

ARGYLE MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR  
2021-2022 PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

***All Choirs***



Alex Singleton, Choir Director

[alex.morgan@argyleisd.com](mailto:alex.morgan@argyleisd.com)

[www.argylemschoir.com](http://www.argylemschoir.com)



Dear AMS Choir Parents,

I am so happy to welcome you and your child to another wonderful year in the Argyle Middle School Choir program! My name is Alex Singleton, and I am the choir director at AMS. I am thrilled to be teaching your children and I'm excited for what this school year has in store!

Please be sure to visit our AMS Choir website [www.argylemschoir.com](http://www.argylemschoir.com). This website will act as a "home base" for everything AMS Choir, including forms, calendars, rehearsal tracks, and more. Make sure to bookmark it!

This handbook is designed to assist you as a parent in understanding the many dimensions of the choir program at Argyle Middle School. As a member of AMS Choir, your child will be an important part of one of the school's successful and respected "teams." As with all other teams, the success of AMS Choir will depend on the loyalty, cooperation, and dedication of each member.

Please read through this handbook and help your child to understand its contents. I recommend that you store this handbook in a safe place where you can easily access it, as you may find answers to questions that might arise throughout the year in this packet. Please contact me at any time if you have a question that is not answered in the handbook.

I look forward to a year filled with fun and excitement as we further your child's music education together! Welcome again to AMS Choir for the 2021-2022 school year!

Respectfully,

Alex Singleton

[alex.morgan@argyleisd.com](mailto:alex.morgan@argyleisd.com)

## **Choir Supplies Fee (all students)**

Argyle Middle School requires all choir students to pay a one-time choir fee of \$30. This fee will be used to provide students with the necessary supplies for the school year, as well as help fund the many contests, festivals, and events we will participate in throughout the year. Students will receive their supplies during the first week of classes. These supplies include:

- |                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ♪ 1" 3-Ring Binder               | ♪ 2 PENCILS- with eraser  |
| ♪ Pencil Pouch with 3-ring holes | ♪ Highlighter             |
| ♪ Package of dividers            | ♪ 2021-2022 Choir T-shirt |

## **Formal Choir Uniform Fee (Concert Men and A cappella Women ONLY)**

All choir students are provided with a casual uniform, which is included in their Choir Supplies Fee detailed above. All Women's and Men's Choir students are also required to pay an additional Formal Choir Uniform Fee (this does not apply to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Choir). The AMS Choir department loans formal uniforms to all Women's and Men's Choir students as a rental, and students return these uniforms at the end of the year. The rental fee for these uniforms is \$20 per student, which covers the cost of dry cleaning at the end of each school year.

## **Harmony Show Choir Fee**

All Harmony Show Choir students are required to pay a \$75 show choir fee. Show choir members were informed of this fee at the end of last year, before auditions took place. **This fee is only for current Harmony Show Choir students.**

## **How/When to Pay Fees**

Parents can pay their child's choir fee(s) in cash or check form. All choir fees must be paid by Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. **All checks should be made payable to Argyle Choir Booster Club.** A summary of fees is below:

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Choir students = \$30 Choir Supplies Fee  
Men's/Women's Choir students = \$50 Choir Supplies/Formal Uniform Fee  
Harmony Show Choir students = \$75 Fee

## **Choir Uniforms**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls:** Members of this choir will wear a casual uniform for all performances this year: a 2021-2022 choir shirt, jeans, and sneakers (shirts provided by AMS choir department).

**Concert Men and A cappella Women:** Members of these choirs will have a casual uniform and a formal uniform. The casual uniform will be a 2021-2022 choir shirt, jeans, and sneakers (shirts provided by AMS choir department). This uniform will be worn at pep rallies, community performances, and our end of year pop show. The formal uniforms are detailed below:

**A cappella Women's Choir-** The AMS Choir department will loan formal black dresses to each student in A cappella Women's Choir. Students will need to provide their own black flats (no heels, sneakers, flip-flops, etc.) This uniform will be worn at our Fall, Winter, and UIL concerts. This uniform will be returned to the AMS choir department at the end of the school year.

**Concert Men's Choir-** The AMS Choir Department will loan Concert Men's Choir students a black button-up shirt, black dress pants, and a red tie. Students will need to provide their own socks and shoes. Socks should be black dress socks (no ankle socks), and shoes should be black dress shoes (no sneakers). This uniform will be worn at our Fall, Winter, and UIL concerts. This uniform will be returned to the AMS choir department at the end of the school year.

## **Remind 101**

Remind 101 is a convenient, secure way for teachers to send text message reminders to students and parents. All students are required to sign up for Remind (no cost, no phone numbers exchanged). Parents are encouraged to sign up as well to receive the same reminders your student is. Students and parents follow the instructions below to sign up for your specific choir class:

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Choir Students/Parents:** Text @argyle6 to 81010

**Concert Men's Choir Students/Parents:** Text @amsmen21 to 81010

**A cappella Women Students/Parents:** Text @amswomen to 81010

**Harmony Show Choir Students/Parents:** Text @ams78sc to 81010

## **AMS Facebook/Instagram**

The Argyle Middle School Choir program has a Facebook and Instagram page! This is a great way to keep updated on all the cool things your children are doing in choir! You can follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/argylemschoir](http://www.facebook.com/argylemschoir) and on Instagram @argylemschoir. Like/follow our pages to receive posts and information throughout the year!

Occasionally we would like to post photos/videos of choir students during social events, choir performances, class activities, etc. We want to show off all the fantastic things your children are doing! You can indicate your consent on the Google Form located on the Handbook page at [www.argylemschoir.com](http://www.argylemschoir.com)

## **Organizational Highlights of Choir**

- ♪ Choir is a performance based curricular course that meets every day
- ♪ Students will earn a numerical grade for each nine weeks in choir
- ♪ Attendance is required at all scheduled rehearsals and performances
- ♪ All rehearsals and performances are graded
- ♪ Students may periodically be required to turn in practice cards
- ♪ Students are encouraged to participate in individual self-improvement activities (solo auditions, team-building and social activities) in addition to group rehearsals and performances

## **Rehearsal and Performance Attendance**

Attendance is required at all choir rehearsals and performances. All rehearsals and performances are graded. Unlike most other academic classes, it is not possible to make-up missed content in performance-based choir classes. Students may only be excused from a rehearsal or performance by the director. Unexcused absences may result in a lowered grade, a written make-up assignment, and/or loss of privileges.

Please contact Mrs. Singleton well in advance (at least 3 weeks prior) of a scheduled rehearsal or performance if you find a conflict with the date.

## **Grading Policy**

### **Daily Grades**

*Daily Grades exemplify each student's participation and effort in accomplishing class goals and objectives. Daily grades include:*

- ♪ Weekly preparation and participation
- ♪ Written assignments
- ♪ Practice Cards
- ♪ Quizzes

### **Major Test Grades**

All co-curricular (required) activities are major grades. They are the culmination of many hours of class rehearsals. Major test grades include:

- ♪ Written Tests
- ♪ Singing Tests
- ♪ All after school rehearsals and performances

REHEARSALS = 1 MAJOR GRADE      PERFORMANCES = 2 MAJOR GRADES

## **Practice Cards**

Practice cards may be assigned to students periodically throughout the school year. Each practice card will outline what students should be working on at home and how much time should be spent practicing over a one week period. Parents must sign to verify practice time. DO NOT sign in advance of practice being completed.

Practice cards will have a designated due date. Cards will be accepted one day late for a maximum grade of 70. Practice cards will not be accepted more than one day late and will be recorded as a 0.

## **Calendar**

All choir calendars can be found at [www.argylemschoir.com/calendar](http://www.argylemschoir.com/calendar). Please review your child's choir calendar periodically throughout the year, and notify Mrs. Singleton of any conflicts as soon as possible (the earlier the better).

## **Choice of Music**

Music is a universal language. Therefore, it is one of the most effective ways to learn about diverse cultures and historical periods. The directors will make every effort to teach music that represents diverse genres and styles from various periods and cultures. Music is chosen for its educational value, not for its secular or sacred text.

## **Private Lessons**

Students are encouraged to take private voice lessons. Private lessons provide the individual help that young singers need and cannot get in a group or class. Progress will be much faster by receiving individual attention in a one on one lesson. Lesson times will be provided once per week, during class, if you choose this option.

Lesson prices are set by the district at \$22 per 25 minute lesson. These are extremely affordable lessons in comparison to private studios around DFW. Please consider this opportunity to enhance your child's education. They will be learning different things in their lessons that I will not have time to go into detail during class. Anyone who is interested in show choir, All-Region, Solo & Ensemble, or Musical Theater should consider taking advantage of the Private Lesson opportunity.

Private Lessons Form:

[www.tinyurl.com/ams-voice-lessons](http://www.tinyurl.com/ams-voice-lessons)

**If you would like to enroll in voice lessons, please fill out the form provided above and turn it in to Mrs. Singleton ASAP. Our voice teachers' schedules fill up quickly, and lessons are booked on a first come, first serve basis.**

## **Paperless Handbook Acknowledgement Deadline**

All students and parents must complete our paperless handbook acknowledgement process by **Friday, August 27th**. Visit [www.argylemschoir.com/handbook](http://www.argylemschoir.com/handbook) and follow the instructions on the page.