

Welcome to Westlake High School Choir!

On behalf of Westlake Choir Parents, welcome to Westlake High School Choir! Westlake Choir Parents, Inc. is the non-profit 501(c)3 organization that provides volunteer and financial support for the choir program. Our organization is committed to our directors, students, and Westlake Choir, holding students to the highest standard of vocal development and performance; while at the same time, creating positive experiences that impact students' lives and form lasting friendships. We want to give you an overview of some aspects of the choir program that will help you and your child get ready for a successful year! We'll call it...

Westlake Choir 101

COMMUNICATION

All communication related to programs and events are sent by the choir directors through Skyward, the district's email system. To ensure that you receive information, please update your contact information for Skyward during the district's enrollment verification process. If you have any issues receiving email messages through Skyward, please contact the WHS Counseling Office to resolve access issues.

Westlake Choir Parents hold two general meetings each year for parents. The August meeting provides an overview of the year to come. The May meeting wraps up the year and begins looking ahead to the next school year.

Please direct all questions regarding instruction and programs to Mr. Baker at bbaker2@eanesisd.net. To contact a member of the Choir Parents Board about volunteer opportunities, fundraising, and Westlake Choir Parents committees, click here. www.westlakechoir.com

ATTENDANCE

Students should not have conflicts (including SAT and ACT tests, college visits, doctor's appointments, etc.) during the following:

- Required rehearsals and performances (listed in bold print on the calendar)
- Class periods during the week of a major performance
- Musical rehearsals on Saturdays during the month of January
- UIL Concert and Sightreading Contests

Please consider carefully the SAT and ACT testing options in planning your yearly calendar. This has become an increasing problem as students opt to take these tests multiple times.

Of equal concern are the scheduling of college visits and music auditions at the college level during the months of January, February and April. Please communicate with the choir directors those trips you might be considering during these months as there are required activities which, if missed, could result in a significant grade penalty. Most times we are able to arrive at a workable solution for everyone when conflicts are shared openly and anticipated early.

CONCERTS

There are a number of performance opportunities for our choir students throughout the year. They include:

- 4 concerts featuring the entire choir program (Fall, Winter, Pre-UIL, and Spring Revue)
- 3 performances of the musical in February (sophomores, juniors, and seniors participate)
- 1 performance of Freshmen Cabaret in February (freshman students)

UNIFORMS

Westlake Choir has both informal and formal uniforms. Uniform fees are paid through the choir's online store at the beginning of the year. Students are fitted for formal uniforms in class at the beginning of the year and will receive uniforms before the first concert in October.

Students are welcome to choose whichever formal uniform they prefer. They can either:

- Purchase a dress through the choir online store and provide their own black closed-toe pumps with a 1 to 1.5 inch heel; black character shoes are recommended. Students are responsible for hemming their dress upon receipt.
- Rent a tuxedo jacket and tuxedo pants, and purchase their own white pleated tuxedo shirt with a stand-up wing-tipped collar, a black bow tie, and cummerbund through the choir online store. Tenor-Bass students provide their own black dress shoes (no patent leather, canvas, or suede) and black socks.

Informal uniforms are blue jeans and the choir spirit shirt; each student will receive the spirit shirt in September complimentary of Westlake Choir Parents.

MO RANCH

Mo Ranch is an optional fall retreat for all choir students. Students ride a charter bus to the Mo Ranch Conference Center in Hunt, Texas. The weekend includes team-building activities, swimming, the annual "Mo-lympics," an incredible "Mo-Talent Show," and learning a piece of music that all Westlake Choirs traditionally sing at the end of each concert. The retreat is an event your child will not want to miss! Reservation information will be available in August.

NOTABLES

Notables is our "no hassle" fundraiser benefiting the Westlake Choir Program. Contributions support the activities of the choir and enrich the experiences of all choir students. Notables are tax-deductible and pay for a myriad of items and activities unavailable through school funding. As a thank you, all Notable contributors are listed in our choir programs, acknowledged on the choir website and at all choir concerts. Notable contributions can be made through the [choir online store](#).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many opportunities for parents to volunteer their time and talents during the year. With a large and active organization we need lots of help! [We encourage you to visit the Parent Volunteer Interest Form and to sign up for at least two activities during the year.](#) When you sign up to volunteer, your information will be shared with a committee chair who will contact you to arrange a specific time frame where we can use your help. Volunteer opportunities include: MO Ranch Chaperones, Uniform activities, Musical Committees (i.e. providing food for the cast, costumes, props, flowers) All-State or UIL Contest chaperones, etc.

PROGRAM AD SALES

This is an optional fundraiser for choir students. Money earned by the individual student selling program ads helps pay for choir-related expenses during their time in the Westlake choir program. Half of each ad a student sells is deposited in the student's choir account. The remaining 50% is used to pay for program production expenses. Money in a student's account can be used for any choir activity or merchandise. Unused funds rollover each year until graduation. Information is on the choir website under the forms tab.

THE MUSICAL

The Westlake community takes great pride in the choir's annual musical production. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors perform in the musical over three evenings in February. Students audition for leading roles. All participating choirs perform in large group numbers.

FRESHMEN CABARET

At the end of February, our freshmen students present Freshmen Cabaret. Students will perform solos, small and large group numbers centered around a particular theme. This event is scheduled around the time when 10th-12th grade students are preparing for the musical.

SPRING REVUE

This is the Spring Concert in which all choirs perform. In addition, students audition for solo or small group numbers. It is amazing to see the talent of the students showcased at Spring Revue. Seating is limited at this event.

JR/SR SPRING TRIP

Each year, juniors and seniors have the opportunity to go on a spring trip. Every other year, the choirs take an extended trip to New York City and on alternate years, the choirs travel in-state (Houston, South Padre, Dallas, Corpus Christi, etc.). With this schedule, all students have the opportunity to go on a big trip either junior or senior year.

UIL

The University Interscholastic League (UIL) sponsors the UIL Choir and Sightreading Evaluation held every year in the spring. This is a required competition that takes place over one or two school days. Each choir has the opportunity to work with a professional clinician in preparation for the contest. Westlake has a proud tradition of all choirs receiving the highest scores across all categories.

TMEA

The Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) sponsors the Texas All-State Choir competition. This is an optional extra-curricular program for students. Students may also attend camps during the summer at various colleges around the state that teach All-State music.

The All-State audition process begins in October and culminates with the selection of singers for one of 3 statewide choirs in February. Students achieving this distinction travel with the directors to San Antonio for three days of sectionals with clinicians and then perform a concert for family, friends, and music professionals. Being named a member of Texas All-State Choir is one of the highest honors in the country!

VOICE LESSONS

Choir students have the opportunity to take private voice lessons on campus during the school day from one of the excellent private voice teachers chosen to teach at Westlake. The fee is \$25.00 per half hour lesson. These lessons are highly encouraged.

BANQUET

The Choir Banquet is held in April/May at Austin Country Club and is a time for all choir students to celebrate the year with dinner, awards, and a slideshow of the year's highlights. Seniors are recognized for their many accomplishments in choir and Senior Scholarship recipients are announced.

ONLINE CHOIR STORE

Uniform and supply fees, merchandise, and donations may all be paid for through the choir's online store at www.westlakehighschoolchoir.com. First-time users will need to create an account for each student in choir, please be sure to use the specific student account when placing an order. Store instructions will be available at the beginning of the year.

COSTS

Annual costs to participate in Choir include:

- Westlake Choir required and optional fees, paid through the choir's online store. These fees cover all costs such as uniforms and choir supply fees and are paid through Westlake Choir Parents.
- EISD extracurricular participation fee for 10th-12th grade students, [collected by the district](#). This fee covers operational costs for extracurricular activities and is paid to EISD.

The following information includes expected Westlake Choir required and optional fees so parents can plan for program expenses. Need-based scholarships or payment plans are available by contacting Mr. Baker.

2024-2025 Required Fees*

All uniform and supplies fees must be paid before uniforms will be released to your student.

Required Fees for Students **NEW to Choir at Westlake High School**

Purchase the Required Fee in our online store that corresponds with your child's choir.

\$147 1st pd/Chaparral Treble Choir (9th) -OR- \$113 2nd pd/Concert Tenor-Bass Choir (9th)

*these fees **include***

\$ 0	Informal Uniform – Choir Spirit Shirt	\$ 0	Informal Uniform – Choir Spirit Shirt
\$97	Treble Formal Uniform - choir dress (1 time purchase)	\$33	Tenor-Bass Formal Uniform – tuxedo shirt and cummerbund/tie (1 time purchase)
\$25	Class Supply Fee	\$30	Tenor-Bass Formal Uniform – tuxedo pants and jacket (annual rental)
\$25	Cabaret Activity Fee	\$25	Class Supply Fee
		\$25	Cabaret Activity Fee

\$222 3rd pd/Concert Treble Choir; 6th pd/Varsity Treble Choir; 4th pd/Varsity Mixed Chorale (10th-12th) -OR- \$188 2nd pd/Concert Tenor-Bass Choir; 4th pd/Varsity Mixed Chorale (10th-12th)

*these fees **include***

\$ 0	Informal Uniform – Choir Spirit Shirt	\$ 0	Informal Uniform – Choir Spirit Shirt
\$97	Treble Formal Uniform – choir dress (1 time purchase)	\$33	Tenor-Bass Formal Uniform – tuxedo shirt and cummerbund/tie (1 time purchase)
\$25	Choir Supply Fee	\$30	Tenor-Bass Formal Uniform – tuxedo pants and jacket (annual rental)
\$35	Musical Activity Fee	\$25	Class Supply Fee
\$65	Musical Meal Fee	\$35	Musical Activity Fee
		\$65	Musical Meal Fee

Required Fees for RETURNING Students in Westlake High School Choir

\$125 3rd pd/Concert Treble Choir; 6th pd/Varsity Treble Choir; 4th pd/Varsity Mixed Chorale (10th-12th) -OR- **\$155** 2nd pd/Concert Tenor-Bass Choir; 4th pd/Varsity Mixed Chorale (10th-12th)

these fees include

\$ 0	Informal Uniform – Choir Spirit Shirt	\$ 0	Informal Uniform – Choir Spirit Shirt
\$ 0	Treble Formal Uniform – choir dress (replacement dress available if needed)	\$ 0	Tenor-Bass Formal Uniform – tuxedo shirt and cummerbund/tie (replacements available if needed)
\$25	Choir Supply Fee	\$30	Tenor-Bass Formal Uniform – tuxedo pants and jacket (annual rental)
\$35	Musical Activity Fee	\$25	Class Supply Fee
\$65	Musical Meal Fee	\$35	Musical Activity Fee
		\$65	Musical Meal Fee

Required Fees for MADRIGALS and CHAMBER SINGERS

Madrigal/Chamber students purchase one package (below). Should you need to replace an informal or formal uniform item, purchase them as Replacement items.

\$255 Soprano/Alto Madrigals and Chamber Singers -OR- **\$250** for Tenor/Bass Madrigals

these fees include

\$ 0	Informal Uniform – Choir Spirit Shirt	\$ 0	Informal Uniform – Choir Spirit Shirt
\$ 0	Treble Formal Uniform – Choir Dress		Tenor-Bass Formal Uniform – tuxedo shirt and cummerbund/tie (replacements available if needed)
\$75	Madrigals Performance Dress (annual rental)	\$30	Tenor-Bass Formal Uniform – tuxedo pants and jacket (annual rental)
\$25	Choir Class Supply Fee	\$40	Madrigals Vest and tie purchase (if needed)
\$30	Madrigals Class Supply Fee	\$25	Choir Class Supply Fee
\$35	Musical Activity Fee	\$30	Madrigals Class Supply Fee
\$65	Musical Meal Fee	\$35	Musical Activity Fee
\$25	Big Sing Activity Fee	\$65	Musical Meal Fee
		\$25	Big Sing Activity Fee

OPTIONAL COSTS

\$230	MO Ranch 2024
\$20	TMEA Region Fee
\$40	Solo Competition Fee – in March
\$25 per lesson	Private voice lessons during class time – requires semester commitment
\$25 per ticket	Musical Tickets
\$20	Musical T-Shirt with Musical Logo, worn in January to promote the Musical
TBD	Choir Banquet and Senior Farewell in April
\$7-\$97	Optional replacement uniform items
TBD	Spring Trip, JUNIOR and SENIOR STUDENTS ONLY

**These fees are subject to change depending on the formal uniform type your child has chosen*