Westwood Junior High School Choral Department

SUPPLEMENT TO RICHARDSON ISD FINE ARTS HANDBOOK

2021~2022



Joel M. Price, Head Choral Director

Caroline Hartman, Assistant Choral Director



Westwood Junior High School Choral Department Joel M. Price, Head Director Caroline Hartman, Assistant Director

7630 Arapaho Road Dallas, Texas 75248

Mr. Price: (469) 593-3539 ☐ E-mail: joel.price@risd.org ☐ Choir website: WWJHChoir.com Mrs. Hartman: (469) 593-3592 ☐ E-mail: caroline.jaimes@risd.org ☐ Facebook.com/WestwoodChoir

August 2021

Dear Westwood Choir Parents/Guardians:

We are very pleased that your child will be a part of the Westwood Choral Department this year! Involvement in choir is not only educational for your child, but also is an opportunity for your student to be a part of one of the outstanding fine arts organizations at Westwood. With the privilege of choir membership comes the responsibility of hard work, outstanding citizenship, leadership skills, academic success, and teamwork.

Attached you will find several pages of information that will help you to be better informed about the Westwood choir program. Please return the two light blue forms at the end of this packet by **Friday, August 27** so that we know that you and your child have reviewed this information. Returning the forms will count as a grade for all students, so it is very important that we receive them. In addition, forms from the Richardson ISD Fine Arts Department handbook will be given to your student and will need to be filled out, signed and returned also by August 27.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call, e-mail, or write. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joel M. Price Head Director

Caroline Hartman Assistant Director

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SUGGESTED CHOIR SUPPLIES:

- package of white copy paper
- box of tissues

DONATIONS ACCEPTED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- gift cards (to be used for prizes)
- new or gently worn khaki pants (men or boys sizes)
- new or gently worn white dress shirts (men or boys sizes)
- new or gently worn navy blazers (men or boys sizes)
- new or gently worn dress shoes (men, boys, women, or girls sizes)

ABOUT THE WESTWOOD CHORAL DIRECTORS

Joel M. Price is in his twenty-seventh year of teaching, serving for the last twenty-two years as the head choral director and music department head at Westwood JH. Prior to teaching in Richardson he taught elementary music and middle school choir in the Carrollton-Farmers Branch and Plano school districts. Mr. Price's choirs consistently have earned *Sweepstakes* awards for superior ratings at the annual UIL Concert and Sightreading assessment. Choirs under his direction also have received the distinction of being named *Grand Champion* and *Best in Class* at the annual Hurricane Harbor Choral Festival. The Westwood Varsity Treble Choir, under the direction of Mr. Price, received the prestigious honor of being invited to perform for the Texas Music Educators Association convention in San Antonio in February 2007 and were invited again to perform in February 2017. In 2011, he had the honor of conducting the Mississippi Junior High All-State Mixed Choir and he conducted the Arkansas ACDA Summer Honor Choir in 2012. He returned to Mississippi to conduct the 2016 Mississippi Junior High All-State Women's Choir.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Mr. Price served the Texas Music Educators Association for five years as Region 3 Middle School/Junior High Vocal Chair and was the organizer of the Richardson ISD 9th Grade Honor Choir for four years. From 2005-2007, he served on the Board of Directors of the Texas Choral Directors Association as the Middle School/Junior High Vice President. Recently he completed a two-year term as a member of the UIL Prescribed Music List committee and then served an additional year as committee chair. Most recently he was a member of the UIL Choral Sightreading committee. Mr. Price is in demand as a clinician/conductor for All-State, All-Region, and All-City choirs, as an adjudicator for UIL Concert and Sightreading assessments throughout the state, and as a judge for Solo and Ensemble contests in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

A product of Texas public schools, Mr. Price graduated from MacArthur High School in San Antonio and was a three-year member of the All-State Mixed Choir. Upon graduation, he attended Southern Methodist University, earning Bachelor of Music degrees in music education and vocal performance. Mr. Price completed his student teaching in RISD at Brentfield Elementary and Westwood Junior High.

During the 2004-2005 school year, Mr. Price was honored to represent Westwood Junior High as *Teacher of the Year* and was selected as the Richardson ISD *Secondary Teacher of the Year* by the Richardson ISD Tomorrow Foundation. In the spring of 2008, he was selected as a statewide finalist for the H-E-B Excellence in Education award. Mr. Price was awarded the Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers PTA Honorary Life Membership in 2009.

An avid reader, Mr. Price also collects (and wears!) musical and holiday ties. He is excited to be back at Westwood and looks forward to a successful school year working with Mrs. Hartman.



Caroline Hartman grew up in Richardson where she was involved in choir and band from 4th grade until she graduated from JJ Pearce High School. She attended the University of North Texas and graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education. While at North Texas, Mrs. Hartman was a member of the University Singers, served at UNT's High School and Middle School Choir Camps over the summer, studied abroad in Hungary, and served as an Eagle Ambassador giving tours to prospective students, families, and donors. Prior to coming to Westwood, Mrs. Hartman completed her student teaching at Plano Senior High School in Plano ISD and was a middle school choir director in Fort Worth ISD for 2 years. In her free time, Mrs. Hartman loves playing games on her Nintendo Switch, watching all things Marvel, hanging out with her 3 kitties, and playing board games with her husband! Mrs. Hartman is looking forward to her 3rd year of teaching and is excited to be part of the Westwood family!

Westwood Junior High School Choral Department Supplement to RISD Fine Arts Handbook

Choir Room Rules

- 1. Be seated in your **assigned** seat with your choir folder **before the tardy bell rings**. When we are ready to rehearse, you are quiet and listening.
- 2. Always raise your hand to speak or leave your seat, unless instructed otherwise.
- 3. Follow the instructions given by the teacher or any adult.
- 4. Show respect for teachers, other students, and classroom materials. Criticizing another persons' voice or effort is not allowed. We will work as a team at all times.
- 5. Keep your hands, feet, and all objects to yourself. <u>The piano, white board, laptop, and other classroom devices and materials are off limits to students</u> unless given permission by Mr. Price or Mrs. Hartman.
- 6. Food, drinks, gum, or candy are not allowed in the choir room.
- 7. Makeup and all grooming should be completed before you arrive, not during class.
- 8. Chromebooks and other electronic devices may only be used when given permission by the teacher or an adult. Per WWJH school policy, cell phones are not allowed in classrooms.
- 9. Participate to the best of your ability every day.

Classroom Procedures

- 1. Enter the choir room in an orderly manner and put your belongings on a table or on the floor away from the door (for safety reasons) and risers (<u>not</u> at your assigned seat).
- 2. Pick up your assigned choir folder from **your** assigned folder slot and quietly sit in your assigned seat **before** the tardy bell rings.
- 3. Class begins when the bell rings and warm-ups are started by the teacher.
- 4. Students will be dismissed when instructed by the teacher, not by the bell.
- 5. At the conclusion of the class period, when instructed, put your choir folder in its correct folder slot. Pick up only **your** belongings and quietly leave the room.

Consequences

Every student begins each week with a 100 participation grade. All students will receive a choir demerit card each grading period to be kept in his/her choir folder. The demerit card will be used to record individual students' tardies and misbehavior during class. Failure to follow the rules will result in deductions from the participation portion of the grade each week and a lowering of the citizenship grade. Points will be lost for being tardy to class, talking excessively, not participating, eating or drinking in class (including gum), not having required materials (choir folder and music), using electronic devices without permission, and for not following the teacher's instructions and directions. Each infraction will result in a loss of 10 points from the weekly participation grade. In addition, detentions, phone calls or e-mails to parents, and office referrals will result in a greater number of points being lost for the week.

If a detention is issued, a detention form will be signed by the student and sent home to be signed by the parent. This form should be signed and returned to Mr. Price or Mrs. Hartman the following day. Detentions will be assigned either before school or after school. If an assigned detention is not served, the amount of time will be doubled. *Failure to serve a doubled detention will result in an office referral.*

Excessive tardies and gum chewing may result in automatic detentions.

Assault to another student or the teacher (physical or verbal) will result in an immediate office referral and possible permanent removal from the class.

WESTWOOD CHORAL DEPARTMENT IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Choir Calendar

In this packet you will find the 2021-2022 Westwood Choir calendar. Please keep this information in a safe place! All <u>required</u> events are listed in **bold print**. Every choir member will be expected to participate in all required concerts and events. Periodic notices and reminders will be sent home with the students and e-mailed to parents/guardians if an e-mail address is provided.

Girls' Choir Uniforms

All choir members are required to wear uniforms for choir performances. For our formal performances, all girls will wear indigo blue choir dresses and dark, dressy shoes (flats or heels—closed toe shoes preferred). Flip flops, casual sandals, or athletic shoes are not to be worn with the dresses. **The 7th/8th period girls' choir required uniform fee for the school year is \$25.00 per student**. This fee includes the dress rental, hemming, and a Westwood Choir T-shirt. **The 5th period Bella Voce girls' choir required uniform fee for the school year is \$35.00 per student**. This fee includes the dress rental, hemming, Westwood Choir T-shirt, and Bella Voce t-shirt. Students are responsible for the dress and will be expected to turn it in at the end of the school year in the same condition in which it was received. Choir T-shirts will be worn for events and performances as needed. Students will be charged a replacement fee of \$60.00 for damaged or lost dresses. Students will be charged a replacement fee of \$15.00 for lost or damaged T-shirts.

Boys' Choir Uniforms

All choir members are required to wear uniforms for choir performances. For our formal performances, all boys will wear khaki slacks, white dress shirt, choir tie, navy blazer, dark socks (black or dark brown), and dark, dressy shoes (black or dark brown). Athletic or casual shoes are not to be worn with the uniform. With the exception of the choir tie and blazer, all boys must provide the remaining items. The boys' choir required uniform fee for the school year is \$15.00 per student. This fee includes the tie rental and a Westwood Choir T-shirt. Students are responsible for the tie and will be expected to turn it in at the end of the school year in the same condition in which it was received. Choir T-shirts will be worn for events and performances as needed. Students will be charged a replacement fee of \$15.00 for damaged or lost ties. Blazers may be issued at no charge but will need to be returned at the end of the school year in good condition. Students will be charged a replacement fee of \$50.00 for damaged or lost blazers. Students will be charged a replacement fee of \$15.00 for lost or damaged T-shirts.

Opportunities

Students will have the opportunity to participate in the RISD Vocal Music Festival in October and may choose to audition for the 7th/8th Grade All-Region Choir in January. Auditions for *Voices Unlimited* and *New Edition*, Westwood's pop choirs, will be held on September 9. Any 8th grader or 7th grade girl who wishes to audition must prepare a pop solo of his or her choosing. An mp3 file with just the <u>background music</u> is necessary for the audition. More information will be given soon.

Fundraisers

Westwood choir students will participate in two major fundraising projects. The purpose of the fundraisers is to raise enough money to allow the choir department to function beyond what is provided by the school district. The profit from the fundraisers goes toward buying new choir music and recordings, purchasing choir uniforms and sound equipment, maintaining choral equipment, contest fees, and other expenses. Every student is expected to participate in our fundraising. However, for any student and/or family who wishes not to participate, a donation of at least \$50.00 for the choir department will be appreciated. If every person does a little, then no one will have to do a lot, and everyone will benefit!

Social Activities

Scheduled throughout the year are several choir social activities outside of school where choir members may participate if they wish and have fun as a group. This year we have events scheduled at Adventure Landing and several social events at WWJH. Also, we will take our annual trip to Six Flags in May. All choir social activities are <u>optional</u> but all choir members are encouraged to participate as able.

Parent/Guardian Volunteers

Parents and guardians often ask us if they can help. Our answer is always a resounding "YES!" Please take special note of the *Parent/Guardian Volunteer Opportunities* page near the end of this packet. Specific dates, times, and events are listed for when we need parental assistance. In order for our concerts, contests, and other activities to be successful, we need as many willing adults as possible. Please note the dates and plan to assist with as many events as you can!

Communication

It is our personal goal to effectively communicate with the choir students and parents/guardians throughout the year. We send home letters with the students on a frequent basis, and we hope these notices find their way home. Feel free to contact us by telephone (Price: 469-593-3539/Hartman: 469-593-3592) or e-mail (joel.price@risd.org or caroline.jaimes@risd.org). We will be happy to discuss any questions or concerns that you may have regarding the choir program. Parents, we will send many e-mails to you throughout the year, so please make sure we have your current e-mail address! Updates will also be posted on our Westwood Choir website (wwjhchoir.com). Parents/Guardians are always welcome to stop by the choir room during the choir classes and observe what we do!

Parent/Guardian Volunteer Opportunities*

Below is a listing of the choir events throughout the year in which we will need parent/guardian volunteers. Please keep these dates in mind and feel free to volunteer for any or all of them!

*PLEASE NOTE: For any parent/guardian who plans to volunteer for choir events this year, you are required to register with RISD online: **risd.voly.org.** This must be completed once each year. Please complete this immediately if you haven't already. Thank you!

- assist with choir dress fittings during the choir classes during school—dates to be announced
- assist boys with putting on choir ties and blazers before concert on **Tuesday**, **December 7** at Westwood in the evening (arrive prior to the concert)
- assist with poinsettia distribution in November or December—date to be announced (time will be late afternoon/early evening)
- chaperone UIL assessment on <u>Thursday-Friday</u>, <u>March 24-25</u> at <u>Lake Highlands High School during school</u> (supervise students and help monitor behavior on the bus and in the auditorium)
- chaperone Main Event festival on <u>Thursday, April 28</u> at Birdville High School <u>during school</u> (supervise students and help monitor behavior on the bus and in the auditorium)
- videotape and/or take photos at concerts (must be able to provide equipment)
- provide refreshments for concerts and parties (as needed)
- set up and decorate refreshment table at concerts (as needed)
- decorate for performances as needed (flowers or balloons for stage, etc.)
- other ideas (please share with Mr. Price)

Stay up to date with the WESTWOOD CHOIR!

Check out our WWJH Choir website!

WWJHChoir.com



Sign up to receive choir info via Talking Points!

<u>Download the app & use the class code below</u>

OR send a text to the phone number listed:

- 3rd Period (Boys): class code <u>ADZTRM</u>
 OR text <u>771329</u> to (424) 284-9991
- 5th Period (Bella Voce): class code <u>E3A54C</u>
 OR text <u>515564</u> to <u>(213) 297-0876</u>
- 7th Period (8th Grade Girls): class code <u>7ZV8VB</u>
 OR text <u>756545</u> to <u>(213) 297-0876</u>
- 8th Period (7th Grade Girls): class code QHSHSJ

 OR text 408029 to (424) 284-9991

Follow us on Instagram! @westwoodjhchoirofficial

Instagram.com/westwoodjhchoirofficial



(You do not have to join Instagram to view the content)



talkingpoints

Follow us on Twitter! @westwoodchoir

Twitter.com/westwoodchoir

(You do not have to join Twitter to view the content)

"Like" our Facebook page!

Facebook.com/WestwoodChoir



(You do not have to join Facebook to view the content)



Charms Office Assistant is the premiere management, communication, assessment, and financial system used by successful programs everywhere.

How to access parent information for WESTWOOD CHOIR

- Log on to <u>www.charmsoffice.com</u> and click "ENTER" at the top right corner.
- Locate the "PARENT/STUDENT/MEMBERS LOGIN" section of the web page.
- Login to your child's program account using the following login: **WESTWOODJHC**
- This will bring up the main parent page. This will allow you to look at the public calendar, event list, handouts, and other files.
- When you enter your **child's RISD ID NUMBER**, another more detailed screen appears with even more options. Enter your child's ID FIRST then you may create your own password by clicking on the "**keys** icon".
- One area in which you can help the director maintain his records:
 - Student information page if the director has allowed it, you may help make changes to your child's student information page (such as updating phone numbers and email addresses if they change) to help the teacher communicate with you more effectively.
- Handouts & Files section: All handouts and forms given to the students will be posted in this section.
- Most importantly, the parent page assists both you and the teacher to <u>communicate</u> with each other.

WESTWOOD CHOIR FEES 2021-2022

REQUIRED FEE

Due by Tuesday, October 5

Boys' choir fee - \$15.00

(fee includes choir tie rental and choir t-shirt)

7th/8th Period Girls' choir fee - \$25.00

(fee includes choir dress rental, hemming, and choir t-shirt)

5th Period Bella Voce Girls' choir fee - \$35.00

(fee includes choir dress rental, hemming, choir t-shirt, and Bella Voce choir t-shirt)

<u>OPTIONAL FEES</u>

Required <u>only</u> if participating; fees are collected throughout the school year. These are <u>not</u> exact costs; specifics will be announced in class.

- ☐ Vocal Music Festival solo \$5.00 (due in September)
 ☐
- Adventure Landing \$23.00 (due in October)
- Six Flags \$45.00 (due in May)

Cash payments are preferred. All checks to the Westwood Choir program throughout the year should be payable to **RHSACBC unless otherwise noted.

(\$12.00 fee for each returned check)

WESTWOOD CHOIR FUNDRAISING PROJECTS 2021-2022

Most people do not enjoy the thought of fundraising. However, it is necessary to raise funds other than what is allotted by the school district. Maintaining a superior choir program is expensive. To continue to provide a quality choir program for your student and future Westwood students, we need the help of each choir student/family. Here are options which will benefit the choir program. Please choose the option(s) which will work best for your family:

OPTION 1

Participate in "Moo Money" and poinsettia sales, selling a minimum number of orders (sell to relatives, friends, neighbors, colleagues, businesses, churches, etc.).

OPTION 2

In lieu of participating in the fundraisers, make a donation of **at least \$50.00** to the Westwood Choir (cash or checks payable to RHSACBC).

OPTION 3

<u>In addition to either Option 1 or Option 2</u>, become a Westwood Choir Sponsor by making a financial contribution in support of the Westwood Choir (see next page for details).

All financial contributions to the Westwood Choir Department are taxdeductible. Receipts available upon request.

WESTWOOD CHOIR SPONSORS 2021-2022

In order to better meet the needs of our students and the Westwood Choir Department, we are offering the opportunity of becoming Westwood Choir Sponsors. Not only will these donations directly benefit the Westwood choral program, but also, all sponsors' names will be listed in the five choir concert programs throughout the school year, so that we may show our thanks and appreciation. Choir sponsors may be individuals, families, or businesses. Please see the donation form on the following page (additional forms are available from Mr. Price or on our website: wwjhchoir.com). We hope you will proudly sponsor the Westwood Choir!

Contribution levels (one time contribution only)

Grandioso: \$50.00

↓ Finale: \$75.00

♬ Bravo: \$100.00

■ Encore: over \$100.00

All financial contributions to the Westwood Choir Department are taxdeductible. Receipts available upon request.

WESTWOOD JUNIOR HIGH CHOIR SPONSOR DONATION

NameAddress_			
City	State	Zip	
Name as you wish to appear in conc	ert program		
Crescendo Level Sponsor—\$10.00			\$
Intermezzo Level Sponsor—\$25.00			\$
Grandioso Level Sponsor—\$50.00			\$
Finale Level Sponsor—\$75.00			\$
Bravo Level Sponsor—\$100.00			\$
Encore Level Sponsor—over \$100.0	00		\$
Total Sponsor Donation to Westwoo	od Choir		\$
Checks payable to RHSACBC			777 1 T. A
			Thank You!

Return to Westwood Junior High Choir • 7630 Arapaho Rd. • Dallas, TX 75248



WESTWOOD JUNIOR HIGH CHOIR SPONSOR DONATION

NameAddress				
City	State	Zip		
Name as you wish to appear in conce	ert program			-
				_
Crescendo Level Sponsor—\$10.00			\$	
Intermezzo Level Sponsor—\$25.00			\$	
Grandioso Level Sponsor—\$50.00			\$	
Finale Level Sponsor—\$75.00			\$	
Bravo Level Sponsor—\$100.00			\$	
Encore Level Sponsor—over \$100.00	0		\$	
Total Sponsor Donation to Westwood	d Choir		\$	
Checks payable to RHSACBC				
			Thank You	!

Return to Westwood Junior High Choir • 7630 Arapaho Rd. • Dallas, TX 75248

What is the money raised through fundraisers and sponsor donations used for???

- **Choir music** (Most pieces cost between \$1.75-2.25 for <u>one song</u> for <u>one student!</u> Multiply that by 100 students for only <u>one song!</u>)
- **☐** Contest fees (\$2,000 for us to participate in the Main Event contest each year)
- ☐ Piano accompanist fees for concerts and contests (\$1,200 total per year)
- **☐ Uniform replacement as needed** (\$65 per dress and \$15 per tie)
- ☐ Choir group photos taken by professional photographer (\$500 each year)
- ☐ Office supplies as needed (copy paper, colored paper, printer cartridges, etc.)
- ☐ Doughnuts/pizza/candy/prizes for student motivation and rewards throughout the year

Please return this page to Mr. Price or Mrs. Hartman

REQUIRED CHOIR UNIFORM FEE Boys: \$15.00

7th/8th Period Girls: \$25.00 5th Period Girls: \$35.00

Uniform fees are due by TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

Cash (preferred) or checks payable to <u>RHSACBC</u>

<u>Payment plans are available—contact Mr. Price</u>

joel.price@risd.org or 469-593-3539

Please return with payment to Mr. Price or Mrs. Hartman no later than Tuesday, October 5 \$15.00 (boys' fee—includes tie rental & choir t-shirt) \$25.00 (7th/8th period girls' fee—includes dress rental, hemming, & choir t-shirt) \$35.00 (5th period Bella Voce girls' fee—includes dress rental, hemming, choir t-shirt, & Bella Voce choir t-shirt) *Returning choir members who already have a blue WWJH Choir t-shirt may subtract \$5.00 from the choir fee listed. T-shirt MUST be in good condition! Ask Mr. Price if unsure. © \$ Amount paid ____ Cash (preferred) (check #_____ ___ Check (payable to RHSACBC) (\$12.00 fee for each returned check) Parent/Guardian signature Student's name

Please return this page to Mr. Price or Mrs. Hartman

WESTWOOD CHORAL DEPARTMENT STUDENT/PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION*

(*Information will be kept on file for student/parent/guardian contact only)

Student's name			
Address(Number & Street)	(4)	(01:)	(7)
(Number & Street)	(Apt. #)	(City)	(Zip Code
Student's home and/or cell phone			
Student's birthday (month/day/year)_			
**Student's T-shirt size (p	_ Large X	L XXL	XXXL
Student primarily lives with (please class) both parentsmotherfather	•	rentsothe	r
Mother/Guardian's name			
Mother/Guardian's e-mail address			
Mother/Guardian's cell phone			
Mother/Guardian's home phone			
Mother/Guardian's work phone			
Father/Guardian's name			
Father/Guardian's e-mail address			
rather/ duartian's e-man address			
,			
Father/Guardian's cell phone Father/Guardian's home phone			

Please list any additional information that might be helpful:

Please return this page to Mr. Price or Mrs. Hartman

Westwood Choral Department Student/Parent Commitment

As a member of the Westwood Junior High Choir, I realize that I am a part of an important team. As with any team, I understand that the choirs' success depends on the cooperation and dedication of every choir member.

I have read the procedures, rules, consequences, and required materials of the Westwood Choir and I will strive to be a positive member. I have seen the choir calendar and understand that these concerts and performances are required and part of the class.

Student name					
Student signature					
Parent/Guardian signature					
I am (or will be) involved in the followapply):	wing organizations (check all that				
Band Cheerleading "Club" volleyball (outside of school) WOW (after-school program) Childrens' Chorus of Greater Dallas	OrchestraLeadership (zero hour only)Dance/Ballet (outside of school)Scouts (outside of school)				
Other (please list)					
I plan on trying out for and/or playing the following sports at Westwood (check all that apply):					
Football Basketball Track Tennis	Volleyball Cross Country Soccer				