

**Riverdale High School
Choir Handbook
2025 – 2026**



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Hello, Students and Parents!

My name is Cameron Roberts, and I am beyond excited to welcome you to the Choir Program at Riverdale High School. The fine arts department at RHS has a united purpose of enriching students' lives through exposure to the arts. Our programs are designed to provide students with engaging, enriching, enjoyable, and challenging fine arts experiences.

Singing in an ensemble is a "team" activity, and participation, like any other team/group activity, is expected. Participation teaches **teamwork**, builds **self-esteem**, and promotes **responsibility**- especially with the support of a parent/guardian. Students in this program are committed to bettering themselves, and the world around them, through high-quality music-making.

This year, everyone at Riverdale is going to be experiencing a lot "new". We will have new students, classrooms, buildings, schedules, and major procedures. I encourage you, students and parents, to be open-minded and willing to adapt. This is an exciting opportunity for us all and I can promise a year of great fun and *excellent* music.

Please become familiar with all the policies and do not hesitate to reach out if you have any comments, questions, or concerns!

Gratefully,
Mr. Cameron W. Roberts



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MISSION

The mission of the Riverdale High School Vocal Department is to develop student musicianship and creativity in a safe, cooperative, and encouraging environment. Students in this program strive to further their music reading skills, performance abilities, and sense of ensemble. This is achieved by singing repertoire in many musical styles and genres and performing various programmatic events.

GOALS and OPPORTUNITIES

This course is designed with the following purposes and goals according to the Tennessee Fine Arts Standards:

Domain: Perform

1. Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation.
2. Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.
3. Convey and express meaning through the performance of artistic work.

Domain: Create

1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
2. Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
3. Refine and complete artistic work.

Domain: Respond

1. Perceive and analyze artistic work.
2. Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.
3. Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

Domain: Connect

1. Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to artistic endeavors.
2. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context.

My goals for students who participate in choir include:

- learning about their voice—how to use it and take care of it properly.
- learning skills needed to perform professionally, including appropriate concert etiquette and performance skills.
- learning and improving music reading skills
- building confidence in their unique talents

Performance opportunities for your choir may include:

1. Fall/Winter/Spring Concerts
2. Graduation
3. MTVA Choral Festival
4. All-County, Mid-State, All-State Honor Choirs
5. Fall and Spring Musicals
6. MTVA Solo and Ensemble
7. Fieldtrips
8. Freshman Orientation
9. Pep-Rally and Home Games
10. Collaboration with Feeder Schools
11. Festival Disney

All bolded performances on the calendar are required and count as a test grade.

CONCERT ATTIRE

The appearance of a choir offers a vital first impression for observers within our community. To exhibit professional uniformity, the group must dress as a “group” rather than individuals. Students should not wear anything excess that would cause a visual distraction. Students are expected to acquire formal concert outfits for concerts and performances. Students who are not in proper attire will have points deducted for that performance, or in extreme cases, may not be allowed to perform.

Concert Attire:

This year we are changing our concert attire! This means that we will not initially have dresses available for students to borrow. Participation in our August fundraiser will help get free concert attire!

Female Identifying Students – Solid black Corelli dress/jumpsuit with black DRESS shoes – no more than 2-inch heels. Dress/jumpsuit must be purchased from Southeastern Apparel.

Male Identifying Students – Black dress pants, white dress button-down shirt, black bowtie, black suspenders, and black DRESS shoes with black socks. The black dress shirt must be tucked into the pants. Bowtie and suspenders will be provided.

NOTE: The only thing that will not be purchased using fundraiser funds is ***dress shoes***.

To reiterate: The attire available to borrow from school is now limited and will not be available except for in emergencies. Basic participation in our August fundraiser will help us cover attire expenses for all students.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

1. **Be on time.** When the bell rings, be in your assigned seat.
2. **Be prepared.** Have your folder and a pencil ready at the start of class.
4. **NO CELL PHONES**, according to the new Tennessee State Law. Students will place phone in bookbag or binder cabinet.
5. **Do not chew gum in this class.** Chewing gum does not just inhibit your singing ability and can be dangerous, but it also can be a sticky mess to clean up!

As a member of the chorus, attendance is expected at ALL choral functions—it is not an option, it is our purpose. Our in-class preparation is not just to make music for ourselves, but also for others—thus, your attendance at a performance is not optional, and cannot be made up. A calendar has been made of all ***known*** chorus events this year so that your calendar can be marked. ***If an additional event is to be added, the event will be discussed with your class before any choices are made.***

If you have a conflict, unexpected or expected, please communicate to me as soon as possible. If a conflict with an after-school rehearsal or concert arises, you must complete a choir absence from. Unexpected emergencies should also be communicated ASAP. Communication is always KEY!

COSTS

Choral Fees – Choir members will pay a fee at the beginning of the year to help defray the cost of bussing and choral repertoire performed in class. **The fee this year is \$40.** This pays for your choir music, materials, and a T-Shirt. T-Shirts will also be made available for purchase to parents and families. Additional opportunities such as auditions may require payment of additional fees to cover participation and/or transportation. Some additional costs may arise for field trips and other events with appropriate advance notice.

MONEY/PAYMENTS

All payments to the Choir should be made payable to Riverdale High School. All money should be paid in either the form of a check or cash which is placed inside an envelope or bag. Any payments returned for insufficient funds must be replaced and will be charged for the overdraft fee charged by the bank.

Funds will not be accepted if not placed in an envelope or bag with the student's name on it.

CLASSROOM SUPPLIES

Binders will be provided this year, but you are expected to provide your own pencil daily. Donations of Kleenex and Germ-ex are always appreciated but not expected in any way.

GRADES

Two areas will be evaluated to determine the student's choir grade:

1. Assignments (Classwork/Homework/Rehearsal) count for 60% of the grade. Completing class work successfully includes completing sight-reading activities, attending class with the materials necessary for learning (choir binder/pencil), maintaining a productive attitude, displaying appropriate rehearsal technique (posture, breath, tone), and a positive work ethic. Homework will rarely be given out.
2. Assessments count for 40% of the grade. Assessments include performances and end-of-the-year reflections. Performances are scheduled in May prior and appear on the Choir calendar in both the handbook AND our choir website. Please look over the dates at the end of the handbook. Tentative dates will be secured and communicated as soon as possible.

COMMUNICATION/ATTITUDE

Communication is most effective when it is proactive, collaborative, and cordial. My goal is to continuously keep parents and students updated via Remind messaging and Emails. Please be sure that the email you have submitted to me is correct and active. If you do not have email or choose not to sign up for Remind, please make sure you regularly communicate with your students about choir events. The email provided to you at the front of this handbook is the best way to reach me. This method of communication is reserved solely for choir business—please do not send me anything other than choir-related comments or questions.

CHOIR OFFICERS

The Choir Officers are a peer-selected and director-approved group of students who distribute information, organize events/fundraisers, and work to improve the choir program.

The 2024-2025 Officers are:

President: Rhylea Karr

Vice-Presidents: Lexi Sells, Emma Hettish, and Odalis Villatoro-Mancia

Historian/Social Media: Declan Imbs, Dasha Pinto-Juarez

Head Music Librarians: Ada Carrigan and Hailey Gerald

Head Uniform Managers: Alyssa Payne and Saphira Yasui

If you have any questions or wish to help these students in any way, please reach out to them! They would love you to volunteer.

OPPORTUNITIES

Rutherford County/Mid-State/All-State Choirs

One of the most prestigious honors a high school singer can receive is an invitation to sing with the Rutherford County, Mid-State, and All- State Choirs.

Auditions are held early in the Fall semester, with the Honor Choirs held during the Winter and Spring (see calendar for exact dates). All choir students are encouraged to audition for these choirs!

Note - if you audition and are selected for Rutherford County, Mid-State, or All-State Choirs, you are required to attend.

Sometimes this includes additional fees for hotel, transportation, or participation fees/music. Please take all dates into consideration when auditioning.

Performance opportunities for your choir may include:

1. Fall/Winter/Spring Concerts
2. Graduation
3. MTVA Choral Festival
4. All-County, Mid-State, All-State Honor Choirs
5. Fall and Spring Musicals
6. MTVA Solo and Ensemble
7. Fieldtrips
8. Freshman Orientation
9. Pep-Rally and Home Games
10. Collaboration with Feeder Schools
11. Festival Disney

All bolded performances on the calendar are required and count as a test grade.

RIVERDALE VOCAL ACADEMY

Voice lessons are offered on a weekly basis during a student's choir class. Students will be excused from choir class into one of the practice rooms for voice instruction (which means parents do not need to transport students after school!). All voice teachers have been vetted by Mr. Roberts, are fingerprinted and undergo a background check, and are considered Non-Faculty Fine Arts Staff at Riverdale.

Information about the cost of voice lessons will be available in the first few weeks of the school year.

TRAVEL

There will be many occasions when we travel off campus. The destinations will range from very close to very far, however student behavior is to be exemplary regardless of distance or duration. To travel with our choir, I must have a **NOTARIZED RCS Medical Form** on file. You can find this form at the end of this handbook.

Going on trips is a privilege and not a right; Mr. Roberts reserves the right to forbid any student from attending an off-campus function if the student does not exhibit the requisite maturity level needed for such responsibility.

Students may be barred from field trips, travel, or events if they:

- **Have a failing grade in any class**
- **Have received OSS in the current school year**
- **Have received ISS in the current semester**

Mr. Roberts reserves the right to assess these situations on a case-by-case basis. These policies are designed to protect the safety and integrity of our choral program.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents are an integral part of our program's success. Please be receptive when needs arise and consider volunteering to assist. But most importantly, make every effort to attend your child's concerts! Thank you for all you do, and please let me know if there is any additional ways I can serve you or your students!

NAfME Statement on Music with a Sacred Text

The National Association for Music Education believes that the study and performance of religious music within an educational context is a vital and appropriate part of a comprehensive music education. The omission of sacred music from the school curriculum would result in an incomplete educational experience.

2025-2026 Riverdale High School Choirs



Please click or scan the link below to fill out the
Choir Handbook Acknowledgement Form.

Forms must be filled out and submitted by Friday,
August 15th.



2025-2026 Choir Calendar (as of 7/06 /2025)

BOLD = All Choirs * = Paid Event

Please see below all Choir or related (Fine Arts) events for the upcoming school year! Please note that not every event is required; however, all events in **bold red** are required for choir students. You will be informed if any changes are made.

DATE	EVENT	DAY	CALL	PERF	WHERE	WHO
8/11/25	Choir Kickoff! (Ice Cream Social/Fundraiser)	Monday	6:30-7:30 PM		Choir Room	ALL
9/12/25	RCS Audition Clinic Field Trip	Friday	8:30 - 2:00 PM		LifePoint Church	ALL
TBA	*NEW* Fall Musical Auditions	TBA	TBA		TBA	Open to all
9/30/25	*Fall Concert	Tuesday	5PM	7PM	Auditorium	ALL
10/2/25	Photo Day!	Thursday	MC: 4:30 WC: 4:45 RS: 5:00		Front of School	ALL
10/6 - 10/10	FALL BREAK					
10/16/25	DISNEY After School Rehearsal	Thursday	4:30-6:30PM		Choir Room	Disney
10/24-25/25	MTVA Auditions	Fri-Sat	TBA		TBA	ALL
11/3-4/25	RCS Honor Choir	Mon-Tues	TBA	TBA	Stewarts Creek High	Audition only
TBA	*NEW* Fall Musical Performance Weekend	TBA	TBA	TBA	Auditorium	Audition Only
11/17&18/25	Mid-State Honor Choir	Mon-Tues	TBA	TBA	Belle Aire Baptist	Audition only
11/20/25	DISNEY After School Rehearsal	Thursday	4:30-6:30 PM		Choir Room	Disney
12/4/25	After-School Rehearsal (If needed)	Thursday	4:00 PM	End TBA	Auditorium	ALL
12/5/25	*Winter Concert	Friday	3:30 PM	6:30 PM	RHS Auditorium	ALL
12/13/25	Military Ball	Saturday	TBA	TBA	TBA	SINGERS
12/16/25	Coffee House	Tuesday	4:30 PM	6:30 PM	Choir Room	TBA
12/22-1/02	WINTER BREAK					

1/22/26	Freshman Honor Choir	Thursday	TBA	TBA	Belle Aire Baptist	Audition only
1/29/26	Freshman HC Snow Date	Thursday	TBA	TBA	Belle Aire Baptist	Audition only
1/24/26	Second-Tier Screening	Saturday	TBA	TBA	Smyrna High School	Audition only
1/27/26	DISNEY After School Rehearsal (FOLLOWED by Disney Meeting)	Tuesday	4:30-6:30 PM		Choir Room	Disney
2/13/26	*CPA Preparation Concert	Friday	5:30 PM	6:30 PM	RHS Auditorium	ALL
2/17/26	DISNEY After School Rehearsal	Tuesday	4:30-6:30 PM		Choir Room	Disney
TBA	MTVA Choral Performance Assessment Field Trip	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	ALL
TBA	Feeder School Visit Field Trip	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
TBA	Spring Musical Performance Weekend	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Audition only
TBA	Freshman Orientation	TBA	TBA	TBA	RHS Gym/Auditorium	Men's Chorale
3/19/26	DISNEY After School Rehearsal	Thursday	4:30-6:30PM		Choir Room	Disney
3/24/26	DISNEY After School Rehearsal	Tuesday	4:30-6:30PM		Choir Room	Disney
3/26-29/26	Festival DISNEY Trip	Th - Sun	TBA		Orlando, FL	Optional
3/30-4/3	SPRING BREAK					
4/9-12/26	All-State Honor Choir	Th-Sun	TBA	TBA	Opryland Hotel	Audition only
4/17/26	Choir Placement Auditions	Friday	TBA		Choir Room	
4/27/26	After-School Rehearsal (If needed)	Monday	4:00 PM	End TBA	Auditorium	ALL
4/28/26	*Spring Concert	Tuesday	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	Auditorium	ALL
5/2/26	Solo and Ensemble	Saturday	TBA	TBA	Lebanon High School	Optional
5/8/26	Choir Awards Night and Party	Friday	6PM		Auditorium	ALL
5/?/26	Graduation	TBA	TBA		Murphy Center	TBA
TBD	Fine Arts Signing Day	TBA	TBA		Auditorium	Optional for Seniors

**Rutherford County Schools Travel Permission
and Emergency Medical Release Form
REQUIRED FOR ALL CHOIR STUDNETS TO TRAVEL**



1. Print the following page. See Mr. Roberts if you'd like a paper copy.
2. Parent/Guardian should complete all information, but DO NOT SIGN OR DATE.
3. Get the form notarized. This can be done at your bank for no fee, or you can visit a place like the UPS Store and pay a fee (call ahead). Parents must sign and date the form in front of a Notary.
4. Return the notarized form to Mr. Roberts at school.
 - a. This must be turned in by August 22nd
 - b. Bring the form in an envelope to the Front Office by August 22nd and ask them to put in Mr. Roberts' mailbox.
5. Summary:
 - a. Complete the following page now - get it notarized and turn in by August 22nd. It's good for the entire school year.
 - b. We must have this notarized form before our first trip in early September.

Rutherford County Schools Travel Permission and Emergency Medical Release Form

Name of Student: _____ Home Phone: _____

Home Address: _____

Mother/Guardian #1

Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work: _____ Work Phone: _____

Father/Guardian #2

Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work: _____ Work Phone: _____

If neither parent can be reached call: _____

Relationship: _____ Phone: _____

Student's Physician: _____ Physician Phone: _____

Are there medical problems, allergies or other information the teacher should know about to make the trip safer and better for your child? **Yes**____ **No**____

If yes, give details: _____

Note: If your child needs prescription or over-the-counter medications while on a trip with the Riverdale Choirs, you **must** complete the **Overnight Field Trip Medication Procedure and Authorization Form** and obtain a healthcare provider signature for any prescription medications **before each field trip**.

Date of last tetanus shot:_____ My child may____ may not____ take Tylenol.

Health Insurance Company: _____ Policy Number: _____

_____ has my permission to travel with the **Riverdale Choirs** during the **2025-2026 Academic Year**.
(Student Name)

In case of need, I grant my permission for my child to be treated by a health care professional in my absence.

(Parent Signature)

(Date)

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for Rutherford County, Tennessee, personally appeared, _____
with whom I am acquainted and who acknowledged the completion of this instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal of office on this _____ day of _____, 2025.

COMMISSION EXPIRES

NOTARY PUBLIC