

## **Men's Ensemble UIL Information 2019**

UIL (University Interscholastic League) is an organization that oversees co-curricular activities in the public school system. They sponsor this Choir Competition judging singers on their three concert pieces and on their sight reading abilities.

Please read the back for more UIL information!

**Date:** Friday, April 5

**Time:** 7:45 AM-10:40 AM

**Who:** Men's Ensemble Singers

**Where:** Vandegrift HS

9500 McNeil Dr Austin TX 78750

**Bring:** Change of clothes, backpack

- ♪ **Wear choir uniform to school**
- ♪ **7:45 - Depart for UIL Competition**
- ♪ **8:15 - Arrive at Vandegrift, wait in cafeteria**
- ♪ **9:00 - UIL Warm-up**
- ♪ **9:20 - Perform our three competition pieces**
- ♪ **9:40 - Sight Reading Competition**
- ♪ **10:10 - leave for Hill Country**
- ♪ **10:40 – arrive back to school, change into school clothes, report to 3rd period**

- Family and friends are invited and encouraged to attend this important event. We'd LOVE to see you there!
- As always, students are required to make up any missed work from all classes missed during the day.

# UIL Choir Competition FAQs

## What is UIL?

UIL stands for University Interscholastic League and is the organization that coordinates and legislates athletic, academic, and fine arts events in public schools in the state of Texas. The "University" part of the title comes from the organization's home at the University of Texas in Austin.

For choir students in our three Seventh & Eighth grade choirs, UIL is a very important event in the spring that consists of two components: Concert and Sight Reading.

The Concert portion of UIL consists of a program of three pieces of music the students prepare and perform for three judges. These pieces are selected off of a prescribed music list (PML). One must be an A Cappella piece (no piano or accompaniment). The judges are other choir directors from around Texas. Based on the quality of the performance, the judges assign a rating on this scale: 1= Superior, 2=Excellent, 3=Good, 4=Fair, 5=Poor. Ratings of "1" receive an award; we strive for this goal.

In Sight Reading, the students have 6 minutes to learn and perform a NEW piece of music for three judges. They are not allowed to sing any notes until the actual performance. This serves as an evaluation of the students' overall musicianship. The same rating scale from the Concert portion is used. If a choir receives a rating of "1" in BOTH Concert and Sight Reading, it is awarded a "Sweepstakes" trophy. This is the highest honor a choir can receive at UIL.

## Why is UIL such a big deal?

UIL serves as a concrete gauge of a choir's performance and learning process. Some compare it to the music version of the STAAR test; it is a statewide standard that is to be met. Good UIL ratings are something that we can use to garner support for our programs. Eanes ISD schools have high expectations for their fine arts programs, and UIL is something that must be done well.

## Can parents go to UIL?

Absolutely! We work very hard for UIL, and it usually ends up that only a handful of people are in the audience. If you are available, PLEASE come and support your kids. Grownups are always especially amazed by the Sight Reading process!

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