

RAMSEY CHOIR

HANDBOOK

2021-2022



RAMSEY CHOIR

NATHAN LEE-CHORAL DIRECTOR

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COVID 19 Disclaimer:

We are closely monitoring the current situation(s) regarding the pandemic. Please be flexible with any possible changes communicated to you and your student.

RMS Performing Groups

Chamber Tenor-Bass

Meets 1st hour. Made up of 7th and 8th graders. Entrance into this group is determined by *attitude, work ethic, and audition*. Signed contract required. This group is *required* to audition for the All Region choir in the fall.

Chamber Treble

Meets 2nd hour. Made up of 7th and 8th graders. Entrance into this group is determined by *attitude, work ethic, and audition*. Signed contract required. This group is *required* to audition for the All Region choir in the fall.

Concert Treble

Meets 4th Hour. Made up of 7th and 8th graders. No audition necessary.

Beginning Tenor-Bass

Meets 5th hour. Made entirely of beginning 6th graders. No audition necessary.

Concert Tenor-Bass

Meets 7th Hour. Made up of 7th and 8th graders. No audition necessary.

Beginning Treble

Meets 8th hour. Made entirely of beginning 6th graders. No audition necessary.

Choir Expenses:

All 7th & 8th grade choir members must pay a \$100 choir fee. This fee includes; choir t shirt, uniform, contest participation fee, and material fees.

All 6th grade choir members must pay a \$40 choir fee. This fee includes; choir t-shirt, choir binder, music, and beginners singing text.

It is the student's responsibility to talk to the director if there is a need to set up a payment plan. **NO ONE** will be excluded from participation in choir because of choir expenses. The sooner the director knows, the easier it is to work out a solution. It is ***strongly*** recommended that choir fees be paid in full by the due date if at all possible. You may pay by check, but cash is preferred. ***All checks should be made payable to Ramsey Middle School Choir.***

★ **Performances**

1. All performances on the Ramsey Choir Calendar are *required* of all choral members unless previously stated by the director.
2. Additional performances will not be scheduled with less than two weeks of notice.
3. Excused performance absences include:
 - Death in the *immediate* family. (Student must return with an obituary)
 - Student is seriously ill, AND misses school the day of the performance. (Student must return with a doctor's note).
4. An unexcused performance absence will result in the student's grade being **significantly** lowered for that semester. Missing a performance for work is considered an unexcused absence. A second unexcused performance absence (including All Region tryouts) may result in the dismissal of the student from the choir. No credit is awarded if the student is dismissed from the choir.
5. In the event of an unavoidable conflict with another *school* event, students may choose which activity they wish to participate in without grade penalties. This does not include church events, outside club events, or other organizations. Students are to inform the director(s) **WELL IN ADVANCE** so that every effort can be made to resolve the conflict. **The missed performance grade must be made up with an alternative assignment within a week of the missed performance. This is the STUDENT'S responsibility.**

★ **Choir Calendar**

A Calendar of events is posted in the choir room, on the Ramsey Choir website (Ramseychoir.com), and is included in this handbook. The calendar should be checked periodically by choir members and guardians. Every effort will be made to inform students of choir-related events so that they can make whatever arrangements are necessary in order to attend.

★ Grades

Contrary to popular belief, choir is an **academic** process that covers everything from music literacy to learning how to properly work in a cooperative manner. In order to assess our progress as individuals and collective performing groups, students receive grades based on a variety of assignments throughout the year. These include:

- Daily Rehearsals (posture, participation, vowel formation, demonstration of correct singing technique, material preparation, etc.)
 - Solfege Completion
 - Singing tests (in person and/or recorded)
 - Sight reading pass-offs
 - Music notation assignments
 - Music/folder maintenance
 - Performances and performance evaluations
- Because rehearsals cannot be made up, excessive absences will negatively affect a student's grade.

★ Trips

- Good behavior is expected of all choir members at all times. Remember, when we leave campus, you are an ambassador of our choral program **and** our school.
- Possession and/or use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or controlled substances when associated with the choir will be handled in accordance with district administrative guidelines.
- Students will use planned district transportation to and from events.
- Students may ride home from a performance with their parents provided they bring a note from the parent clearing all details **before** the deadline set by the director(s).
- **Students may not turn in money for any end of the year "fun" trip unless they have *first* paid all choir expenses.**
- **Students must be present for all concerts to attend the end of the year trip.**
- **Two stays in ISS and or/ any suspensions during the school year will result in ineligibility to attend the end of the year trip.**

★ **Uniforms** (we are in the process of transitioning some group(s) uniforms. Please be flexible with any changes made along the way!)

6th Grade Tenor-Bass	6th Grade Treble	Concert/Chamber Treble	Concert Tenor-Bass	Chamber Tenor-Bass
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Black Dress shirt ➤ Black Dress pants ➤ Black socks ➤ Black Dress shoes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ School appropriate concert black. ➤ Black closed-toed shoes with little to no heel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Choir Dress ➤ Black close-toed shoes with little to no heel. ➤ Black hose or tights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Choir Tux pants and shirt ➤ Black Dress shoes and black socks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Choir tux pants and shirt ➤ Black dress shoes and socks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Tie *optional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Minimal Jewelry. NO BLING! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Minimal Jewelry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Tux accessories (buttons) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Bowtie (borrowed on day of concert)

★ **Summer Choir Camp**

The Arkansas Choral Connection (ACC) Choir Camp is held each summer during July. The camp offers choir students ages 6th grade through 12th grade a wonderful opportunity to create bonds with choral students in local programs and to further their choral music education with some of the top junior high, high school, and college choral directors from around the state. It is certainly not mandatory, but *highly* recommended! A consistent payment plan starting as soon as possible is a wonderful way to raise the money without making much of a sacrifice. For more information on this camp, talk to Mr. Lee, visit www.accchoircamp.org or visit Arkansas Choral Connection on Facebook. Information will also be posted on the Ramsey Choir Website as time draws closer.

★ **Schoology and Website**

This year we have roughly 350 students in the Ramsey Choral department. In order to keep up with each student, answer questions that may surface outside of the classroom, show additional choral clips, demonstrate techniques, and remind students of deadlines and events, we have created a website and have a Schoology page assigned to every student. All information covered in this handbook can be found on our website, Ramseychoir.com.

2021-2022 Choir Calendar

Please keep in mind that these dates are ***tentative*** and we are closely watching the COVID situation.

Date	Day	Event	Where
August 24 th	Tues.	First Half of Choir Fees Due <i>Includes choir t-shirt, folder, and uniform. Also includes All-Region tryout fee for Chamber Tenor-Bass and Chamber Treble's choirs.</i>	Choir Lock Box
September 21 st	Tues.	Second Half of Choir Fees Due <i>Includes choir t-shirt, folder, and uniform. Also includes All-Region tryout fee for Chamber Tenor-Bass and Chamber Treble's choirs.</i>	Choir Lock Box
September TBA	TBA	City Choral Festival <i>Involves members of the Chamber Tenor-Bass and Chamber Trebles's choirs who are auditioning for All-Region. Students will be excused from classes during the school day to join other choir members from Kimmons, Darby, and Chaffin Middle schools for an All-Region tryout preparation clinic.</i>	TBA
October 9 th	Sat.	Junior High All-Region Auditions <i>Involves 8th & 9th grade choir students auditioning for All-Region. Departure and return times TBA.</i>	Dover Middle School
November 6 th	Sat.	All-Region Choir Clinic/Concert <i>Involves students selected to participate in the All-Region Choir.</i>	Russellville High School PAC.
December 10 th	Friday.	Christmas Concert <i>All 6th Graders, Concert Tenor-Bass, and Concert Treble 6:00pm. Chamber Treble and Chamber Tenor-Bass 7:30pm.</i>	Ramsey Auditorium
March 10 th -11 th	TBA	Region Choral Performance Assessment. <i>Required by 7th and 8th grade choirs.</i> <i>We will only perform on one of these dates. Exact day and times TBA.</i>	Greenwood PAC
May 19 th	Tues.	Spring Concert <i>Il 6th Graders, Concert Tenor-Bass, and Concert Treble 6:00pm. Chamber Treble and Chamber Tenor-Bass 7:30pm.</i>	Ramsey Auditorium
May 27 th	Friday	Silver Dollar City Trip	Branson

**THIS CONTRACT WILL BE SIGNED DIGITALLY ON A
GOOGLE FORM FOUND AT RAMSEYCHOIR.COM**

Mutual Contract of Agreement

**Please read each statement (both parent and student), fill out the
google form on Ramseychoir.com**

- We have read the Ramsey Choir Handbook and agree to uphold the guidelines, rules, and traditions explained in its contents.
- We understand that students must be in attendance for the entire performance in order to receive full credit.
- We understand and agree to observe uniform guidelines.
- We understand that end of the year trips are a reward for responsible behavior and work ethic in the classroom, and that this privilege is earned throughout the year.
- We understand that admittance to an auditioned group is based on much more than ability. Attitude, work ethic, leadership, etc. are also considered. We also understand that these qualities are continually monitored even after being placed in an auditioned group, and that failure to maintain expectations may result in removal from the group.
- We understand that the director(s) is to be informed of any unusual circumstances that may prohibit the student from performing in class or in concerts. It is the student's and parent's responsibility to contact the director(s). (Contact information is listed on the handbook cover.)
- We understand that being a member of the Ramsey Choral Department is a *privilege* and that students are expected to represent Ramsey Middle School with dignity, pride, and respect.

(Student signature)

(Parent signature)

(Director signature)

(Director signature)

(Principal signature)

(Assistant Principal signature)

(Assistant Principal signature)

**PLEASE fill out the google form on
our website (Ramseychoir.com)**