way until the school year is over - remember, these will serve as our uniform for performances, so everyone’s shirt needs to look the same.
Co-Curricular vs. Extra-Curricular events

Co-curricular events are considered extensions of the classroom that occur outside of our regular class time. Examples of co-curricular events include extra before or after-school rehearsals and school-sponsored concerts. ALL CHOIR MEMBERS are REQUIRED to be at co-curricular events regardless of their academic eligibility status.

Extra-curricular events may be competition-oriented, may require missing class time, or may require an admission fee. These include community performances, music festivals and contests, and some UIL events. Academically ineligible students may not attend extra-curricular activities. These students will be given an alternative assignment to make up the performance grade.

Students and parents will be given adequate notice of all additional rehearsals and activities outside of the regular class period. Every effort will be made to minimize the amount of out-of-class time required. These rehearsals and activities are course requirements and are vital to the success of the choral program. Attendance at these rehearsals is mandatory. If there is a conflict with a scheduled before- or after-school rehearsal, please contact me as soon as possible.

Spring Trip

If conditions allow, we may attend a music festival or social event held at an amusement park in late April or early May. The status of the year-end trip will depend on local conditions regarding COVID-19 and district policies regarding field trips at that time. The purpose of the trip is to reward students for their hard work, dedication, good behavior, and participation throughout the year. PARTICIPATION IN THE SPRING TRIP IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT. Final discretion on eligibility to participate rests with the choir director and HMS administration.

In order to participate in the trip, students must maintain academic eligibility, maintain excellent behavior in the classroom, and meet all of the requirements for participation set out in the trip information packet. Students who receive multiple referrals in any class may be told to stay home for this trip. In addition, any student who has more than one unexcused absence from a choir performance will not be allowed to go on the trip. Students will be told of expectations and criteria for participation well in advance of the trip.
A Final Word About Choir During COVID-19

Unfortunately, Covid-19 is still going to affect us this school year.

**Masks:** Due to Governor Abbott’s order, schools can no longer mandate that students wear masks in class. Students are welcome to wear masks in the classroom and during concert performances as a safety measure if they choose. **This policy is subject to change based on decisions made by our district leadership and school board.**

**Social Distancing:** I will space students as far apart as I can in the classroom and on stage for performances.

**Concerts:** At this point, we are planning a full concert schedule, but concerts may have to be adjusted based on local conditions and district guidelines. This might mean staggering performance times or limiting attendance to allow for better distancing in the performance space, or even moving performances outside. I ask that you be willing to be flexible as plans change. I will do my best to communicate any changes to you as far in advance as possible so you have time to plan.

Please know that my number one priority is to keep your student safe while in class. I hope that Choir will be a chance for students to escape from their day-to-day worries for a while each day. If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact me. I’m looking forward to a great (if unusual) year!

Adam Reemts - Hutto MS Choir Director
**Hutto Middle School Beginning Choirs - 2021-2022 Concert Schedule**
Adam Reemts, Director – Adam.Reemts@huttoisd.net / 512-759-4541 (X8030)

These are the concert dates that are finalized at this time. Other performance opportunities may be added at a later date. Any additional performance info will be sent home as far in advance as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, October 18</td>
<td>HMS Fall Choir Concert - 6:00 PM @ Hutto HS Performing Arts Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, December 6</td>
<td>Caroling in HMS Foyer - 7:50 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 15</td>
<td>HMS Beginning Music Winter Concert - 6:00 PM @ Hutto MS Gym</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, February 28</td>
<td>Black History Month Performance – 6:00 PM @ Hutto MS Cafeteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 12</td>
<td>HMS Choir Spring Pops Concert - 6:00 PM @ Hutto HS Performing Arts Center</td>
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All performances are required!
Please contact me immediately if you have a conflict with any performance on this schedule.

*Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, concerts may have to be adjusted based on local conditions and district guidelines. I will do my best to communicate any changes to you as far in advance as possible so you have time to plan.*
My son or daughter, ________________________________________, has my permission to participate in Hutto Middle School Choir activities for the 2021-2022 school year. I have read the Hutto Middle School Choir Handbook with my student and understand the guidelines and commitments. I have also received a copy of the choir calendar and understand the requirements for attendance. By signing this form I also give my permission for my child to ride the bus for any choir activities this year that need bus transportation.

**I have read and understand the rules and conditions presented in the 2021-2022 HMS Choir Handbook.**

____________________________________________________________________________________

Parent Signature/Date

____________________________________________________________________________________

Student Signature/Date

**Student Information (Please print legibly – thank you!)**

Student Name _________________________________

Parent/guardian name(s) _________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

All phone numbers _________________________________

Parent/guardian email address(es) _________________________________

**In case of emergency (if you can’t be reached):**

Contact name: _________________________________

Relationship: __________________ Phone number: _________________________________

Are you willing to help as a volunteer? (Ex. chaperone field trips, help with uniforms, etc.)

Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____

**What else should I know about your student?**

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________