

RAWLINSON



CHOIR HANDBOOK

2011-2012

**RAWLINSON M.S. CHORAL DEPARTMENT  
HANDBOOK AND CALENDAR**

**TO:** Choir students and parents

**FROM:** Kathy Settles-Horejsi, Choir Director

**DISTRIBUTION DATES:** Wednesday, August 30, 2011

**RESPONSE DATES:** Please review all information and return the Choir Commitment Form by Friday, September 2, 2011

The 2011-2012 school year is officially here and with the new year comes many exciting opportunities and activities. I look forward to our choirs continuing on the path to excellence as I embark on my third year at Rawlinson MS. The Rawlinson Choral Program offers every student many opportunities to enrich his/her musical appreciation through the study of music reading, music theory, music history and participation in a variety of performances. The goal of these quality musical experiences is to provide a pleasing and positive means of self-expression while developing a lifelong love for music and the Fine Arts.

Being a part of an outstanding musical organization involves a great deal of responsibility for each individual. *Please review the information included in this handbook and **complete and sign the Choir Commitment Form**, on the last page, and **return by Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>**.* This will provide helpful volunteer information and will also ensure that we are all clear about our objectives and expectations. **PARENTS ARE IMPORTANT TO OUR SUCCESS!** You can help your student by doing the following things:

1. Concerts--Make sure the student is attendance. Most concerts are **REQUIRED**. Make every effort for **YOU** to be at them as well.
2. Grades--I will follow your students' academic progress in **ALL** of their classes. Ineligible students miss out on so much. Please be aware of your student's academic progress as well.
3. Attendance—it is necessary that your student be at school every day. This will help prevent eligibility problems and encourage consistent progress in all classes.
4. Chaperones—your student may not want you to chaperone but I **DO**, occasionally.

Together, teachers + parents + student, we can make this year a positive experience in the Rawlinson Choir.

**\*\*\*ONE OF YOUR CHILD'S FIRST GRADES IN CHOIR IS TO TURN IN THE LAST PAGE OF THIS PACKET WITH YOUR SIGNATURE ON IT.** Please help them earn an easy 100.

Thank you for your support.

## OBJECTIVES

1. To gain singing and music reading skills
2. To learn responsibility, individual and group
3. To have positive and productive attitudes
4. To show respect through conduct, consideration and courtesy.

## CHOIR CLASS DIVISIONS

The Rawlinson Choral Department consists of the following classes:

- Beginning Choir (period 6)- 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls
- Advanced/Intermediate Treble Choir (period 5)-7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade girls choir
- Tenor/Bass Choir (period 7)-6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade boys

## MUSIC AND SUPPLIES

### STUDENT PROVIDED -Required

1. Black Binder—standard 1/2-inch black binder with inside pockets  
Every student will need a black binder to hold choral music, pencil, written work and notes.
2. Pencils:  
Students should have a sharpened pencil at the beginning of each class. It is a good idea to leave the pencil in the choir room in your folder. Since choral music is used for many years, markings in the music must be non-permanent. Pens of any type, including erasable pens, are not acceptable.

### STUDENT PROVIDED-Optional

1. Extra Pencils for general class use
2. Tissues

### SCHOOL PROVIDED

1. Choral music:  
Students will be provided with choral music which will be kept in their music binder. They are responsible for this music, just as they are responsible for textbooks in other classes. The student must pay for lost or damaged music. All music and folders will remain in the Choir Room unless given special permission by the teacher.

## CONCERTS

All of our co-curricular performances will be held in the evenings and attendance for all Choir students, regardless of eligibility or grades, is MANDATORY. Performances are a part of the state curriculum and are an important evaluation tool, much like an exam would be in another class, or a game would be in athletics. An unexcused absence from a concert will affect the student's grade. A make-up assignment will be given for partial credit.

## CONTESTS

Throughout the year there will three contests we will participate in:

Region Choir Auditions in October for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade students only.

UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest in March for Advanced Choir(s) only.

Solo/Ensemble Contest in April for all choir students.

Texas State House Bill 72 requires students to pass all classes with a grade of 70 or higher to be eligible for competition. Students with a failing six week grade in ANY CLASS will not be allowed to compete during the following six weeks, unless all grades are passing at progress report. This does not apply to non-competitive (co-curricular) concerts.

*All contest fees are paid for by the district and/or choir fundraising. However, if a student registers for but fails to attend Region Choir auditions for an unexcused reason then they will have to payback the entry fee. Students will be required to pay a piano accompanist if they choose to do a solo for Solo/Ensemble contest. Please don't let financial constraints prevent your child from participating. Contact the choir director and arrangements will be made on an individual basis.*

## EXTRA REHEARSALS

It will be necessary during the year to have extra rehearsals outside of class to prepare for a performance. There will be sufficient advance notice to prepare for transportation. Students are expected to attend all extra rehearsals.

## UNIFORMS

Each student needs to purchase a choir shirt. However, please don't let financial constraints and uniform purchases (formal or casual) keep your child from participating. Contact the director and arrangements will be made on an individual basis.

The **Beginning Choir** (per. 1) will wear the following uniform for all performances:  
Rawlinson Choir Shirt (*cost To Be Determined, order forms coming soon*)  
Blue Jeans (Full length, NO Capris)  
Black Shoes

The **Advanced/Intermediate/Tenor-Bass Choirs** (per. 2 & 3) will have two uniforms.

Casual Uniform will be:

Rawlinson Choir shirts (see above)

Blue Jeans (Full length, NO shorts) & Black Shoes

Formal Uniform will be:

Boys: Tuxedo (PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL)

(includes jacket, shirt, pants, tie, cummerbund)

Black belt

Black socks

Black shoes, solid color, no tennis shoes

Girls: Formal Dress (PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL)

Nude/skin tone hose

Black shoes

The parts of the formal uniform that the school provides will be checked out to students by a numbering system in November. All parts must be returned in good condition in April or the current cost to replace lost or damaged items will be charged to the student.

## FUNDRAISING

Any fundraising events that the choir participates in will take place through the Rawlinson Music Lovers. Please plan on joining this group at the first meeting on Sept. 15.

The cost of everything has risen (music, musicians, entry fees, student celebrations etc.) so we will need your help in having successful and prosperous fundraisers! Thank you for your support with this very necessary item!!

## GRADING

All choir students are able to make an “A”, but this does not mean they will automatically receive one. Grades will be determined by achievement in the following areas:

1. Daily Class Work—50% of six weeks grade
2. Tests/Performance/Rehearsal Attendance—50% of six weeks grade

The majority of assignments are to be done and completed in class. When a student is absent it is their responsibility to find out what they missed.

## BEHAVIOR/DISCIPLINE

Self-discipline is an important element of Choir rehearsal and performance. Students must realize that they are a member of a group or team with an excellent reputation. Their behavior during school classes and at public performance reflects on Rawlinson and the Choral Department. Students have been given clear expectations concerning discipline; your support is greatly appreciated in the following areas:

1. *No gum or candy will be allowed during choir.*
2. *Be on time, in your seat, with your folder and pencil in hand when the bell rings.*
3. *Show respect for teachers, each other, self and property at all times.*
4. *100% positive participation will prevent disruptive behavior.*
5. *Treat choir materials and room with care.*
6. *Proper concert etiquette will be observed at all performances.*
  - a. *No cell phone usage (including texting)*
  - b. *Appropriate applause without whooping and hollering*
  - c. *Remain seated while a choir is performing and attend entire concert.*

With everyone’s cooperation and enthusiasm we can have a great year and continue a tradition of high quality performances that are expected of Northside ISD organizations and the Rawlinson Choirs.

**CHOIR COMMITMENT FORM**

***PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO MRS. SETTLES-HOREJSI BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>.***

I have read the Rawlinson Choir Handbook and agree to abide by all the policies stated within. I realize that it takes cooperation from 100% of the students to make the Rawlinson Choir a success and I agree to do my part to help achieve this goal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature                                      Class Period                                      Date

I have read the Rawlinson Choir Handbook and discussed it with my child. We agree to abide by all of the rules and regulations stated in the handbook. I understand that students need to make arrangements to attend all choir functions. I agree to assist my child in doing his/her part in order to make the Rawlinson Choir a success.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's or Guardian's Signature                                      Date

Daytime Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent email (print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the following information if you are able to help us by volunteering your time and/or service this year. If you are interested in helping the district requires a criminal background check form to be filled out and submitted for approval. This can be accessed on the NISD home page at [www.nisd.net](http://www.nisd.net) .

I am interested in helping the choir program in the following way(s). *(And, I will access the criminal background check via the internet.)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Chaperone
  - \_\_\_\_\_ during school      \_\_\_\_\_ after school      \_\_\_\_\_ weekend
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Helper at concerts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hospitality (mainly at concerts where we have guest performers)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Uniform Assistance (as needed)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ alterations/fittings
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fund raising assistance (as needed)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ during school      \_\_\_\_\_ after school
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other ways you can help (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_