

Ridge Point High School
Panther Choir



2017-2018 Handbook

Ridge Point High School Choral Department 2017-2018 Choir Handbook

August 22, 2017

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Ridge Point High School Choral Department. We hope you have had a restful summer and are now looking forward to a successful year of music making!

The Ridge Point High School Choral Department thrives on a philosophy of, and commitment to, excellence in everything that we do. This philosophy and commitment depends on the cooperation of all choral students and parents. The success of a quality choral program demands that each member must claim personal responsibility and ownership in all that our organization does.

It is with great pleasure and pride that we present this Choral Handbook, which is intended to answer most of your questions, as well as inform you of goals, expectations, and important calendar dates. Please read this handbook carefully and retain it for your reference. We want to make sure that you are aware of department rules, regulations and expectation for all students. After you have thoroughly read the handbook and reviewed the calendar, please sign and return the parent/student handbook agreement found on the back page.

We strive to keep an open door policy, and welcome any and all communication with students and parents. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us via phone or email if you ever need something.

Again, we are looking forward to an incredible year in choir!

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Be sure to read the white board and projector in class every day. Check your email regularly. Follow the choir on Twitter and Instagram @RidgePointChoir for up to the minute news and information.

Each day is an audition for future choir placement – make every day count!

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Choir Officers

Choir officers will be selected through a rigorous essay and interview process on the basis of leadership, service and participation in the choir program. These students are expected to exhibit outstanding behavior, excellent leadership and a positive attitude in all areas of student life. Student leaders should, above all, exhibit a desire to serve the needs of our choirs. This year, our choir officers are:

Dann Lewis, President

Peyton McFarlain, Administrative Vice-President

Sydney Zehner, Social Vice-President

Jennifer Garrett

Serena Jacob

Jordan Nellums

Hannah Schmitz

Sarah Tassin

Course Descriptions

Chamber Choir (2nd Period)

The Chamber Choir will consist of no more than 24 students in grades 10-12. Concurrent enrollment in Panther Chorale is required. The Chamber Choir focuses on advanced choral singing, performing on concerts, in the community, and competitively. Students are expected to be excellent musicians as well as examples of the values we strive to portray in the Choral Department. Regular attendance at rehearsal, consistent academic eligibility, and exceptional musicianship are all mandatory as a member of this ensemble.

Camerata (3rd Period)

Camerata is an advanced treble choir made up of students in grades 10-12 who pass the audition and maintain academic eligibility requirements. Members must have a history of eligibility, excellent work ethic and the ability to sight-read and move quickly through intense and fast-paced rehearsals. Members are required to participate in all dress rehearsals and concerts at Ridge Point High School, as well as any competitions the group attends. Students in

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this choir are encouraged to study private voice and audition for the TMEA All-State Choir. Members who are not able to meet all expectations may be placed in a less demanding choir.

Floreat (4th Period)

The membership of this treble choir consists of all freshman women in the Ridge Point Choral Program. Upon arrival, each singer will be auditioned for voice classification and general music knowledge. This group works on advancement in vocal technique, sight-reading, choral methods and repertoire. Members are required to participate in all dress rehearsals and concerts at Ridge Point High School, as well as any competitions the group attends. Students in this choir are encouraged to study private voice and audition for the TMEA All-State Choir. Maintaining academic eligibility is a requirement.

Panther Chorale (5th Period)

This is the top performing group at Ridge Point High School. Panther Chorale is a mixed choir that will perform selections from all musical periods. The choir consists of sophomores, juniors, and seniors who pass the audition and maintain eligibility requirements. Previous years of choral/musical training, a history of eligibility, excellent work ethic, and the ability to sight-read and move quickly through intense and fast-paced rehearsals will be considered when selecting members for the group. Members are required to participate in all dress rehearsals and concerts at Ridge Point High School, as well as any competitions the group attends. Students in this choir will also be required to participate in two of the following individual activities to advance their musical skill: TMEA audition process, UIL Solo/Ensemble Contest, or private voice lessons. Members who are not able to meet all expectations may be placed in a less demanding choir.

Statesmen (6th Period)

All men in the Ridge Point Choir Program who are not in Panther Chorale will be placed in this ensemble. Upon arrival, each singer will be auditioned for voice classification and general music knowledge. This group works on advancement in vocal technique, sight-reading, choral methods and repertoire. Members are required to participate in all dress rehearsals and concerts at Ridge Point High School, as well as any competitions the group attends. Students in this choir are encouraged to study private voice and audition for the TMEA All-State Choir. Maintaining academic eligibility is a requirement.

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Private Voice Lesson Program

Ridge Point High School is pleased to be able to offer private voice instruction with highly qualified voice instructors. These instructors work one-one-one with our students to teach proper vocal technique, sight-reading skills, and music theory. Our voice instructors also help prepare TMEA All-State repertoire, UIL Solo & Ensemble repertoire, school musical audition material, and college audition repertoire. Lessons will be taught at Ridge Point High School in the afternoons. The cost is \$23 per half-hour lesson.

Voice Lesson Guidelines

Each student taking private voice lessons at Ridge Point High School must:

- Be prepared for lessons by bringing all materials
- Practice all assigned vocal exercises and music
- Be open minded, willing to learn and try new things
- Notify the private teacher in advance of any absence. Except in the case of an emergency, a 24-hour advance notice that you will be missing a lesson must be given. If notice is not given in advance, the student will be charged for that lesson. The earlier the notification, the easier it is to reschedule a lesson. Please remember not to schedule doctor/dentist/orthodontist appointments during lesson times.

The payment guidelines for the private voice lesson program are as follows:

- Payment may be made each week, or you may pay one month at a time.
- If by the second lesson of the month you have not paid, the remaining lessons for that month may be forfeited, but payment for the entire month is still due. Students who continually pay late may become ineligible for private lessons and replaced with someone on the waiting list.
- If a student wishes to discontinue lessons, a two-week notice must be given to the teacher.

Completion of an application to participate in the private voice lesson program confirms an understanding of, and agreement with, the aforementioned guidelines. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your student's private voice teacher.

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Student Guidelines

Attendance Policy

Unlike traditional academic classes, choral classes are performance based. Therefore, it is impossible to “make up” missed classes, sectionals, rehearsal and concerts. Unexcused absences from any of the above activities will **severely** lower your term grade. Should you need to miss a required choir activity, you **must** fill out an Absence Request Form on the choir website **at least** two weeks in advance of the event. Your director will then review your request and notify you as to whether or not your absence will be excused. If you are absent from school the day of a required sectional, dress rehearsal or concert, you **must** call the Choir Office at (281) 327-5228 or email your director letting him know of your absence. **Transportation issues, work, non-emergency medical/dental appointments, babysitting, tutorials, other course work, driver’s education and club athletics will not count as excused absences.**

Students are given ample notice of scheduled rehearsals, performances, and activities so that conflicts are minimal. As students continue their quest to be responsible adults and perfect the art of balancing and organizing activities and calendars, it is their responsibility to inform parents, employers, coaches, sponsors, and other teachers of choir activities. In the event of a conflict with another scheduled school activity, it is the responsibility of the students to notify both sponsors at least two weeks in advance of the conflict. The student will then be expected to work with both sponsors to determine a solution to the conflict.

Simply stating, “I won’t be at the rehearsal/concert because I have [insert conflict here],” is neither adequate, nor appropriate. It shows a lack of respect for your fellow choir members and what we are trying to accomplish as an ensemble. Instead, a better thing to say would be, “I have a conflict with next month’s concert, and I need some help in finding a solution.” This type of approach shows maturity, understanding, and that you care about resolving the conflict.

Eligibility

Students are expected to pass all of their classes in order to maintain academic eligibility and participate in choral events. It is the student’s responsibility to keep up with their academics. I have found that students who turn in **all** assignments and come to school tend to pass their classes. Receiving zeros is a sure-fire way to guarantee that you will struggle to remain academically eligible. If you are having difficulty in a class, make sure that you are communicating daily with your teacher, as well as attending tutorials on a regular basis. Mr. Coffey and Mr. Menon will also be happy to help set you up with another student who is doing, or has done, well in the course that is giving you trouble. Students in advanced ensemble who

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have continued eligibility issues will be placed on probation or moved to a less demanding choir. Eligibility rules for participation are as follows:

1. All students are eligible the first six weeks of school.
2. At the end of the first six weeks, students with a failing grade (69% or below) in any non-exempt class will become academically ineligible and may not participate in trips off campus, singing at pep rallies, any activity that requires admission, or TMEA/UII-related events.
3. Every nine weeks, if the student fails (below 70%) one or more non-exempt subjects on a report card, they will not be permitted to participate in extra-curricular activities for the next three weeks.
4. Every three weeks, an ineligible student may regain eligibility by passing ALL non-exempt subjects. They will be eligible to participate in choir activities following a one-week grace period. If they are failing any non-exempt course, the student will continue to be ineligible for the next three weeks.
5. Please note that, with the exception of the second progress report of the year (given out at the six-week mark), it is only report cards that will cause a student to lose eligibility. A student who passes everything on a report card stays eligible for the next 9 weeks regardless of any progress report grades. A student cannot lose eligibility based on a progress report grade, but failing a class on a progress report can keep a student ineligible.
6. All choir students are expected to maintain their eligibility status throughout the year. Any student who becomes ineligible will be placed on academic probation for the rest of the year. If a probationary student in an advanced choir is ineligible a second time during the year, the student may be moved to a less-demanding ensemble, thus allowing the student more time to focus on their academic needs. Students who show a consistent inability to maintain eligibility will not be considered for Pop Show featured acts or placement in advanced choirs.

Please note that some non-UII events require eligibility due to Texas Education Agency rules. These include but are not limited to any event that charges admission (Pop Show, National Anthems at sporting events), pep rallies, any competition, and some other performances. Mr. Coffey and Mr. Menon will allow ineligible students to participate in any event where it is legal to do so, so if an ineligible student is told that they may not participate in an event, it is because the state legislature has dictated thus, not because the directors chose to limit participation.

Concerts

Concerts are the ultimate evaluation of many weeks of hard work and preparation in the choral classroom. It is the equivalent of unit test. Each unexcused absence from a required rehearsal or performance will result in a zero, which will substantially lower a student's overall grade in

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choir. Students and parents are responsible for keeping up with dates and times of activities scheduled in the choir calendar (<http://www.ridgepointchoir.com/calendar>).

Grading

Daily Grades (50%) will include:

Weekly Grades – will be given to each student based upon, but not limited to:

- Assessment of skills
- Classroom participation and professionalism
- Rehearsal preparation (mastery of music, memorization, etc.)
- Adherence to classroom procedures
 - Rehearsal involvement
 - Individual preparation
 - Punctuality
 - Rehearsal etiquette
 - Having all necessary supplies

Musicianship Grades, at least three per grading period, will be based upon:

- Individual sight-reading performance
- Performance of repertoire
- Theory and aural skills assessments
- Writing assessments
- Quizzes

Major Grades (50%) will include:

Singing, sight-reading, and theory assessments

Attendance and professionalism at required after-school rehearsals, and concerts/performances

Music and Uniforms

You will be responsible for a choir uniform and choral music throughout the year. Just as you are expected to return textbooks to the school, you are expected to return your music and uniform to the choir department. Your music should be returned with all pencil markings erased and all pages intact. Your choir uniform should be returned in excellent condition. If the choral uniform is lost or damaged, the student will be financially responsible for the repair or replacement. Please take care of these materials so as to avoid fines or replacement fees. The

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uniform comes to you freshly dry-cleaned, if it needs to be freshened during the year, it must be dry-cleaned. Do not attempt to wash or dry your uniform at home, as this can damage the fabric.

Participation Fee and Finances

These fees are necessary in order to keep our program running and to ensure that each child receives needed supplies, uniforms, and materials. Your participation fee helps to pay for two choir t-shirts, uniform rental, upkeep and dry-cleaning, travel, accompanists for rehearsals and performances, library supplies, food, octavo purchases, highlighters, pencils and other needed supplies. These fees may be paid in cash or by check made out to Ridge Point Choir.

Additionally, fees may be paid online through Charms/RevTrak, though a processing fee will be assessed for this method of payment. Students choosing to pay online should email Mr. Coffey and let him know that you have done so, as the system does not automatically let him know that you have done so.

Finances should never be a barrier to a student's participation in the choir department; however, if no communication is made, no assistance can be offered. Special payment arrangements can be made by submitting the Fees Assistance Request form that can be found on our website.

The following is an anticipated list of choir expenditures that may occur throughout the year. They are listed to help you plan your budget. Please note that in some cases, fees are approximate.

Participation Fee (required):	\$60
All-State Audition Fee (optional):	\$25
All-State Audition Music (optional):	\$15
All-Region Clinic/Concert Participation Fee (optional):	\$20
Solo & Ensemble Fee (optional):	\$8 registration; \$30 pianist
Choir Banquet (optional):	approximately \$20

Trip Fees:

Trip fees will vary depending on destination and length. Participation may or may not be optional depending on which choir you belong to. Details will be reviewed in advance during class and through e-mail.

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Mr. Coffey and Mr. Menon will not accept any money for fundraisers or fees unless it is in an envelope labeled with your name, amount, and purpose of payment. Envelopes for this purpose can always be found in the choir room.

Refund Policy: Most fees charged to the student involve advance payment for a service or item. In such cases (i.e. accompanist fees, trip fees, game tickets, etc.), the choir has a deadline for receiving reimbursement from the supplier. Because of this, the following policy will be strictly followed: **Unless you have been informed otherwise in writing, there will be no refunds in any case where a student has paid for an activity or supply but is no longer able to participate. This policy applies no matter what the reason is for withdrawal and specifically includes, but is not limited to situations of ineligibility, illness, unexpected family travel, or withdrawal from Ridge Point Choir.**

Rehearsal Etiquette

Positive Attitude

Come to rehearsal with the attitude that hard work pays off! Excellence is achieved with an open and hard-working mind. Leave other classes and problems outside the Choir Room doors, so that our musical goals can be the focus of each rehearsal. Take a mature attitude towards correction. You chose to be here and your teammates are counting on your active participation.

Punctuality

It is expected that you are present in class and in the choir program because you want to be here. Therefore, you are expected to report to all rehearsals on time with your music, pencil, highlighter, and a positive attitude. Walking into rehearsal after it has begun, or running to your seat as it starting is disruptive and erodes focus. Many important things happen right at the beginning of a rehearsal that will determine how successful we are able to be each day. Be on time!

Mr. Menon and Mr. Coffey both agree that being punctual strengthens and reveals your integrity, shows you are dependable, and shows your respect for your classmates. Being late is a form of theft, as you steal valuable rehearsal time from your fellow ensemble members that they can never get back. After-school rehearsals will always start and end promptly on time because we respect the time that you give to the program. All we ask is that you respect the time of everyone else in the group.

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For graded rehearsals and performances that take place outside of the school day, the following penalties will be assessed for tardiness:

- 10 point deduction from grade for being 1-10 minutes late
- An additional 1 point deduction for each minute of tardiness past 10 minutes

Posture

Your body is your instrument; proper care must be taken to ensure that you are using it properly for singing. When you stand, feet should be slightly separated, shoulders straight, rib cage open and face engaged. When sitting, stay on the front part of the chair and refrain from crossing your legs as this implodes the diaphragmatic structure required for singing.

Supplies

It is critical that you bring your music, pencil and highlighter to each and every rehearsal. All choir members will be given a ½" black binder, two pencils, and a highlighter to begin the year. It is also critical that you have water at each rehearsal. Singing for an entire class period can be vocally, mentally and physically taxing. Make sure that you stay hydrated. When you enter the classroom, make sure that all of your non-choir supplies are placed in the designated area of the room, turn off your cell phone and place it in your backpack or purse. The only items you are allowed to bring to your spot on the risers are your music binder, pencil, highlighter and a closeable bottle of water. At the end of class, do not put your music away until you have been instructed to do so.

Concentration

The best choir rehearsals move quickly. To accomplish this, each choir member must be completely attentive at all times. When the director is not working with your section, use this time to review your music, audiate your part and work on memorization. Do not use this time to talk or do anything that is not related to the music being rehearsed. Pay attention to the section of music the director is rehearsing with another section so that when your section is called upon, you know where we are starting.

Respect

When many people work closely on a musical project, it is important to maintain respect for each other. The successful performance of choral music requires an emotional understanding of, and connection to, the text. Be sensitive to the feelings of others in the group. Treat others the way you would like to be treated. Leave conflicts and issues with others outside of the Choir Room. There is **absolutely no place** in this program for disrespectful comments and gossip about your fellow choir members. We take this very seriously and will not hesitate to remove

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you from an activity, class period, or from the program if your actions and comments become a problem or threaten the physical or emotional well-being of another student. If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all!

Cell Phones

Cell phones should not be visible or audible in any rehearsal before, during or after school. They should be turned off and put away before the start of every rehearsal. In addition, cell phones are not allowed on your person during a performance. This includes when you are sitting in the audience. If it comes to my attention that a choir student has been on their phone during a rehearsal, or abused cell phone rules during a concert, there will be serious consequences. Don't risk it! It is unprofessional, rude and shows a lack of interest in our process.

Talking

Don't! It distracts you and everyone else. Choir rehearsals are for using the vocal mechanism to sing. When you talk, you are not rehearsing properly. It is unprofessional and wastes everyone's time.

Entering and Exiting the Classroom

Make sure that you are ready to warm up before the tardy bell has rung! The beginning of each class period sets the pace and standard for the rehearsal. You will only be permitted to leave the room for bathroom or water breaks with the pass you will be given at the beginning of the semester. Do not ask to leave otherwise. Please take care of your business before or after class. You should not leave the choral risers unless you have been instructed to do so. When the rehearsal is over, you will be dismissed by your director and not the bell.

Social and Electronic Media

With the continued increase of communication via electronic media it is extremely important to understand the implications of texts, tweets, etc. Nothing we do electronically can be considered temporary or private. There has been an increase of student discipline problems based on communication, bullying, etc. that has occurred via electronic media outside of the school. Any student who represents themselves, peers, or their organization in an unfavorable, questionable, or illegal manner through electronic media will have parents immediately notified and be subject to disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by school officials and directors, including but not limited to dismissal from the organization.

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Daily Expectations

1. Be on time! To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late. To be late is unacceptable. Being prompt shows a respect for your director and your classmates.
2. Be in your assigned spot with all supplies by the time Mr. Coffey or Mr. Menon makes it to the piano to start warm-ups.
3. Refrain from talking during rehearsal. When you talk, it is distracting and ruins the focus of the choir. Do not be a distraction.
4. Be mature. Listen, and do not ask questions that have already been answered.
5. Be physically and mentally ready to do your best at each rehearsal. Be willing to try!
6. All students who are well enough to be in class are expected to participate. If you have an illness prohibiting you from participating fully, see Mr. Coffey before class to discuss an appropriate level of participation.
7. Be positive! Enjoy the challenge! Be a supportive team member!
8. Gum, food, drinks (except for water), cell phones and grooming products should not be used during rehearsals or concerts. Please bring water to class. You and your voice are important to the team.
9. The choir room is your “home” at school. Treat the choir room and your choir family with respect and care.
10. As a member of the Ridge Point High School Choir Program, you stand for spirit, pride, class and tradition inside, and more importantly, outside of the Choir Room. Make a difference in the Ridge Point community. Let everything you do reflect positively on this organization.
11. Choose the extraordinary over the ordinary. Never settle for mediocrity. Always go the extra mile!

You now know what you need to do in rehearsal to be the best you can be in performance. If you feel that these expectations are too high, see your director now. We will facilitate a schedule change that will place you in an elective where less is asked and expected of you.

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Use of the Choir Facility and Equipment

Care of the Choir Suite (choir room, library, uniform room, practice rooms, office): The choir room is our home away from home. Care and maintenance of our choir suite must be a daily priority. The choir room is not to be used as your personal locker.

Stage/Auditorium

You may not be on the stage or in the auditorium unless accompanied by a faculty member. There is to be no food or drink in the auditorium, except for water in a container with a closeable lid. The stage and auditorium must be left in pristine condition after each use.

Sound System

The sound system is only to be used with appropriate training and permission. Do not remove any part of the sound system. You may not use the sound system for personal use.

Pianos

The pianos are expensive, delicate, and to be used for classroom teaching and performances only. Do not play on these pianos unless you have been given instruction to do so. Students may not play the piano in any other circumstances. Do not place food or liquid on these instruments.

Offices

The office, uniform room and library are for teachers only. Please do not enter any of these rooms without authorization. If the door is closed, please knock.

Office Computer

Students may not use the office computer to complete or print assignments.

Practice Rooms

Students may only use the practice rooms if given permission by the choir director. These rooms are to be used for studying and practicing your choral music, not for other classes. Please do not bring food or drink into the practice rooms. Make sure that you do not leave any trash in the room when you leave.

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Charms Office Assistant

All of our record keeping, including student information and finances, will be maintained through Charms Office Assistant. Detailed instructions on how to view your student's information, financial status, or to print receipts, can be found here:

<http://www.ridgepointchoir.com/charms>

Lettering in Choir

Dedicated students who show involvement in, and commitment to, the choir program can earn a letter jacket by participating in various events. Students must accumulate 15 points in order to receive a letter for choir. Points for an event are not awarded until the event has been completed. Points will be awarded for the following achievements:

Choir participation for one year:	2 points
Senior choir member:	10 points
Performance in the school musical (chorus):	2 points
Performance in the school musical (lead):	5 points
UIL Solo (Division I):	3 points
UIL Ensemble (Division I):	2 points
All-District Choir:	2 points
All-Region Choir:	3 points
All-Area Choir:	4 points
All-State Choir:	15 points

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Concert Etiquette

Parents and Friends: We ask your help in assuring that you come to our concerts and other performances knowing that each song being performed represents many hours of hard work and preparation. It is extremely important that our audiences remain quiet and attentive so that each choir member can perform with the utmost concentration and skill. Family and friends who come to support a choir member should not be distracted as they listen to, and enjoy the intimate beauty of the human voice. We also record our performances for archives, educational evaluation and sale. It is very disappointing to have the only recording of a concert marred by excessive audience noise, crying babies and crashing doors. With your help, we can set a very professional and “artist friendly” atmosphere at Ridge Point High School. Choir students are also expected to know how to be wonderful and supportive audiences. Thank you for your help in leading by example.

1. If you bring children to our concerts, please sit on the ends of the aisles at the back of the auditorium. If they become restless, please quietly exit the back of the auditorium immediately. The audience, choir, and recording company will appreciate your thoughtfulness.
2. If you must leave the auditorium for any other reason during one of our concerts, please wait until a song is finished and the audience has begun to applaud. Exit quickly, and please do not re-enter the auditorium until you hear the audience applaud again.
3. Please remove the temptation of looking at cell phones and electronic devices by turning them all the way off during the concert.
4. Please do not talk during a performance. When the singers have finished a piece, and you feel the need to comment, do so by offering a warm round of applause!
5. Please do not yell out and distract your choir member, or any others who are on stage. Instead, congratulate them after the concert has concluded.
6. We ask that you not bring food or drink into the auditorium. We cherish this performance space, so please help us keep it clean.

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Important Dates

September 23 – District Auditions

September 25 – Short & Sweet Concert (all students)

October 9 – Fort Bend ISD Men’s Night Concert (all men)

October 20 – National Anthem at Homecoming Game (all students)

October 21 – Region Auditions

November 3-4 – All-Region Choir Clinic & Concert

November 30 – Pre-Area Auditions

December 5 – Sounds of the Season Concert (all students)

January 13 – Area Auditions

January 22 – Pop Show Featured Act Rehearsal

January 23-24 – Pop Show Dress Rehearsals (all students)

January 25-27 – Pop Show Performances (all students)

February 15-19 – All-State Choir Clinic & Concert

March 2-3 – Madrigal & Chamber Choir Festival (Chamber Choir)

March 26-27 – FBISD Pre-UIL Concert & Sight-reading (all students)

April 5 – UIL Send-Off Concert

April 16-18 – UIL Concert & Sight-reading (all students)

May 20 – Masterworks Concert Orchestra Rehearsal (all students – this is a Sunday)

May 22 – Masterworks Concert

This is a tentative listing of some of the many events we will participate in throughout the year.

For a complete and up-to-date calendar, visit: <http://www.ridgepointchoir.com/calendar>.

Sectionals, full rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and performances that occur outside of the school day are curricular and will be required and graded as outlined in FBISD Fine Arts Handbook. As a reminder, everything on the calendar is subject to change, but students will always be given two-week’s notice before any graded rehearsal or performance.

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Ridge Point High School Choirs

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(281) 327-5228 ridgepointchoir@gmail.com

www.ridgepointchoir.com

Matthew Coffey & Saleel Menon, Directors

Student/Parent Contract & Handbook Acknowledgement

Please note: Your signature on this form is an agreement to the policies found in the 2017-2018 Ridge Point Choir Handbook available on Charms (instructions on how to log into Charms and access the handbook can be found at www.ridgepointchoir.com/charms). This form has been made available as a separate document for convenience, but it is important that you review the policies in the online handbook before signing.

The success of the choir department is dependent upon each individual choir student adhering to the policies and procedures set forth in the handbook. Singers are expected to fulfill all choir commitments and responsibilities outlined in the syllabus and the handbook. Requirements of the course include, but are not limited to, Homecoming performance, Short & Sweet Concert, Sounds of the Season Concert, Pre-UIL Contest, UIL Concert & Sight-reading, Pop Show, Masterworks and any other activities designated as total organization performances. Regardless of event classification (extra or co-curricular), attendance of those eligible at designated events is required as part of the curricular grade.

Performance is a state-required element of this course, and if a student fails to meet the designated performance requirements, he/she will receive grade reductions and may be suspended from participation in the organization at the director's discretion. Any deviation from this policy will be at the sole discretion of the choral directors. Reasonable consideration will be given relating to legitimate conflicts with UIL and school related activities.

As indicated in the handbook absence policy, students and parents must communicate with all sponsors in **advance** and **in writing** in order to provide time for proper resolution of any schedule conflicts.

The \$60 choir fee, which is detailed in the handbook, is due on September 1st. If you are unable to pay the fee at that time, please visit www.ridgepointchoir.com/documents and fill out a Fee Assistance Request form. **We are always willing to accept payments on alternative schedules if you find that necessary. We firmly believe that student finances should never be a barrier to participation, and we will make every effort to work with you in this regard.**

Payments to Ridge Point Choir cannot be refunded because of a student's inability to participate because of academic eligibility, failure to meet requirements of the policies in this handbook, removal or leaving the choir program, and/or the decision not to participate in an activity after a payment deadline.

I have read the 2017-2018 Ridge Point Choir Handbook, understand the expectation and responsibilities of the course, and agree to abide by the policies set forth in this handbook. I also understand the consequences for failing to meet these requirements.

PRINT Student Name

PRINT Parent/Guardian Name

Student Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Each day is an audition for future choir placement – make every day count!