

*Wylie Independent School District
Cooper Junior High School*

Choir Handbook

Cooper Junior High

PATRIOT CHOIR



2021-2022

Janna Preston, Director

[*janna.preston@wylieisd.net*](mailto:janna.preston@wylieisd.net)

972-429-3266

Dear Cooper Patriot Choir Students and Parents,

I am so excited about the 20-21 school year!! After a crazy year of navigating through the pandemic, I anticipate a fun, year full of learning, singing and performing with each one of you. We will be working towards making our choir program the best it can be!!

This handbook is designed to introduce you to the Cooper choral tradition of excellence and to provide you with important information regarding grading policies, eligibility, uniform fees, fundraising, field trips, and the choir calendar. I will communicate via skyward email as well as the student google emails. if there are any changes to the calendar or vital information that needs to be communicated to our Cooper Choir Family. It is imperative that you make sure your information in skyward is correct so that you receive all email correspondence. We will also be utilizing the Cooper Choir Page that you can find at wyliechoir.com. Just click on the Patriot logo. There will be information available to you through this website.

We very much appreciate our parents and families and their support for our choir program here at Cooper. In addition to supporting your child as an audience member at our choir performances, parents are also invited to be involved as a volunteer throughout the year for different events including concerts, set up and take down, chaperoning choir field trips, and assisting in fundraising efforts. Information regarding details for opportunities to help will be sent home with your student at a later date. If you feel you might be interested in supporting our program in any of these ways, please fill out the criminal background check that can be found on the Wylie ISD website. This must be done in order for me to begin asking for volunteers on any of our off campus events. We encourage you to do this early in the year. We will retrieve a list from our school secretary of parents who are on the Volunteer list and contact you when your help is needed.

Thank you in advance for your support of our program. I am so excited to have the opportunity to work with your students. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any of your questions or concerns throughout the year!!

Sincerely,

Janna Preston, Director

972-429-3266

janna.preston@wylieisd.net



Cooper JH Choir

Mission Statement

The Cooper Choral Department has established a celebrated tradition of musical excellence based on high musical standards. As we continue on this path, the Choral Department will provide opportunities for each student to develop artistic expression, individual responsibility, personal integrity, and a sense of community through the teaching of lifelong music skills. Students will have the opportunity to improve individual vocal technique, music theory, and sight-reading skills. Choir students will also learn challenging choral literature in a variety of musical styles.

Classroom Expectations

1. Be punctual and prepared with ALL materials.
2. Follow teacher directions the first time they are given.
3. All choir students are expected to PARTICIPATE. Try your best!
4. Be respectful of all people and property.
5. Follow all district and campus rules and regulations.
6. Cell Phones will be left in backpacks or in student lockers during Choir class period.



Consequences

1. Verbal Reminder,
2. Verbal Reminder, parent contact, skyward warning.
3. Parent Contact, Parent Contact, skyward referral
And possible Thursday Night School or ISS
4. Immediate Office Referral, grade deduction, Thursday night School/ISS

Classroom Procedures

1. Upon entering classroom, leave all personal belongings in designated areas.
2. Cell Phones must be OFF and if they are not in your locker, they must be left in backpack BEFORE the start of class.
3. Be in assigned seat with folder and pencil before class begins.
4. Proper singing position is required throughout all practices and performances.
5. Raise hand for permission to speak or leave your seat.
6. The piano is for the director's hands only.
7. Gum, candy, food, drinks, (water is an exception) and cell phones can interfere with singing; therefore, these items have no place on the risers in the choir room.
8. When dismissed by director, return choir materials to assigned folder slot.

Materials

Students will be provided a **Binder, PENCIL, highlighter, and pencil pouch** to be used in class daily. Students will need to bring a **POCKET FOLDER** for theory worksheets and other written assignments that we will complete during class throughout the year. Students should plan to replenish their pencil pouch as needed. **Please have your pocket folder by Friday, the first full week of school.** These materials will be used every day in class. Students may take binders home to study music provided they bring them back the next day for class. Failure to do so will be reflected in daily grades.

Choir Supply Fee

All Cooper choir members will be asked to pay a choir supply **fee of \$35 per student.** Choir Fees cover the cost of the Cooper choir T-shirt, choir binders and materials that are provided at the beginning of the year, music that must be purchased throughout the year, accompanist fees for various concerts, and general supplies purchased in bulk and used throughout the school year. The Choir Fee of \$35 can be paid via cash, check or through the REV-TRAK link which will be provided. The REV-TRAK link is the preferred method of receiving payment. However fees can be paid with cash or check made payable to Cooper JH Choir.

Uniforms

As a choir, our goal is to look as professional as possible for each and every performance. We aim to represent the Cooper Choir and Cooper Junior High in a very positive and impressive manner - to include our physical appearances. As our students continue to excel in their musical performances, it is important that their attire reflect the level of proficiency they have achieved.

Choir concerts, competitions, and other performances are formal events that require our students to look and act the part. For this reason, all Wylie Junior High Choirs will provide our students with formal concert attire for an annual fee of \$15 **We provide black choir dresses for the girls, black dress shirts and black dress slacks for the boys.** Students will need to provide the following:

Guys

- Solid Black Belt – shirts will be tucked in for performances
- Solid Black Socks and Solid Black Shoes - shoes need to be closed-toe ... no flip-flops, sandals, tennis shoes, or house shoes

Girls

- Solid Black Dress Shoes – shoes need to be closed-toe ... no flip-flops, sandals, tennis shoes, house shoes, “Toms” or Crocs or anything with really high heels (Please wear shoes that are comfortable for standing, but are presentable.)

Uniform fees this year will be \$15 and can be paid along with the Choir fee of \$35.

Total due by Friday, September 3rd will be \$50.

Payments can be made in cash or check payable to the Cooper Choir or via the REV-TRAK Link that will be provided to you in an email.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the fees please contact Ms. Preston.

Grading Policy

Grades will be determined by the following:

- **Daily participation/Skill; Demonstration** (minor grade)
- **Performances/Concerts** (TWO MAJOR GRADES)
 - **Concert Performance Grade**
 - **Concert Participation Grade**
- **Written/Oral assignments** (minor grade)
- **Written tests** (major grade)
- **Performance tests** (major grade)
- **After-school rehearsals** (minor grade)

***Please note: After-school rehearsals are mandatory (for a grade) and will be kept to a minimum! They are only scheduled when absolutely necessary to prepare for an upcoming concert. These rehearsals are the only opportunity to allow the choirs to practice as one whole group rather than separate choir classes during the school day. It is extremely important that all students that have been called for the rehearsal make every effort to be in attendance. Please be flexible! These rehearsals will be announced well in advance.

Performances

Choir is a performance-based musical opportunity. PERFORMANCE IS A REQUIREMENT for all CJHS Choir members and is a factor in the grading policy (see above). Students are expected to perform as well as, REMAIN for the entire concert. A grade for performing as well as participation as an audience member will be given for each concert. Attendance at each performance is necessary for students to obtain the full benefits of the program, students must be responsible for all correspondence regarding any after-school rehearsals or changes to the schedule. Should any performance dates/times change, a note will be sent home with each student well in advance. Any changes will also be emailed via skyward and changes will be made to the calendar which will be able to be accessed via our choir webpage at wyliechoir.com. Please let Ms. Preston know in advance of any expected concert absences.

Each concert will count as **2 major grades**. Concert Performance and Concert Participation

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY – this policy is non-negotiable. Any student that has failed to participate in a concert will be expected to complete a written assignment.

***Please note: A student must be in attendance on the school day of an event in order to participate in the performance that evening.

Eligibility

Choir activities are governed by the policies of the WISD Board of Trustees, Texas Education Agency, University Interscholastic League, Texas Music Educators Association, and Cooper Junior High School. The “No Pass/No Play” rule applies to ALL extra-curricular activities such as UIL contest, TMEA All-Region auditions/concerts, choir trips, competitions, and selected “admission” events.

To maintain eligibility status, students must:

***Earn a 70 OR ABOVE in ALL CLASSES

***Be present at school on the day of the activity/performance

Fundraising

The Cooper Choir Department sponsors a fundraiser each year. Profits go toward student events, field trips, music, various activity expenses, and non-budget department needs. Thank you in advance for supporting the students throughout the fundraising process and encouraging them to do their best to raise money for our program! We depend on the funds that students raise each year to help make our choir program the best it can be! In lieu of fundraising, donations are always welcome.

- Butterbraid Fundraiser in the Fall
- Cookie Dough Early Spring Fundraiser
- Dippin Dots at the Annual Cooper Tailgate Homecoming Party
- Various Spirit Nights at local businesses (parents are welcome to help with setting up spirit nights with some of our local favorite eaterys! Please contact Ms. Preston if you would like to volunteer to help with this)

Choir Trips

Cooper Choir students have the opportunity to take part in several fun and educating trips this year!! There are several things planned for Cooper Choir students and as information comes available, information will be sent home in a timely manner. Please note that while most trips are paid for by budget (UIL and school related events), other trips will be funded by the student or by fundraising. Please make every effort to help support the Cooper Choir program and your choir student by taking advantage of the Fundraising opportunity later in the fall.

The following are trips that are currently being planned for the 2021-22 year:

- UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest
- Community Events (Holiday, Wylie Arts)
- Choir Festival/Fun Trip through Directors Choice Showcase Of Music Festivals

Please be sure to sign the Field Trip Consent Form enclosed in this packet, and return by Friday August 20th

Projected Calendar



AUGUST

12th First Day of **CHOIR!**
20th Supplies for choir due by today! (Pocket Folder)

SEPTEMBER

3rd All handbook forms signed by parents due TODAY
Choir Supply/Uniform Fees due TODAY
6th Labor Day Holiday
27th Wylie High School Choir Concert 7:00 Location TBA

OCTOBER

4th Butterbraid FALL Fundraiser
FALL CONCERT 7:00 pm Cooper Junior High Gym
> Students arrive at 5:10 pm
8th 1st Nine Weeks ends
11th-15th Fall Break
22nd Cooper Tailgate Party for WHS Homecoming 4-6 pm

NOVEMBER

18th **Wylie ISD Middle School Solo & Ensemble Festival
Cooper Junior High Times TBA
22nd-26th Thanksgiving Holidays

DECEMBER

7th Wylie HS Choir Concert 7:00 pm Location TBA
10th **WINTER CONCERT 6:30 pm Montgomery Center, WHS**
> Students arrive at 5:45
17th Early Release/2nd 9 weeks Ends
TBA Holiday Singing in the Community
20th-Jan 5th Winter Break

JANUARY **2022**

5th Cookie Dough Spring Fundraiser
Welcome Back!
17th Martin Luther King Holiday/Student Holiday
TBA **After-School Rehearsals for UIL**

FEBRUARY

TBA **After-school rehearsals for “Celebrate the Arts” and UIL**
3rd **Region 25 MS Honor Choir Camp, Burnett JH
4:30-8:00 pm
17th **“Celebrate the Arts- Wylie East High School Auditorium**
>Time TBA
21st Presidents Day Holiday
Cooper JH Musical Auditions

MARCH

1st-3rd ****UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Competition**
 >Times TBA
4th End of 3rd 9 Weeks
7th-11th Spring Break
19th Wylie Fine Arts Day at the Meyerson (**Choirs performing TBA**)

APRIL

2nd **Region 25 MS Honor Choir Auditions
8th-9th Cooper JH Musical
15th-18th Easter Break
22nd **Region 25 MS Honor Choir Rehearsal and Mixer 5:00-7:00 Evans MS
23rd **Region 25 MS Honor Choir Clinic and Concert 8:30 am – 6:00 pm
Concert is at 5:00 Plano Fine Arts Center
WHS “Tempo” Show 7:00 pm (**Choraliers Perform**)

MAY

3rd **Cooper CHOIR SPRING Concert 7:00 pm Wylie HS Auditorium**
Students arrive at 5:55 pm
13th **Directors Choice Showcase of Music Festival/Epic Waters
17th WHS Choir Concert 7:00 pm FBC
26th Last Day of School Early Release

**** Students must be eligible to participate.**

Bolded events are required concerts of ALL Choir students.

Dates are subject to change. Please check Cooper JH Choir Facebook page throughout the year for announcements. Emails will also be sent in ample time via skyward and student google accounts if there are any changes to the calendar.

Checklist of items to return by Friday, August 23rd

Membership Agreement

Field Trip Permission Form

Supply and Rental Fees (cash or check payable to Cooper Choir
REV-TRAK online payment link)

Cooper Choir Membership Agreement

I have read the CJHS Choral Handbook and understand the information included. I agree to the performance requirements, grading system, uniform criteria, class materials, fundraising responsibilities, and classroom expectations presented in this handbook.

Student Name ~ Please Print

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date



Cooper Junior High School

Acknowledgement of Responsibility and Permission for Student Participation in School-Sponsored Trips

I, (parent/guardian name printed) _____, agree to allow my child, (child's name printed) _____, to travel with a group or individual associated with the District on the trip(s) indicated below. I understand that while student safety is a high priority for the District, under state law, the school is not responsible for medical costs associated with a student injury.

I expressly waive all claims for medical expenses, loss of service, or other claims; and I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the District, its Trustees, employees, and agents from all claims made against it or them on behalf of my child.

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the District, its Trustees, employees, and agents from all claims made by third parties against it or them, which result from my child's actions on the trip.

I understand that the District, its Trustees, employees, and agents are not waiving any sovereign or governmental immunity, which it or they have under Texas law.

I have read and understood this release and sign it voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance. This release applies to the trip(s) to be taken by:

(group) _____ Cooper Choir _____ to (place/s) _____ All Choir Trips _____
on (date) _____ 2021-2022 _____.

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

Note: The sponsors of any student trip should take with them copies of each student's Authorization to Secure Emergency Medical Treatment.