

STUDENT HANDBOOK



2023-2024

Sean Stultz & Rebecca Berger , Directors

www.kleinhighchoir.com



The Klein High School Choral Department enjoys a rich tradition of excellence, pride and high musical standards. As part of this strong choral organization you can be proud of who you are and what you do. We look forward to working together during the 2023-2024 school year to maintain the excellence that we have come to know as tradition. This investment of time, effort and energy will create a harvest of life-long benefits that will extend well beyond the vast boundaries of music.

Participation in the KHS Choir program provides students the opportunity to improve individual vocal technique, music theory and sight-reading skills. Students learn challenging choral literature in a variety of musical styles, and are able to compete at choral contests and festivals both in and out of KISD. Through individual and group opportunities, students will learn to uphold Klein's Five Core Values: ***Empathy, Gratitude, Integrity, Perseverance, and Service.***

This handbook is designed to introduce you to the choral tradition at Klein High School and to provide you with information regarding course selection, grading procedures, eligibility, private lessons, uniforms, fees, and a calendar of activities and concerts. As the year progresses, any additions or changes will be provided to you in a timely manner via email or on the Klein Choir website (www.kleinhighchoir.com).

We are excited about the opportunities that await us in the 2023-2024 school year. Parents, thank you for supporting your child's interest in music at Klein High School. Students, it is a privilege to have you as a valued part of our choir family.

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KLEIN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR
CALENDAR 2023-2024

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME	WHO
AUGUST				
17	Klein Choir Kick-off	Klein HS	5:00pm-8:00pm	ALL
21	Chorale Rehearsal	Klein HS	5:00-7:00 pm	Chorale
28	Chorale Rehearsal	Klein HS	5:00-7:00 pm	Chorale
31	Movie Sing-Along Social	Klein HS	3:00pm-6:00pm	All (optional)
SEPTEMBER				
1	Chamber Choir Lock-in	Klein HS	3:00pm-10:00pm	Chamber Choir
11	Chorale Rehearsal	Klein HS	5:00-7:00 pm	Chorale
12	District Barrier Audition	Klein HS	IN CLASS	All participants
12-14	KHS Open House/Community Night	Klein HS	5:00pm-7:30pm	ALL
14	Choir Fees Due	School Cash Online	11:59pm	ALL
16	<u>District Choir Audition</u>	Oak Ridge HS	ALL DAY	All participants
18	Chorale Rehearsal	Klein HS	5:00-7:00 pm	Chorale
19	Magical Movie Revue - Auditions	Klein Choir Room	3pm-5pm	All participants
19	Orlando Trip Parent Mtg	Klein HS	6:30-7:30pm	All participants
21	Treble Choir Night	Klein HS	5pm-7:30pm	Treble Choirs
25	Chorale Rehearsal	Klein Cain HS	5pm-7pm	Chorale
26	Fall Concert	Klein High Auditorium	7:00pm	ALL
29	FACE Rehearsal	The Centrum	4:00pm-6:00pm	Chorale ONLY
30	FACE Rehearsal / Concert	The Centrum	10:00am-6:00pm	Chorale ONLY
OCTOBER				
2-4	Musical Auditions	KHS Auditorium	3pm-6pm	All participants
2-6	Region Barrier Audition	Klein HS	IN CLASS	All auditioning
14	<u>Region Choir Auditions</u>	Tomball Memorial HS	ALL DAY	All who advanced
18	Magical Movie Revue Tech Rehearsal	KHS Auditorium	3:00pm-6:00pm	ALL
19	Magical Movie Revue Performance	KHS Auditorium	7:00pm	ALL
27	Homecoming National Anthem	Choir Room/Stadium	5:15 pm/7pm	Chorale ONLY
30	Men's Choir Rehearsal & Social	Klein HS	4pm-6pm	Chorale & Cantus
NOVEMBER				
2	<u>Kemah Days</u>	Kemah	During day	Chamber & Liederkrantz
6	Region Choir Rehearsal	College Park HS	6:00pm-8:00pm	All who placed
10	<u>Region Choir Clinic</u>	Lake Creek HS	6:00pm-8:00pm	All who placed
11	<u>Region Clinic & Concert</u>	Lake Creek HS	ALL DAY	All who placed
14	Men's Choir Clinic & Concert	Houston NW Church	ALL DAY - TBD	Cantus & Chorale ONLY
16	Klein Choir Pot-Luck	Klein HS	6:00pm-7:30pm	ALL (optional)
28	<u>Pre-Area Choir Auditions</u>	The Woodlands HS	4:00pm	All who placed
30	Choir Hayride Social	Christmas Tree Farm	6:30pm-9:00pm	ALL (optional)
DECEMBER				
TBD	Chamber Run-outs	Various	TBD	Chamber
1	<u>NV Choir Holiday Tour</u>	<u>Various</u>	<u>School Day</u>	<u>TBD</u>
5	NV Fine Arts Concert	Klein HS Auditorium	6:30pm	NV Choirs ONLY
7	Varsity Fine Arts Concert	Klein HS Auditorium	7:00pm	Chorale & Chamber ONLY
8	<u>Music Department Holiday Tour</u>	Elementary Schools	School Day	Chorale & Chamber



DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME	WHO
JANUARY				
6	<u>Area Auditions</u>	The Woodlands HS	7:30am	All Area auditioners
19-20	Musical Performance Weekend #1	KHS Auditorium	7pm	All Participants
25-29	Musical Performance Weekend #2	KHS Auditorium	7pm	All Participants
FEBRUARY				
3	Solo & Ensemble	Klein Forest HS	ALL DAY	All Participants
7-10	<u>TMEA All State Clinics & Concerts</u>	San Antonio	ALL DAY	Directors & All-Staters
19	Chamber Rehearsal	Klein HS	3pm-6pm	Chamber
20	Chorale Rehearsal	Klein HS	3pm-5pm	Chorale
22	Top 10 Ceremony	Klein High Auditorium	School Day	Chamber
22	Mad Fest Preview Concert	Klein High Auditorium	7pm	Chamber ONLY
23-24	<u>Madrigal Festival</u>	San Antonio, TX	Depart TBD	Chamber ONLY
26	Chorale Rehearsal	Klein HS	3pm-5pm	Chorale
MARCH				
4	Chorale Rehearsal	Klein HS	3pm-5pm	Chorale
7-12	<u>Orlando Trip</u>	Orlando, FL	Depart TBD	All Participants
19	Chorale Rehearsal	Klein HS	3pm-5pm	Chorale
25	Chorale Rehearsal	Klein HS	3pm-5pm	Chorale
26	Pre-UIL Concert	Klein HS Auditorium	6:30pm	ALL
APRIL				
3	Chamber Cabaret Tech	KHS Choir Room	3pm-6pm	Chamber
4-5	Chamber Cabaret	KHS Choir Room	7pm	Chamber ONLY
8	Chorale Rehearsal	Klein HS	3pm-5pm	Chorale
9-10	Non-Varsity UIL Concert & SR	Willis HS	TBA	Cantus & Bella Voce
11-12	Varsity UIL Concert & SR	Klein Cain HS	TBA	Liederkrantz & Chorale
19-20	<u>Dallas Spring Trip</u>	TBD	School day	Participating students
24-25	Pop Show Auditions	Klein Choir Room	After school	Interested students
MAY				
6	Pop Show Soloist Tech Rehearsal	Klein HS PAC	3:00pm-4:30pm	Soloists/Small Groups
10	Pop Show Full Group Tech Rehearsal	Klein HS PAC	3:00pm-5:00pm	ALL
11	Pop Show	Klein HS PAC	7:00pm	ALL
15	Banquet	TBA	5:00pm-9:00pm	ALL (optional)

Bolded events are required for EVERY member of KHS Choir, unless otherwise indicated
Students must maintain academic eligibility (70 or above in all classes) to participate in underlined events.

All dates are subject to change. These changes will only occur when it is beyond the control of the directors. We will do everything we can to utilize the above dates for these events. In the case of a change, advance notice will be given to students in class, as well as with students and parents via Remind, the website, and/or our Weekly Newsletter.

Additional events may be added throughout the school year w



CLASSROOM RULES & PROCEDURES

The following expectations have been established to ensure a positive and successful learning environment for all choir students.

1. Students will be in their assigned seat, with all their materials needed for class by the time the Tardy bell rings.
2. No food, drink, or gum is allowed in rehearsal (except water in a closed container).
3. Students are expected to participate in all activities during the class period (immediately upon instruction), to the best of their ability, and refrain from disrupting the learning of others.
4. Students will show respect for their teacher and their fellow choir members by refraining from talking and distracting other students during the rehearsal.
5. Students will be dismissed by the director, not the bell.
6. Students will use the bathroom & get water only during passing periods.
7. Ask for permission to use a piano or other technology in the classroom (speakers, etc.)
8. Ask for permission to go to the choir office, practice rooms, storage closets, or other parts of the building.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

1. It is your responsibility to read and follow all of the classroom rules and instructions.
2. Cell phones, and any other electronic device, is put away during the rehearsal. If a cell phone or any other electronic device that is not needed for rehearsal is seen, your weekly participation grade will be docked in addition to following the KHS cell phone policy procedures.
3. If you are sick and cannot sing, you will still be expected to participate in the class by standing and joining the class when requested, writing instructions in music, lip-synching lyrics, performing the solfège hand signs, and otherwise participating in non-verbal activities. In short, when you are well enough to come to school but cannot sing for some reason, you are participating in class in every way except for actually making sound with your voice.
4. Always use good singing posture. Keep your feet shoulder width apart, knees slightly bent, rib cage open, head lifted, and face engaged.
5. It is the expectation that transitions between activities are done efficiently with minimal to no distractions like talking.

CHOIR FEES

REQUIRED FEES

- Choir Fee - \$55
 - Students in the KHS Choir Department are required to pay a **\$55** operating fee. This fee is necessary to maintain a quality choir program for our students, and is required to purchase items which are not provided by the District such as additional sheet music, accompaniment recordings, folders, supplies, uniforms & dry cleaning, Choir T-shirts, Pop Show T-shirts, clinician and accompanist fees, administrative costs and sound equipment. Please go to www.kleinhs.kleinisd.net and click on “School Cash” to pay your choir fee by Thursday, September 14th.
- Chorale Polo - \$25
 - Chorale members are required to purchase a Klein Choir polo. These polos cost \$25 and will be worn at our Homecoming performance, Region and FACE rehearsals, Spring Trip, Pre-UIL concert and group picture day for the yearbook.

OPTIONAL FEES

- TMEA All State Auditions - \$20 (Required for Chamber Choir)
- Car decals - \$7
- Yard signs - \$14
- Suit bags - \$40
- Dress bags - \$45
- Solo & Ensemble - \$10 (for both solos and ensembles). Pianist fee separate.

KLEIN HIGH CHOIR ENSEMBLES

BELLA VOCE - (4th Period)

This non-varsity choir is made up of mainly 9th & 10th grade treble singers (some older as schedules permit). This group will sing treble literature. Members are required to participate in all concerts and the UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contest.

CANTUS - (2nd Period)

This non-varsity choir is made up of mainly 9th & 10th grade tenor/bass singers (some older as schedules permit). This group will sing tenor-bass literature. Members are required to participate in all concerts and the UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contest.

LIEDERKRANZ - (5th Period)

This is an advanced treble choir and includes mainly 10th graders with some advanced 9th graders. Members are required to perform in all concerts and the UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contest

CHORALE - (3rd Period)

This varsity mixed choir is for 10-12th grade students with advanced choir experience. Some sophomores may be added at the discretion of the director. All concerts, the KISD Men's Choir, FACE: A World of Song, and U.I.L. Concert & Sightreading Contest are required.

CHAMBER CHOIR - (6th Period)

This auditioned group is open to 10th-12th grade students who demonstrate distinguished vocal and musical skills. Students audition in May and must have concurrent membership in Chorale. Chamber members will perform at various events in the community. In addition to all KHS choir concerts, Chamber members are required to perform in the San Antonio Madrigal Festival, Chamber Cabaret, Holiday Run-Outs, and must participate in the All-Region Choir audition process.

GRADING POLICY

Your grade is determined by the following guidelines:

Minor Grades (40%)

1. **Daily Participation**

*Responsibility Points

- Leaving music/folder out after rehearsal results in a three-point penalty for the daily grade.
- Food or gum in the choir room results in a five-point penalty for the daily grade
- Failing to have all rehearsal materials by the time the starting bell rings results in a five-point penalty for the daily grade.
- Having a cell phone out without a director's permission results in a zero for the daily grade.

2. **Singing Tests**

3. **Daily Homework Grade** (Ear-training, listening journals, etc)

Major Grades (60%) – Concert Attendance & Performance

1. **Repertoire:** Is the music memorized and performed to a high standard?

2. **Concert Attendance:** Arriving late/leaving early from a performance results in a ten-point penalty off the Attendance Grade.

3. **Etiquette/Dress Code:** Is your behavior up to the standard of concert etiquette as discussed in rehearsal and the choir contract? Not following dress code for a performance results in a 10-point penalty off the Etiquette Grade for each infraction.

4. **Singing Tests**

The responsibility component of a student's grade encourages individuals to be mature and reliable contributors to the ensemble. Unlike other courses, being a member of a choir requires a student to trust his/her peers and students have direct control over the outcome.

Students are expected to check in at the beginning of the concert with their designated section leader by the designated call time. The section leader or Officer will complete a dress code check for each singer and report any problems to one of the directors. **Students must remain for the entire concert.**

CONCERT RESPONSIBILITIES AND ATTENDANCE

Because you are a member of a performing group, attendance is required for all mandatory performances both during and outside school time. A complete performance calendar is included in the handbook, and the directors will provide regular and advanced reminders. Both rehearsals and concerts are required choir activities that serve as daily and test grades each marking period. Their circumstances cannot be duplicated at another date or time. If a student chooses not to participate in or is tardy to a required choir activity, even if that activity occurs before/after school or on a weekend, the singer's grade will be penalized.

If a student is tardy or absent for the following reasons the tardy or absence may be considered excused **ONLY** if the student notifies the choir director in writing prior to (or immediately following in the case of any emergency) the required activity. Criteria the choir director uses in determining an excused absence is listed below.

- Is the tardy/absence a result of severe illness (fever, vomiting, etc.)?
- Is the tardy/absence a result of an unforeseen immediate family emergency (death in the family, sudden hospitalization, accidents, etc.)
- Other school activities (sports, tutoring, club, meeting) must be cleared with the choir director in advance.
- Other circumstances as determined by the choir director in advance.

Unexcused tardies or absences are determined by the choir director and include but are not limited to:

- Lack of a ride (ask a choir friend) or notify your Director in advance if you need help.
- Non-school related activities (sports, dance or music lessons, rehearsals, recitals, parties, dinners, etc)
- Homework/group project that could have been completed prior to or after the rehearsal.
- Job (clear your work schedule in advance by using the Choir calendar).
- Trips or family planned activities
- Other circumstance as determined by the choir director

If notification is not received, then a grade of "0" will be given for the activity. If an expected tardy/absence occurs due to an emergency, a note must be turned in immediately upon return to choir.

Any singer who misses a concert must complete the alternative assignment within a week of the concert date. A student with an excused absence & turns in a parent note may earn full credit. A student with an unexcused absence from a performance will not receive a grade higher than a 70.

MAKEUP ASSIGNMENTS

Students who miss a regular/daily rehearsal (whether excused or not) must do the following:

1. Check in with their section leader or someone in their sections about what selections or pieces were rehearsed
2. Update markings in their music that were made when they were absent

Students who miss a concert will be required to make up the grade. Students who miss a concert and do not complete a corresponding assignment will be in danger of failing choir for the term. The nature of the assignment is subject to change based on the director's discretion.

Make-up assignments are not meant to be punitive. They are intended to reflect the importance of the concert preparation and performances, as well as give the director a chance to assess the 6-9 weeks' worth of classroom preparation that occurs before a concert. The concert is a major grade, so the make-up work will reflect that.

Examples of a concert make-up assignment (may include, but not limited to):

- Performing missed music in class or outside of class (as a solo or with a small group)
- Watching and evaluating the concert missed
- Essay and/or project or presentation on a specific topic of director's choice

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Choir concerts are part of our curriculum. Therefore, eligibility does not play a factor in concerts or UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest. To participate in any other extracurricular activity (Mad Fest, elementary tours, TMEA auditions/performances, Spring Trip, etc.), you must be eligible. This means you must pass all non-waivable courses with a grade of 70% or better. Your academic status directly impacts your choir placement as well. Students in varsity level ensembles may be removed from their current ensemble due to consistent ineligibility. We will not place ineligible students in competitive or varsity ensembles regardless of your ability.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

Whenever discipline issues occur, it is our priority to notify parents and administrators as necessary. Depending on the frequency and severity of the issue contact may be same-day, within the school week, or immediate with an office referral.

- 1st offense - verbal warning from director, points deducted
- 2nd offense - Parent email home, points deducted
- Continuous disruption - Removal from the rehearsal & alternative assignment, parent emails and a phone call, significant reduction in daily grade. Possible write -up to follow.

Offenses that warrant parent contact include (but are not limited to):

- General disrespectful speech or attitude to a director or another student.
- Refusal to participate or complete work or not following directions immediately
- General disruption/distracting behavior in class.
- Frequent/repeated tardiness to class, lacking supplies, using gum or food in class.
- Excessive or unreasonable usage of the bathroom/water fountain.

UNIFORMS

FORMAL PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

Tuxedos (Tenor/Bass)

- Black Tuxedo Jacket & Pants (provided)
- White (wing-tipped) tuxedo shirt
- Black bowtie & cummerbund
- Black dress socks (no athletic socks)
- Black dress shoes (no tennis shoes)

Formal Dress (Treble)

- Black formal dress (provided)
- Black closed-toed dress flats or heels (1 ½" or shorter)
 - Open-toed shoes, Black sneakers/converse, boots, and sandals are UNACCEPTABLE

Jewelry, Hair, and Hygiene (All)

- No jewelry of any kind unless apart of formal choir uniform
 - includes but is not limited to: earrings (studs are acceptable), necklaces, rings, bracelets, facial piercings, etc
- Hair must nicely fixed or pinned away from face (not tucked behind ears)
 - Sloppy ponytails/messy buns and athletic headbands are unacceptable
- Clean bodies and personal hygiene are a must. Please use deodorant, but omit all cologne, perfume, and scented sprays because many people may be allergic to these items.

INFORMAL PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

- Choir Polo (Chorale) or Choir t-shirt
- Closed-toe/casual shoe (tennis shoes, converse, boots, etc)
- Nice blue jeans (no holes, rips, or extra design added)
- Hair must be out of face and tidy (behind ears/ponytails are acceptable)

LETTER JACKETS

Students may only receive one school-purchased award jacket during their high school careers at the same school. Freshmen are required to earn ten (10) points in a year. Sophomore, Junior, and Senior students are required to earn eight (8) points.

If a student becomes eligible for an additional letter, a suitable recognition patch or stripe will be made available for the student to indicate that they have achieved this recognition more than once.

- A. To receive an award jacket or to letter, students must be members of a student organization that actively participates in interscholastic competition and/or drill team activities and remain in good standing for the entire school year.
- B. Students must demonstrate a positive attitude and maintain a satisfactory citizenship/conduct and scholarship average.
- C. Students must attend all required functions and activities of the organization or sub-groups unless excused by the coach/director/sponsor.
- D. Students can earn both achievement and participation points. Achievement points do not accumulate or carry over from year to year. Participation points for band, orchestra, and choir members will accumulate or carry over from year to year.

You can find more information regarding letter jacket points through the Letter Tally Sheet document found on kleinhighchoir.com.