



# **2019-2020 Choir Handbook**

Lone Star Middle School Choral Department

Lone Star Middle School  
Nampa School District  
11055 Lone Star Rd  
Nampa, ID 83686

Mr. Joseph Boboige  
director

## Contact Information

School Office

208-468-4745

Mr. Boboige, director

Ext. 4856

[jboboige@nsd131.org](mailto:jboboige@nsd131.org)

Any e-mails will be replied to within the next business day. This is the preferred method of contact. I can also be reached by my office phone listed above – calls will not be answered during class time. I will do my best to call back in a timely manner.

## Dates for 2019-2020 School Year

Date	Choir Performing	Event	Locations
<b>10/4</b>		<b>All State Audition Deadline</b>	
<b>11/14</b>	<b>All Choirs</b>	<b>Fall Concert</b>	<b>Lone Star MS</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Treble Choir</b>	<b>Nampa Christmas Bazaar</b>	<b>Nampa HS</b>
Dec TBD	Chamber Chorale	Nursing Home Caroling	TBD
TBD	Treble Choir	Talent Show	Lone Star MS
<b>1/31- 2/1</b>	<b>Auditioned Students</b>	<b>All State Middle School Choir</b>	<b>NNU</b>
<b>2/8</b>	<b>Auditioned Students</b>	<b>Southwest Idaho Middle School Honor Choir</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>2/20</b>	<b>All Choirs</b>	<b>Winter Concert</b>	<b>Lone Star MS</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Advanced Concert Choir (and optional TC and ChC)</b>	<b>DIII Solo and Small Ensemble Festival</b>	<b>East Valley MS</b>
TBD	Chamber Chorale	Elementary Recruitment Tours	Owyhee, Roosevelt and Willow Creek Elementary
<b>TBD</b>	<b>All Choirs</b>	<b>Pre-Festival Clinic</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>All Choirs</b>	<b>Spring Concert</b>	<b>Lone Star MS</b>
4/28- 4/29	All Choirs	DIII Large Group Festival	TBD
<b>MAY TBD</b>	<b>Chamber Chorale and Treble Choir</b>	<b>Shining Stars</b>	<b>Lone Star MS</b>
May TBD	Chamber Chorale	Academic Assembly	Lone Star MS

**BOLD** - Out of regular school hours event

## The Role of Choir at the Middle School Level

Students in choir at the middle school level are being prepared to succeed at the high school level. The goal is to achieve this through the:

- Development of technical skills using sight-singing, diction, tone, and ensemble exercises.
- Development of aural skills in individual tone assessment, ensemble singing, and musicality.
- Development of an understanding of choral music in a historical, theoretical, and cultural context.
- Development of the changing adolescent voice while learning to use the voice in a correct and healthy manner.
- Creation of music by making decisions on an individual and ensemble basis to achieve a musical product and experience.

## Performance Dress

In the Lone Star Music Department, we try to provide students with an authentic experience that prepares them for the culture of western art music that can then be applied to various other factions in music and beyond. Students may opt to wear one of three outfits for performances. Any modifications to this performance attire will be detailed in writing with, if possible, at least a two-week notice. If you have gently used pieces that could be donated or questions, please contact me. Students who are not wearing concert attire may not be able to perform and may be given an alternative assignment to complete during the performance.

**OPTION 1** - Black Dress that reaches below the knees, optional socks and tights must be black, black dress shoes or flats. Any additions to hair must be school colors.

**OPTION 2** - Black Blouse or Polo and Black Skirt that reaches below the knees, optional socks and tights must be black, black dress shoes or flats. Any additions to hair must be school colors.

**OPTION 3** - Black Dress Shirt (button up), black dress pant, black socks, black dress shoes or flats. [Chamber Chorale provided green bowtie and suspenders]. Any additions to hair must be school colors.

**Note:** There are some pieces available for use in the music department closet. These can be temporarily signed out on a *first-come first-serve* basis and **should not be relied on at the last minute.**

## Materials, Equipment, and the Practice Rooms

At Lone Star, we are lucky to have access a variety of materials and two practice rooms in the Choir Room. Students should respect all equipment and rehearsal spaces. Any instruments in the rooms, such as percussion instruments and pianos, should not be played unless given permission to do so.

There will be a few method books used during the year. The class sets of books will be assigned to each student to use. They are responsible for anything written in the book outside of instructions in class.

Practice Rooms may be signed out using the poster on each door with dry erase markers. These are 10-minute slots that occur during choir classes and before and after school. Practice Room rules are as follows:

1. Unless a sectional is happening, no more than one person should be in a practice room at a time. (Exceptions are duets/trios for concerts)
2. You are responsible for the state of the room during your slot.
3. If someone else is signed up for a slot you **must** exit the practice room quickly and silently.
4. No food or drink in the practice room.
5. Unless you are given permission, you may only sign up for up to two slots per week. (Exceptions for soloists for concerts)
6. Anyone in a practice room **must** be practicing. If you are just talking you are taking up a slot someone else could be using.
7. It is up to you to keep track of the time. It is recommended that you set an alarm using your device.

Students that fail to follow the above rules may not be able to use the practice rooms for the remainder of the quarter.

## Music Folders and Lost Music Policy

The copying of published music for performance is illegal without permission of the copyright owner. Students will be assigned *originals* of any purchased non-public domain music and a folder. For classes that share folders, folders and music are to be left in the classroom unless signed out on the sign-out sheet. **The cost of any damaged or lost music/folders are the responsibility of the student.** This may result in delays getting a yearbook at the end of the year. You can view the wording on copyright law and exceptions at the following link:

<https://nafme.org/my-classroom/copyright/copyright-law-a-users-guide-for-music-educators/appendix-a-g/#b>

## Rehearsal Etiquette

Students that fail to follow school policies regarding behavior may be asked to leave the ensemble. Distractions and disrespect of the time and effort of other students is unacceptable in rehearsals, and can be dangerous on the risers. This includes improper handling of music, moving around the risers when not instructed to, talking during instruction and while others are singing, and during any quizzes or assignments.

Students will be given three warnings before they are asked to fill out a refocus sheet. On the third refocus sheet, the student will be sent to the office. If this is a consistent problem, parents or guardians will be notified and removal may be presented as a possibility.

## Assessment

Throughout the year, students will show understanding through varied assessments including *Performances, Sight-Singing Challenges, Repertoire Sectionals, Music Theory*, and more. Examples of these can be found below.

### **Individual Sight-Singing Challenges:**

Students will be assigned a weekly challenge on the online Class Notebook in OneNote where they will record themselves. Students will be assessed on the rubric depending on how accurately they sing each interval and solfege syllable in addition to other sections on the assessment rubric.  
*Music Standard MU:Pr5.1.E.a: Develop, apply, and refine rehearsal strategies in solo and ensemble applications*

### **Daily Music Theory Assignments:**

Students will complete a daily theory assignment using paper or their Class Notebook on OneNote. These assignments progress music literacy, and will prepare students for the singing in high school.  
*MU:Cr1.1.E.a Compose and improvise musical ideas for variety of purposes and context*

### **Individual Repertoire Challenges:**

Students will be assigned a section of the music that they will record and submit through Flipgrid. Students will get points based on the assessment rubric located in Microsoft Teams.  
*MU:Pr5.1.E.a: Develop, apply, and refine rehearsal strategies in solo and ensemble applications*

### **Repertoire Sectionals:**

Students will be assigned to small groups of like voice and different voice parts. They will work together to prepare a small section of the music to perform for the rest of the group or their section.  
*MU:Pr5.1.E.a: Develop, apply, and refine rehearsal strategies in solo and ensemble applications*

### **Additional Assignments:**

Students may also be asked to respond to various questions related to the music we are rehearsing, the historical background, and information related to vocal techniques. These will be done as class discussions, quizzes, or discussion posts in the Class Notebook or Microsoft Teams.

## Major Assessments and Performances

### Theory Quizzes and Unit Tests:

Every quarter, students will review all music theory learned and take a short test. This shows students understanding of basic musical concepts needed for performance and will show progression on various music standards.

### Music Composition:

Students will be assigned to groups or will work on their own to create a short work for voice. Students will spend class time learning the basics of composition throughout the year. Students will have the option to perform and record their works as an audio or video recording.

*MU:Cr1.1.E.a Compose and improvise musical ideas for variety of purposes and context*

*MU:Cr2.1.E.a Select and develop composed and improvised ideas*

*MU:Cr2.1.E.b Record or notate improvised/composed ideas*

*MU:Cr3.1.E.a Evaluate and refine music based on appropriate criteria (purpose and context)*

*MU:Cr3.2.E.a Share personal developed works*

### Performances:

This is a performance-based course. Students are required to attend any performance with at least one-month notice. Conflicts with sports or other school activities should be made aware to the coaches/leaders. If they have questions please direct them to my contact information. Every voice is important and adds to the group. Missing voices can hurt the ability of the ensemble in performances. If a performance must be added or moved, students and parents will be notified as soon as possible.

Students not in the required performance attire may be asked to assist with other parts of the performance if none is available to borrow. Any possible issues with performance attire should be addressed to the instructor *prior* to the performance date. There may be extra clothing available on a first come first serve basis. Off-site performances will require a form filled out if the parent is picking the student up from the event. **Notified missed performances will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and will require an alternative assignment. Missed performances without prior notice can only be made up for up to a 1 in the standards-based rubric.**

*MU:Pr6.1.E.a: Demonstrate mastery of technical demands and expressive qualities of music through performance*

*MU:Pr6.1.E.b: Demonstrate ability to connect with and respond to an audience through performance*

### Reflections:

As prescribed by both the Idaho State Standards for music and the National Common Core Music Standards, students will be asked to reflect on their performances. These assignments will be posted in Microsoft Teams.

*Re9.1.E.1a Evaluate works and performances based on personally- or collaboratively developed criteria , including analysis of the structure and context.*

## Technology in the Choir Classroom

### **Microsoft Teams**

This is an online collaboration space. Students will find various online resources posted and will have links to the class flipgrids. Some assessments will be posted here.

### **Microsoft OneNote Class Notebooks**

Each student has a digital notebook. It contains the classwork and home assignments for our theory and for some classes the sight-singing work. Students will have roughly 15 minutes of work that will need to be done at home each week. These are accessible **offline** and is where most of our written classwork is located.

### **Flipgrid**

This service hosts videos that students upload to a safe private classroom space. Students will use this site to post recordings of themselves for feedback from the instructor and their peers.

### **Musictheory.net**

Musictheory.net has a wide variety of activities, exercises and lessons that will be used in class to review concepts.

### **Finale Notepad**

Finale Notepad is a music notation software that allows the user to input their music and have it play it back to them. Students will use this software in a variety of ways including the final composition project.

## Student Leadership

### **Section Leader**

Students that have completed at least one year in choir (whether at Lone Star or another school) can apply for a section leader position.

Section Leaders are expected to

- lead their section when the director is working with another group
- keep their section aware of upcoming performances
- remind their section on good rehearsal etiquette
- be good role models for the other students in their section
- be able to model parts of the music for their section
- Assist with the construction and tear-down of concert equipment



## Awards

### Three-Year Pin

Students that are in choir for at least the spring semester are eligible to be considered in choir for the year. If a student is in choir for all three years at Lone Star they are eligible for the three-year pin. If a student is removed due to behavior – they will not be awarded for that year in choir if they return.

For example:

Student is removed in Year 2 of choir at Lone Star due to behavior. Student shows enough behavior improvement overall to return for Year 3. Student will only be acknowledged at the end of the year for Year 1 and Year 3 of Choir and is not eligible for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year pin. Students may be eligible for other awards.

## SWIMS Honor Choir and Idaho All-State MS Choir

### Southwest Idaho Middle School Honor Choir

In October, information about auditioning to represent Lone Star in one of the two honor choirs will be posted. Honor Choir involves select students from various districts in the treasure valley including Nampa, Vallivue, Middleton, Marsing, Notus, and others.

Students are required to attend all rehearsals. There is no transportation provided by the school to these events. Dates and locations for these rehearsals will be in the audition packet. There is a small fee for this event that includes music, folder, and t-shirt.

### Idaho All-State Middle School Choir

Audition materials will be posted on the ACDA Idaho website. This requires a set of recordings of different warm-up exercises and a song. Audition forms and materials will be posted in the choir room as soon as they are available. Student recordings are compared to students across the state. Students will learn of audition results in November/December. Students that successfully audition will then participate in the All-State Conference at the end of January. This is the highest level of choir MS students can audition for in Idaho.

Students are responsible for their own transportation to the event. There is a \$175 non-refundable fee that includes hotel stay, meals, and participation in the event after being selected.

## Handbook Acknowledgement

Please have the student return this page after the guardian and student have read through the entire handbook. The signatures here acknowledge the contents of the handbook including performance schedule, attire, expectations, etc. Any questions can be directed via e-mail to the director and will be answered as soon as possible.

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Student Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Name (Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any e-mails that will need updates about events:

**E-mail(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

\*please note that all updates for events will be sent home via e-mail in addition to paper given to students.

Any known performance conflicts:

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