

James C. Neill
Elementary School

Notably Neill
Choir Handbook



2024-2025

Director – Maryssa McMillan

Dear Parents/Guardians & Students,

Welcome to the Notably Neill Choir Club! I am so happy to have you here with us. Please look over this handbook carefully, and fill out the membership form (linked below) by **Thursday, September 12**. I hope that you will find this handbook a valuable resource for all things choral at JNE, but should further questions arise, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am so excited to have an excellent and memorable year!

Musically Yours,

Mrs. Maryssa McMillan

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281-329-6397

Music Specialist

Choir Director of Notably Neill

James C. Neill Elementary School

Rehearsals/Participation in Choir

1. **Member Information Form:** Please fill out this form by Tuesday, September 10.
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QWJ9SRo5d0KRrL3SqZ9wVFGfeB38tLpMjei4X6dgwItUN1dSV1g0SUUyMU05Vk9CQTILS1A5UkRTVy4u>

2. **Notably Neill Choir Google Calendar*:**
<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=bm90YWJseW5laWxsY2hvaXJAZ21haWwuY29t>
**Any notices or changes in the calendar will be communicated 4-6 weeks in advance and/or as soon as reasonably possible to arrange for transportation or to become aware of conflicts.*

3. **Be present at weekly rehearsals:** We rehearse twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:25-7:55am. If students are more than 10 minutes late to rehearsal, it will count towards a missed rehearsal. If students miss more than 4 rehearsals, we will discuss their participation in the choir. With this in mind, please do not schedule meetings or appointments during our rehearsal time.
 - a. We ask that students eat breakfast before they come to rehearsal. If students need to eat breakfast in the cafeteria, please communicate that ahead of time so we can make any necessary accommodations.
 - b. We will have occasional afternoon rehearsals and/or Saturday rehearsals/performances when we perform with the JNE Rockin' Longhorns, or for an upcoming choir festival. These will be communicated 4-6 weeks ahead of time, or as soon as possible in the event an opportunity arises reasonably within that time frame. These events will be highly encouraged, but not required. See the calendar for any up-to-date changes.

4. **Reliable and timely transportation:** It is very important for students to arrive on time. Students can be dropped off at the bus ramp gate at 7:20am and I will be here to let them in and walk them to my music room. If students are not there by 7:24am, they will need to wait with their parent until 7:30am to come in with the rest of the students. If students are late more than 3 times, we will discuss their participation in the choir.

5. **Communication:** Parents and guardians MUST read all communication regarding Notably Neill Choir and reply in a timely manner, if necessary. I will send emails and update the Schoology course to share any news, events, rehearsal changes, etc.
6. **Maintain passing grades and good behavior:** Singers in the Notably Neill Choir Club are held to a high standard of excellence in their character, behavior, and academics. Showing respect to our fellow choir members and everyone else is of utmost importance. We will have a ‘three strikes’ policy, and you will be notified of any behavior concerns in rehearsal. After the third strike, your student will be dismissed from the choir.
7. **Pay choir club dues and participate in fundraiser:** Each student in choir is required to pay \$20.00 dues. The dues will help cover the cost of the choir T-shirt, materials, transportation costs, and other things necessary for choir. Payments can be made online with a credit or debit card on the Rev Trak website. More details will be communicated once that is up and running. We will do one fundraiser this year. The money will go towards our holiday party, combined performances with the Rockin’ Longhorns, our choir performances in the winter and spring, and the end of the year party. More information will be sent out once we have that in place. *NOTE: Payment plans can be arranged upon request. If there are any financial issues at this time, please let us know via parent email, and we will address it on a case-by-case basis.*
8. **Choir Materials:** A folder, pencil, and music will be provided for rehearsals, covered by choir dues. Students will be responsible for bringing their folders to and from rehearsals. If students forget their folder more than three times, we will discuss their participation in the choir. If students lose their folder, another one will need to be purchased.
9. **Choir Uniform:** We will all have a custom Notably Neill Choir shirt for our performances, worn with blue jeans and closed-toe shoes. The cost of the shirt is accounted for in the dues. If we have a formal event, students may wear something along the lines of a nice dress; a nice blouse/shirt, button-up, or polo with a nice skirt, slacks, or dress pants; leggings with a skirt or dress if desired; comfortable shoes. All clothing must meet the criteria of FBISD and JNE school attire policy.

10. **Schoology Course:** We have a Notably Neill Choir Schoology Course where I will post updates, materials, photos/videos, and important information. ACCESS CODE: **7PHF-QFV9-DDS6P**

11. **Group Me App:** Please get the Group Me app and join our choir group for any reminders and communication via text message/app. This is a great way to let me know if you are stuck in traffic or have an unexpected incident on the way to a rehearsal/event. Click here or scan the QR code to join: https://groupme.com/join_group/102637109/OYuYRfZ1

