

Anderson High School Choir Student Success Guide 2026-2027

Crystle Taylor, Director



One Spirit, One Heart, One Voice.

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

1. BE ON TIME and BE PREPARED

- Be in your assigned seat with your choir folder, pencil and other class materials ready to work when the bell rings. **Cell phones should be placed in backpacks before class. Backpacks should be placed at the side of the room (near binder slots).**
- **DO NOT MAKE US WAIT ON YOU!**

- Have your restroom/grooming needs taken care of BEFORE the bell. When class has started, only emergency restroom use will be permitted after the first 10 minutes. A Sign-in/Sign out sheet, that must be signed, will be on the piano when students leave.

2. BE RESPECTFUL

- **Do NOT TALK while the teacher is talking**
- Raise your hand and wait to be called on when speaking during class
- Take care of grooming needs outside of class.
- Do what you are asked the FIRST time and do not complain.
- There is absolutely NO complaining in the Choir Room unless we do it together!
- **Chewing gum is not permitted in the classroom.** You may bring a water bottle with you to rehearsals. (With the exception of announcements / before class 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.

3. BE READY TO GIVE 100%

- **Give your very best effort every day in class.**
- Encourage those around you when they need encouragement, and support your classmates so that everyone feels comfortable enough to give their best effort.
- ACT like your're at SCHOOL

4. Make-Up Work

- Any make-up work is the STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY and should be completed OUTSIDE OF CLASS within 1 week.

5. PARTICIPATION IN CONCERTS IS MANDATORY!

PROCEDURES:

1. Backpacks MUST be placed in the front or sides of the classroom (NOT in front of the folder cases).
2. Sharpen pencils BEFORE class.
3. No restroom privileges during the first 10 and last 10 minutes of class.

Class Rules

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
3. Keep all liquids away from pianos and other choir equipment.
4. No food or drink is permitted while class is in session. However, water is permissible in a sealed container.
5. Please use the restroom BEFORE class begins. Although emergencies occur, plan ahead to avoid them.
6. No one is permitted in Ms. Taylor's office, the choir conference room, choir library or choir storage closets without permission.

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%

Quizzes / Theory – this includes Sight Reading and Theory Worksheets - 25%

Concert Performance and Rehearsal Attendance/Major Tests - 35%

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. Dress Rehearsals can be counted as a Quiz or Test Grade, and will be up to the discretion of the director.

In addition to losing up to 35% 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. A calendar of choir events was supplied at the beginning of the school year.**

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.

There may be homework in this class sometimes. It is expected that students work on their music outside of class if needed. This includes writing in solfege, practicing intervals, doing

sight reading assignments and memorization. It is expected that students take what they've learned in class and then use it to be prepared for the next class.

AHS Choirs / Placements

AHS Choirs

- Trojan Gold (JV Treble)
- Trojan Blue (JV Tenor-Bass)
- Mezzo Voce (Intermediate Mixed)
- Varsity Voce (Varsity Treble)
- Chorale (Varsity Mixed)
- Madrigals (Small Group Varsity Mixed)

These choirs are performance-based and will present approximately four concerts per year. They will also participate in the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest at the Austin ISD PAC in the spring semester.

Prerequisites:

- Director's approval required for Varsity level Choirs. Students who are not currently in choir must contact the directors to arrange an audition time.
- Current choir students can audition or be considered for placement at the end of the school year.
- **Academic achievement and behavior history does affect placement in these choirs. Students may be moved from a Varsity level choir if they fail more than two core classes in one semester.**
- Concert attendance, choir grades, and participation in extracurricular choir activities will be considered when placing students in an advanced choir. Extra-curricular activities may include: All-Region auditions, choir trip participation, UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest participation, UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest participation, etc.

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.

***The Rule of 3 - After ANY Three class rehearsal grades missed in a 9 weeks grading period, students will have to make up those grades. (These are the Daily participation grades) On the 4th rehearsal (or beyond), student will be assigned a missing grade/s until grade is made up.**

***Varsity Choirs will only be allowed to miss 2 class rehearsals without penalty during UIL season.**

***This rule is for all absences regardless of reasoning.**

Uniforms

THE FORMAL CHOIR UNIFORM WILL BE:

- Option 1:
- *Black/Blue 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
- Option 2:
- *Black tuxedo coat and pants
 - *Blue bow tie
 - Black 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.

THE FORMAL CHOIR UNIFORM WILL BE:

The informal choir uniform consists of a choir shirt and any colored pant or jeans.

- No Leggings (except for pop concert)
- No holes in pants/jeans (except for pop concert)
- No SweatPants, No shorts

Choir shirts are required for all choir students. Students will receive an AHS Choir T-shirt after they've paid their fair-share fee. Informal choir uniforms should be worn on all concert days, to all informal performances, on choir trips, etc. No other shirt will be permitted.

All students will purchase a **\$15 choir shirt** at the beginning of their first semester of enrollment. These will be worn at several of our performances and activities throughout the year. We recommend that parents buy a shirt for themselves, especially if they will be chaperones or assisting with other activities.

Eligibility

Students' grades in all of their classes are important. In order to participate in TMEA competitions, 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:

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.
5. No platform shoes, spike heels, or open toe or open heel styles.
6. No perfume, cologne, or strong smelling lotion or hair spray.
7. Facial hair should be trimmed.
8. Shirts should be clean and ironed.
9. Please shower and use deodorant before dressing in concert uniforms.
10. Please carefully hang ALL uniform pieces when not in use.

Performance Behavior

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

1. Be on time
 - a. Arrive at the specified area at the correct call time.
 - b. Be in your spot ready to sing before having to be asked.
2. Be respectful
 - a. Talking is NEVER allowed on the risers, or in the audience while other choirs are singing. It is disrespectful.
 - b. Show support and applaud for your fellow classmates.
 - c. You must stay for the entire concert unless there is an emergency.
 - d. Cell phones should NEVER be used by students for texting or calling during a performance.
This includes while in the audience!
3. Give 100%
 - a. Your performance grade depends on the amount of effort you give before, during, and after your performance.
 - b. 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!
 - c. Stay for the whole concert unless permitted from director (beforehand).

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.

Calendar of Activities

- A yearly choir calendar will be posted in BLEND and on our website: Trojanchoir.com
- Refer to it often when making family plans, non-school activity plans, work schedules, etc.
- Some activities on the calendar are required, but others are optional based on each student's participation in the various activities offered.
- The choir calendar is as complete as possible at the beginning of the year and will be posted in BLEND as a PDF as well.
- Updates to the calendar will be given to students in class and updates will be sent via e-mail or posted in BLEND.
- Students will be given an explanation regarding which activities are required and which are optional in class.

Payment Information

We are once again using our online store this year.. Please go to 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 one of the following ways:

1. Use the online store for most purchases. Most credit cards accepted. **Every student needs to pay the Choir Fair Share Fee.** Other items are optional.
2. Please make checks payable to **AHS Choir Boosters**
 - Include the choir student's full name in the "memo" area.
 - Place money in a 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 come to the choir room prior to 1st block to turn their payment in. Place money in a sealed envelope with the student's name, amount enclosed and what the payment is for on the envelope. A pass will then be written to get 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.**

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 and at our BIG meeting.

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 students 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.

UIL

Concert & Sight-Reading Contest (Dates TBA)

- This is a required contest for all High-School Choirs.
- Students are judged based on the overall performance of the choir in which they participate.
- This UIL contest takes precedence over other school activities and any absence from school is considered excused.
- Students are responsible for any missed work.
- Rehearsals for this contest will take place during class; however, additional sectionals, rehearsals, and performances may be required before school, after school, or on weekends.
- A student who misses required UIL rehearsals might not be allowed to participate in the contest at the directors' discretion.
- Students will be asked to demonstrate proficiency on the music before being allowed to participate.

Conflicts with Required Activities

When a student is involved in more than one activity that occurs outside of school time, conflicts may occur. Here are guidelines you are expected to follow when conflicts with activities arise:

- A UIL event/competition takes precedence over any non-UIL event/competition.
- A district level event takes precedence over any non-district, lower level event.
- A performance/district level event takes precedence over a practice.
- A practice for a UIL or district level event takes precedence over a practice for a non-district level event.
- A practice for a one-time performance takes precedence over a routine, regularly scheduled practice.
- **A school event takes precedence over a non-school event, even if that non-school event is a competition.**
- A Varsity level event takes precedence over a Non-Varsity level event.
- Sometimes a student will need to make a choice regarding activities that are of equal importance—he/she may do so without fear of reprisals or forfeiture of status/position.
- Family events must be scheduled around REQUIRED activities.

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 director in decisions that will affect the whole organization. The choir council is composed of students chosen through an interview process. To be eligible for candidacy, a student must have been enrolled in choir for at least one year at Anderson, and have displayed good character and choral expectations throughout the year.

By acceptance of the office, each person elected/selected will agree to fulfill the expected duties to the best of their ability. 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 was enrolled in their 4th year.

CHOIR FEES

FAIR SHARE FEE - \$85 (with T-shirt) \$70 (if T-shirt is already owned)

We have divided this into a Uniform fee of \$40 and a Supply fee of \$45 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.

*Several of the items we offer can be purchased online. Please go to 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:**
 - a. Online at www.trojanchoir.com
 - b. Cash in an envelope (with name on it) to Ms. Taylor
 - c. Via Check made out to "AHS Choir Boosters" in an envelope (with name on it)
- 2. Payment Plan (\$45 for Semester 1, \$40 for Semester 2)**
- 3. Partake in the Fall fund raiser (40% profit) to raise money towards fees. Pay balance by end of 1st semester.**

Any family who needs assistance should contact Ms. Taylor 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.