**Anderson Vertical Team Mission statement:**

With the utmost pride, the Anderson Choirs will continually raise our standard of excellence through unified efforts, mutual respect, shared goals, and the determination to uphold our tradition of success.

**Philosophy of Student Conduct and Character**

 We believe that choral music students at L. C. Anderson High School are ambassadors for our school. They are to exhibit personal integrity, musical excellence, and academic achievement. They are expected to be an example of our school and of our community.

 Each choir student is expected to model character traits such as respect, honesty, responsibility, commitment, courtesy, compassion, pride, self-discipline, enthusiasm, and leadership, whether on campus or off. It is both a privilege and a responsibility to perform on our stage and in our community. Insubordination to the director or to any person of authority will not be tolerated. Disrespect and endangerment of classmates will not be tolerated. Any public display of affection is considered inappropriate behavior. Failure to comply with school and/or choir policies may result in immediate removal from a performance. Any choir member in violation of AISD policies governing smoking, alcohol, drugs, or other serious offense will be subject to removal from choir and may forfeit letter jacket privileges. In addition, academic eligibility is required as legislated by the state of Texas.

 We believe that aspiring to standards of musical excellence will foster individual confidence and group loyalty. Working toward these goals will not only perpetuate a choral department of which we can all be proud, but will also mold young men and women into adults who will be successful leaders of tomorrow.

# Choir Expectations

# BE ON TIME

* + Be in your assigned seat with choir folder, pencil and other class materials ready to work when the bell rings. **Cell phones should be placed in back packs before class.**
	+ Have your restroom/grooming needs taken care of BEFORE the bell. When class has started, only emergency restroom use will be permitted.
	+ **DISTANCE LEARNING – be at all assigned Zoom, or other platform, meetings and be engaged. Try to avoid busy or noisy areas of your home. Please do not attend class while laying down in bed.**
1. BE RESPECTFUL
	* Talk only after raising your hand and being called on.
	* Take care of hair and make-up needs outside of class.
	* Do what you are asked the FIRST time and do not complain.
	* Eating and chewing gum is not permitted in the classroom. You may bring a water bottle with you to rehearsals. (With the exception of announcements when snacks are allowed.)
	* Participate in all aspects of rehearsal and study your music when other sections are working. Do not talk, work on homework, or write notes, etc. during rehearsal.
2. BE READY TO GIVE 100%
	* Give your very best effort every day in class.
	* Encourage those around you when they need encouraging, and support your classmates so that everyone feels comfortable enough to give their best effort.
3. **PARTICIPATION IN CONCERTS IS MANDATORY!**

**PROCEDURES:**

1. The pianos, practice rooms, and stereo equipment may NOT be used without permission.

2. The choir office phone may only be used by choir students with permission. “Please” and “Thank you” are expected when you address anyone on the phone.

 3. Backpacks MUST be placed in the back or sides of the classroom (NOT in front of the folder cases).

 4. Sharpen pencils BEFORE class.

5. Any make-up work is the STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY and should be completed

OUTSIDE OF CLASS within 1 week.

6. No food or drink is permitted in the choir room during class. However, water is permissible in a sealed

container.

 7. Keep all liquids away from pianos and other choir equipment.

8. Please use the restroom BEFORE class begins. Although emergencies occur, plan ahead to avoid them.

**CONSEQUENCES OF INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR\*:**

 1st Offense: Warning/student conference.

 2nd Offense: Phone call to parents, detention assigned, daily grade lowered.

 3rd Offense: Referral to Assistant Principal.

\*Severity Clause - Any behavior which causes a severe disruption to the classroom environment will result in an immediate referral to the Assistant Principal and campus security may be notified.

## Choir Grading Scale

**Daily Average** (daily written work, daily participation, and rehearsal efficiency) - 40%

 **DISTANCE LEARNING – Individual learning environments affecting participation will be**

 **considered on a case by case basis.**

**Quizzes** (singing & written) - 30%

**Concert Performance and Rehearsal Attendance/Major Tests** - 30%

 Attendance is required of every choir student at all major choir performances (see calendar). In addition, attendance is required at the UIL Concert & Sight-reading Evaluation. Attendance is required at all after-school dress rehearsals, which occur the day(s) before the Follies and Winter Concert and possibly in preparation for UIL Contests.

 In addition to losing up to 30% of your six-weeks grade, failure to attend a performance or rehearsals may result

in removal from future events or activities. **Conflicts with employment scheduling are NOT considered to be**

**excused. It is your responsibility to communicate with your employer far in advance.**

 Should a MAJOR EMERGENCY prevent attendance at a required performance or rehearsal, the student MAY be excused by the director if he/she (1) notifies the director IN ADVANCE, (2) provides a note from a parent/guardian after the missed event, and (3) requests an alternate assignment, due one week after the missed event. THIS IS THE

STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY.

 Additional performance obligations, when mutually agreed upon by the majority of the organization, will then be subject to the required performance criteria cited above.

**DISTANCE LEARNING – Performances are being planned, but will be online this fall. These performances (recordings) will still be required understanding that they may be done at home or at school individually or in small groups. Safety will be our number 1 priority.**

## Make-up Work

 Requesting make-up work is the responsibility of the student. Work should be requested within 48 HOURS after returning to school. Tests/concerts and quizzes may NOT be made up during class. The student is responsible for making arrangements for a missed test or quiz. Tests/concerts and quizzes MUST be made up within one week of returning to school. Any extenuating circumstances must have the approval of the teacher within 48 hours after returning to class.

### Materials And Supplies

Required daily in class: SHARPENED pencil with eraser (minimum of 2)

 Optional: Notebook paper

 Planning calendar

 Dividers for binder

 **DISTANCE LEARNING – Communication will be the key to notify directors as soon as possible of**

 **technology issues such as cameras or sound cards not working as well as connectivity issues.**

### Uniforms

**THE FORMAL CHOIR UNIFORM WILL BE:**

 Women: \*Black concert dress

 Appropriate non-visible undergarments

 Black dress shoes – 2” heel or less, prefer closed toe & closed heel

 Small silver or pearl earrings (or none)

NO necklaces, chains, or watches

 Men: \*Black tuxedo coat and pants

 \*Black bow tie and vest

 \*White tuxedo shirt

 Black dress shoes and black socks

 \*These items are provided by the school as a rental and are to be returned in good condition and clean at the end of the school year. Other uniform items are to be purchased by the student. Heavily damaged and lost items will be repaid by the student at cost.

**CHOIR T-SHIRTS:**

 In addition, all choir students will receive an Anderson Choir t-shirt once they’ve paid their fair share fee. This will be used as an informal uniform for community performances, Region rehearsals, etc. **We also wear these at school the day of concerts.**

### Eligibility

Students’ grades in all of their classes are important. In order to participate in U.I.L. activities, end of year trips, All-City Choral Festival, Solo/Ensemble Contests, and other field trips or events students must be passing ALL of their classes.

### Personal Grooming

In addition to the specified uniform, you must adhere to these guidelines in all choir performances:

 Women:

 1. Hair should be clean, neat, and worn away from the face.

 2. Any hair ornaments must be hair-colored or black and small.

 3. A modest amount of make-up is desired.

 4. Nails should be of a conservative length and color.

 5. No platform shoes, spike heels, or open toe or open heel styles.

 6. No perfume, cologne, or strong smelling lotion or hair spray.

 Men:

 1. No earrings.

 2. Hair must be clean, neat, or a conservative style, and worn away from the face.

 3. Facial hair should be trimmed.

4. Shirts should be clean and ironed.

 5. No cologne.

 6. Please shower and use deodorant before dressing.

# Performance Behavior

Expectations for behavior at concerts are the same as in the classroom:

1. Be on time
	1. Arrive at the specified area at the correct call time.
	2. Be in your spot ready to sing before having to be asked.
2. Be respectful
	1. Talking is NEVER allowed on the risers, or in the audience while other choirs are singing. It is disrespectful.
	2. Show support and applaud for your fellow classmates.
	3. You must stay for the entire concert unless there is an emergency.
	4. Cell phones should NEVER be used by students for texting or calling during a performance.
3. Give 100%
	1. Your performance grade depends on the amount of effort you give before, during, and after your performance.
	2. Give your best and you will be an example to others to give their best as well. THIS is what makes a choir stand out!

**DISTANCE LEARNING – Specific instructions will be given for performances that are not in person. These may change based on whether we can record/perform on campus or not.**

# Deadlines

**Because of the large number of students that participate in the Anderson choir program, it is imperative that deadlines set by the director are met. The directors will strictly enforce all deadlines and students who fail to meet them will face consequences. These consequences may include: lowered choir grades, inability to participate in the event, and loss of trip privileges.**

# Payment Information

We have added an online payment option this year for several of the items we offer. Please go to [www.trojanchoir.com](http://www.trojanchoir.com) and click on the MORE tab followed by the PAY FEES ONLINE tab.

Traditional payments - Unless otherwise stated by the director, any payment made to the choir should be made in the following way:

1. Please make checks payable to **AHS Choir Boosters**
2. Please include the choir student’s full name in the “memo” area.
3. Place money in an sealed envelope

Include student’s name, amount enclosed, and what payment is for on the envelope.

Do not carry large amounts of cash at school. If this is necessary, please have them come to the choir room prior to 1st block to turn their payment in. A pass will then be written to get them to their first period class.

## Fundraising

This year, the Anderson choirs will continue to use the Fair Share Choir Fee as the primary way of raising money for the program. We’ve realized over the years that we can create less of a time commitment, less of a financial commitment, and potentially a larger amount of money available to run the Anderson choir program by asking for a fee. The money raised allows us to purchase music, materials, buses, etc.

Additionally, students will have the opportunity to raise money to cover the fair share and later trip expenses through fundraisers offered through the program and through our booster program. Fundraisers typically give us a 40% profit margin. In order to continue to provide your children with new resources and opportunities, this fee and/or fundraisers are vital to the success of our program. For families who might find it difficult to pay the full amount upfront, a payment plan may be established so that the fair fare fee can be paid by the end of the first semester.

## Travel

It should be understood by both parent and student that the choirs are competitive and are expected to travel off-campus. A completed medical release/off-campus permission form must be on file at Anderson High School. A

phone call is NOT an adequate substitution for this form.

If it is absolutely necessary for a student to leave early from an event or activity, the parent/guardian of the

student must provide written notification to the director prior to the trip.

Anderson choir students have a reputation for being fine musicians, hard-working and dedicated students, and polite young adults. It is expected that all choir members conduct themselves responsibly in order to maintain such

high standards for our choir and our school:

 Be on time for all trips and activities.

 Arrange for transportation to and from school in a timely manner.

 Dress as directed.

 Be courteous to all.

 Avoid excessive noise on the bus.

Return on the same bus.

 Assist with any moving/setting-up/storing of any equipment.

 Help to keep the bus clean. The driver’s job is to drive, not to be our custodian.

 Make sure every item you brought on the bus is taken off.

 Thank your bus driver when you return home.

As a reminder, any student behavior that might interfere with the driver’s ability to perform his/her job safely and effectively will result in severe disciplinary action from the directors and AISD administration.

# Private Voice Lessons

Voice lessons are encouraged, provided the student works with a qualified teacher. We have voice teachers available who teach during class, so many students should be able to participate. We also have teachers available to teach before school, after school, and on weekends if that works better for the individual family. More specific information will be available through the director or at Everything Night.

## Choir Council

The opportunity for students to serve in leadership capacities is an essential part of the choir experience. These positions of responsibility will assist the directors in decisions that will affect the whole organization. The choir council is comprised of students chosen through an interview process. To be eligible for candidacy, a student must be entering their junior or senior year.

By acceptance of the office, each person elected/selected will agree to fulfill the expected duties to the best of his/her duties. Choir council members who don’t fulfill responsibilities will be removed from their leadership role.

## Choir Letter Award

The purposes of awarding letters to choir students are:

1. To recognize students for extra effort and work inside and outside the classroom, above and beyond the expected performance levels;

 2. To build spirit and unity within the organization;

This will be done using a point system that will be filled out toward the end of each school year. The total score to be achieved within a school year is 50 points. This total can be reached through a variety of activities and performances that we offer throughout the year.

Jackets will be presented in the Fall to qualifying students who are currently enrolled in the choir program. A choir jacket is earned when a student has met one of the following requirements:

1. Earned enough points as designated in advance by the directors.

or

 2. Participated in three years of choir and enrolled in their 4th year.

CHOIR FEES

FAIR SHARE FEE - $75

 We have divided this into a Uniform fee of $40 and a Supply fee of $35 to help you understand where the money goes. More specifically it covers the purchase of music, maintenance of uniform inventory, transportation expenses, hiring of an accompanist for choir concerts, professional development and related costs for the directors to attend TMEA and TCDA conventions, and other operational expenses that are not covered by AISD.

 DISTANCE LEARNING – at the moment, we know that we won’t be able to give any

 concerts/performances live this fall. That means the uniform portion of our fees which include rental and

cleaning are not needed at this time. We have therefore lowered the Fair Share Fee from $75 to **$50** at

this time with the possibility of asking for an additional amount in January if the situation changes to allow

us to have in person concerts/performances and competitions.

We have added an online payment option this year for several of the items we offer. Please go to

[www.trojanchoir.com](http://www.trojanchoir.com) and click on the MORE tab followed by the PAY FEES ONLINE tab.

 **For traditional payments, please use one of the following options to pay your student’s fee:**

 **1. Pay the full amount at Pool Party/Everything Night.**

 **2. Pay half at Everything Night. Pay the 2nd half prior to the end of 1st semester.**

 **3. Partake in the Fall fund raiser (40% profit) to raise money towards fees.**

 **Any family who needs assistance should contact Mr. B. directly to discuss options.**

DONATIONS – Any amount is greatly appreciated.

 These monies help to cover operational expenses not covered by AISD. They also help cover expenses of students to attend choir camps and the spring trip when in need. All donors will be listed in each concert program (if desired) as either private or business sponsors.

Cash, check, or money-order is acceptable. Please make checks payable to AHS Choir Boosters.

##### FAIR SHARE FEE - $75

 Covers purchase of music, maintenance of uniform inventory, t-shirts for new students, transportation expenses, hiring of an accompanist for choir concerts, student entry fees for TMEA Auditions and UIL Regional Solo & Ensemble contest, and other basic operational expenditures that are not fully covered by AISD. This is required of all choir students. Families needing a payment plan should indicate their deposit amount.

**GENERAL or SCHOLARSHIP DONATION** **– Any amount would be greatly appreciated.**

 Helps to cover basic operational expenditures that are not fully covered by AISD and/or to send students to summer choir camps and the spring trip. All donors will be listed in each choir concert program as either private or business sponsors.