

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Ed Rawlinson (RMS) Choir department. The purpose of the handbook is to acquaint and inform the students and parents of the RMS choir program. The choirs work very hard to achieve excellence. Cooperation and dedication are required from everyone involved: students, parents, director and administrators.

While the handbook appears lengthy, the information included is important to you. I request that every choir member and their parents read the handbook carefully. Please sign and return the indicated form during the first week of school. Save the handbook for future reference. Thank you in advance for all your help in making this year so special.

OBJECTIVES

1. My program emphasizes the development of sing and music reading skills necessary to enjoy participating in a choral organization.
2. Music is fun, but there is no fun in mediocrity. To ensure the success of the group, each student, parent, and the director must realize his/her individual responsibilities. The persons involved must be willing to sacrifice individual desires for the betterment of the choir.
3. The amount of fun and satisfaction you receive from the choir will be no greater than the amount of enthusiasm and hard work you are willing to contribute.
4. I will strive to ensure proper conduct, consideration, and courtesy in the choirs.

CHOIR CLASSES OFFERED

The Rawlinson Choir program consists of five performing choirs:

1. 6TH Grade Choir - Membership is open to 6th grade students who choose choir.
2. Tenor/Bass Choir - Membership is open to 6th, 7th & 8th grade boys who choose choir.
3. Intermediate Choir - Membership is open to 7th & 8th grade girls who choose choir.
4. Advanced Choir - Membership is open to 7th & 8th grade auditioned girls who choose choir.
5. Liberty Stars (after school) - Audition is open to 6th, 7th & 8th grade students.

GRADING

Students in choir will be given a numerical grade which will be comprised of the following:

1. Skill Demonstration: This grade is given to the student by the director based on a daily observation of the student's participation and musical skills learned in choir activities. Students are required to have all materials; i.e., folder, pencil, music, and/or worksheets, every day in rehearsal: **25% of total grade.**
2. Singing Tests: The students will be given singing tests which will include both individual and group testing on class music and sight-reading assignments.
3. Written Tests: The students will be given written exams on information covered in class. The data will include music theory, symbols or terms, sight-reading skills and exercises, and other information which will enhance their musical experience.

Numbers 2 & 3 = 25% of total grade.

4. Rehearsal / Concert / Contest Attendance: Northside ISD guidelines for performing organizations state: "Bands, choirs and orchestras are performing groups and student member's participation in all performances is required." Most students assume their performance obligations and responsibilities enthusiastically. Students will be given a percentage rating, based on the number in each grading period: **50% of the total grade.** All excuses of missed rehearsals and concerts must be submitted in WRITING in ADVANCE for my APPROVAL. There are always extenuating circumstances and these will be considered for missed performances. Communication is the key.

In the event of no performances during the grading period, the daily grade and the knowledge level grade will each count 50%.

There is not an academic eligibility requirement for **CONCERTS**. The concert performances are considered co-curricular, that is, an extension of classroom learning. However, eligibility requirements will be in affect for all extra-curricular activities: Region XI auditions, NISD Solo and Ensemble Contest, UIL Concert / Sight-reading Contest, and Honor Choir performances that occur off campus.

5. Extra Credit Events: This is an extra grade which is given to those students who choose to participate in Solo / Ensemble, All-Region Choir or other events sponsored by the choir department.

FIELD TRIP PERMISSION FORMS

Information about off-campus activities, during the school day or after hours, will be sent home. An NISD permission form will be included. Both student and parent signatures are required. Parents and students are asked to read the information carefully. No student may leave the campus without a signed permission form.

MUSIC AND SUPPLIES

Music will be checked out to all choir students. Students are responsible for lost or missing music and the general condition of the music. Sixth grade students will provide a plastic folder (2 pockets with brads) for the class. These students will keep their folders in the choir room. Seventh and eighth grade students will be issued a choir folder. Seventh and eighth graders will be allowed to keep their folders in their lockers. All students will be responsible for the upkeep and overall condition of the folder. **Points** will be deducted from the six weeks average each time a student does not have the folder, pencil or other materials for class. **Pencils only** may be used in making marks on the music. **Librarians** will be selected for each choir to assist with filing and sorting music.

RAWLINSON CHOIR UNIFORMS & FEES

All students will need to purchase a choir t- shirt for \$10, due by September 4. The choir shirt & jeans attire are used as an alternate performance uniform. The District fee (\$15) is also **due by September 4, 2007.**

Six grade students: The girls will need a blue jean skirt (length according to NISD dress code) and the boys will need blue jeans (style approved by NISD dress code). Dark dress shoes are appropriate.

Through fund-raising efforts of students and parents, the department is able to provide a uniform for the **seventh and eighth grade** students. Fittings and distribution of the uniforms take place in early September. For the most part, uniforms will be distributed in class with parent assistance. At the end of the school year, do not dry clean the uniform; return it "as is". All uniforms are coded with letters or numbers for easy identification.

Uniforms are professionally dry cleaned and ready to wear. The girl's dress is hemmed by machine. There are enough sizes that the gowns can be fitted without major alterations being required. If the dress needs hemming, please hem the garment by hand, allowing for a 2 inch hem. Boys are provided with tux pants, shirt and a tie/cummerbund. If the slacks need hemming, please allow for a 2 inch hem.

The NISD maintenance fee for 6/7/8 graders is **\$ 15.00.** The **fee is due by September 4, 2007.**

SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST

Northside ISD sponsors a Middle School Solo and Ensemble Contest during the second semester. This contest is open to all eligible students in sixth, seventh, and eight grades. The contest allows students the opportunity for individual vocal instruction. I will choose a song from the approved list (PML) and will rehearse before and after school with the student. The contest will be held in **April** in the spring at a **Pat Neff MS**. There are no contest fees; solo accompanist fees are assessed. This is a worthwhile activity for the student's vocal growth and musical development, which I encourage.

ALL-REGION CHOIR

The Texas Music Educators Association sponsors an activity to honor outstanding eligible seventh and eighth grade choir students. Rawlinson is a member of T.M.E.A. Region XI. I will teach the students his/her part on the selected songs in required sectionals. **Choir students will pre-audition to be certified to represent Rawlinson in the Region competition**. The **Region XI audition** will be **Saturday, October 20** at Connally MS. The \$15 entry fee will be paid by the district; Reimbursement is required for failure to appear at the audition. The students selected for the choirs will be involved in a clinic and concert under the leadership of respected and well-known conductors. The students chosen will benefit vocally and will learn new and exciting literature, as well as form new friendships within the Region. Region Choirs are an extremely high honor. I hope that many RMS choir students will set this audition as a goal.

SPECIAL REHEARSALS

During the year, it may be necessary to call extra rehearsals for the entire choir or for a particular section. The students will always be informed in advance to make plans for attendance and transportation. Section practices will be scheduled and required for Region Choir audition rehearsals, UIL contest preparation, and Solo/Ensemble contest preparation. Rehearsals may be called for the entire choir, if necessary, to prepare for a performance.

DAILY PROCEDURE

When you enter the choir room, you will immediately get your folder and be seated in your assigned seat before the class begins. You are tardy if you are not in your chair with your folder and sharpened pencil. Every student must keep a pencil in his/her folder at all times. The teacher signals the beginning of class. Students should quietly study their sight reading before rehearsal begins.

Gum and candy are not permitted in the class room for safety reasons. Our choirs will be more successful when talking, whispering, note writing, etc. are not permitted. These distractions disrupt class and slow down our progress. Discipline will be administered as warranted, based on the infraction. When choir is ending, you should place your folder back in the folder cabinet in the correct slot. Final dismissal will be given by director.

ED RAWLINSON CHOIR CALENDER

2007-2008

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Friday	Aug. 30- Sept. 14 Sept. 21	Music Fund raiser FR Celebration Party
Tuesday	Oct. 16	FALL FLING: 7PM at Rawlinson
Saturday	Oct. 20	Region XI M. S. Choir Auditions
Saturday	Nov. 3	Region XI Honor Choirs Clinic & Concert
Friday	Dec. 14	Rehearsal: 4 - 7 PM
Monday	Dec. 17	HOLIDAY SHOW: 7 PM at Clark
	December	Elementary Recruiting Trips "Deck the Halls," River Walk Caroling
Friday Party		January 11 Back to School
Tuesday RMS Cafeteria	February 26	FUN FEST: 4 - 6 PM at
Monday at Rawlinson	March 10	PRE-UIL CONCERT: 7PM
Thur.-Fri. Contest	March 13-14	UIL Concert/Sight Reading
Saturday	March 29	DC Music Festival
Thursday Ensemble Contest	April 17	6 th Grade Solo &
Saturday Contest	April 19	NISD Solo & Ensemble
Monday PM	May 19	Technical Rehearsal: 4 - 7
Tuesday at Rawlinson	May 20	SPRING MUSICAL: 7PM
Thursday	May 22	Choir Awards Picnic
Friday	May 23	End of the Year Party

To Be Announced: Field Trips for 6, 7, or 8th graders will be scheduled later.

The trip dates will be given with sufficient notice to parents.

This Calendar is as accurate and complete as possible with the information currently available. It is intended as a guide in planning for the year. Situations beyond our control sometimes bring about a change in the calendar. You will be notified as soon as possible if any changes should occur. Choir members will be expected to make adjustments as necessary should change be thrust upon us. Your cooperation and understanding are appreciated.

Please detach and Return this page by Tuesday/Wednesday, September 4-5

Student Name Choir Period

I have read the Ed Rawlinson Choir Handbook and am willing to comply with the information included therein.

Student's Signature

Parent's/Guardian's signature

Date

I will be willing to help with choir activities.

Parent's/Guardian's name Home Phone Work Phone

Count on me for the following:

- // Uniform distribution during class time
- // Help with Holiday concert reception
- // Purchase flowering plant for use at Holiday concert
- // Help with Musical in spring
- // Supervise a concert or contest
- // Provide refreshments
- // Help with UIL contest in March
- // Help with Solo/Ensemble contest in April
- // Chaperone an outside class activity
- // Chaperone a bus ride to an event
- // Help count fund-raising money

// Anything as needed

If you can help, are you available:

During the school day? _____ yes _____ no _____ time

After School? _____ yes _____ no _____ time

Saturdays? _____ yes _____ no _____ time

ED RAWLINSON

CHOIR

DEPARTMENT

GO WILD: Live the Success!

Director: Marian L. Cates

RMS Principal: Nancy Pena