



TEXAS CITY HIGH SCHOOL
CHOIR HANDBOOK
2018-2019

Rico Hamilton, Head Choir Director
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Course Objectives and Goals

Through the courses offered in this department, students will:

1. Be able to develop a good vocal tone and sing with others
2. Sight read music at the appropriate level based on ensemble placement
3. Know how to rehearse and approach quality choral literature
4. Develop a musical vocabulary and be able to utilize it
5. Gain a greater understanding of the historical style factors of choral music.

Classroom Expectations

Participation in the Texas City High School Choral Program is a ***privilege and not a right***. Students are expected to demonstrate responsible behavior, dependability, and dedication. With this philosophy in mind, the following guidelines of behavior are EXPECTED:

- Show up and be on time
- Be healthy, be attentive, be aware
- Do YOUR BEST
- Work to improve
- Contribute as a positive team player
- Be an example of TCHS and the Texas City Community EVERYWHERE you go
- PASS ALL of your classes EVERY Nine WEEKS
- Make PERFORMANCES and EXTRA REHEARSALS a PRIORITY

Materials

- Folder with music
- Pencil
- Water bottle (optional)

Attendance Guidelines

Do not wait until the last minute to work out conflicts-- be proactive and communicative. Your daily contribution to the choir program is graded, but more importantly, it is essential for the advancement of our program.

Punctuality

Punctuality is of vital importance to the choir program, so please be on time. The time given is the start time.... not the arrival time. On time is late.

After-School Rehearsals

At times there will be after-school rehearsals throughout the school year. You will be given timely notice of these rehearsals. The number of these rehearsals is dependent on the level of the class- varsity classes will have more than non-varsity classes.

In addition, there are heightened expectations on rehearsals the week of any production. Failure to attend any of the rehearsals without approval from a director will result in a grade deduction and possible removal from the ensemble.

Concert Attendance

Participation in performances outside of class time are part of the choral program at Texas City High School. Concerts and rehearsals are considered curricular activities. Therefore, attendance and participation in all concerts are mandatory and part of the student's grade. Concerts are the ultimate culmination of many weeks of preparation and class work. It is impossible to make up a choral rehearsal or concert experience. In addition, choir members are expected to be present for the entire duration of each performance.

Excused Absences

1. **Personal Illness** – If personal illness prevents you from attending a scheduled event, call the choir office (409) 916-0957, and leave a message. Please call even if you are absent from school that day. A note or email from a parent, guardian, or doctor is required.
2. **Family Emergency or School Conflict** – The student is responsible for notifying the director of a family emergency or school conflict. School conflicts **MUST** be approved prior to the event. A note or email from a parent or guardian is required.

In the event of an *excused* absence, students will be given the opportunity to make up the missing grade. A make-up assignment will be given by the director, and it is the student's responsibility to request a makeup assignment.

Students will receive a zero for any *unexcused* absence. There is no makeup assignment for an unexcused absence.

**Excused absences are left to the discretion of the directors.

**Work related conflicts are unexcused.

Grading

Choir is a performance-based course with a rigorous, well-rounded curriculum. Our performances are a culmination of months of careful study of vocal technique, music theory, knowledge of the musical score at hand, and attention to intonation. Proper rehearsal skills are essential to the performance process and will be graded as such. Classroom behavior infractions that affect student performance will result in deductions from grades.

Major and Minor Grades Include:

Daily Participation, quizzes, weekly performance grades, sight-reading quizzes, CHARMS recordings, general written assignments, tests, periodic folder/pencil check, listenings, concert dress rehearsals, concerts, performance analysis, after school rehearsals

Grade Level/Subject	Categories	Content of Categories
Non-Performance Groups: Art, Band, Choir, Dance, General Music, and Theater	30% - Major 70% - Minor	30% Major * Minimum of 6 recorded grades per nine weeks * Includes - Quizzes, Tests, and/or Projects 70% Minor * Minimum of 12 recorded grades per nine weeks * Includes - Class Participation and Assignments
Performance Groups: Art Band Choir Dance General Music Theater	30% - Major 70% - Minor	30% Major * Minimum of 6 recorded grades per nine weeks * Includes - Afterschool Rehearsals, Performances , Quizzes, and Tests 70% Minor * Minimum of 12 recorded grades per nine weeks * Includes - Class Participation and Assignments <i>If a student misses a performance, a make-up assignment will be assigned by the teacher and the maximum grade of this assignment is a 70.</i>

CONCERTS ARE MANDATORY REHEARSALS ARE MANDATORY

Concerts and Rehearsals are graded and evaluated by:
Punctuality, proper attire, performance, and concert etiquette.

Eligibility

Pass your classes! Students who pass their classes benefit from the many rewarding opportunities choir presents. Those who fail their classes let down the group and lose out on these experiences. It is YOUR responsibility to maintain academic eligibility.

No Pass.... No Play

Grades play a crucial role in the student's ability to participate in extracurricular activities. Directors have absolutely no discretion when a student is declared academically ineligible. U.I.L. guidelines restrict ineligible students from participating in the following events:

TMEA Auditions, UIL Solo/Ensemble Contest, UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest, all competitions and all events that charge admission. **DIRECTORS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DENY THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN NON-UIL EVENTS BASED ON A STUDENT'S ACADEMIC STANDING AT ANY TIME.** Future choir placement will reflect in your ability to pass your classes! Singers should also be academically successful!

Choir Auditions

ALL choir students at TCHS will audition in the Spring for placement into a choir for the following school year. Also, we will have open auditions for any students who are NOT in choir this year. In addition, auditions for "Soundsations" will be held during the month of April. This audition will include singing and dancing. You will be judged by a panel of judges.

2018-2019 Choir Calendar

Our full choir calendar is online at www.texascityhschoir.com and on Charms (charmsoffice.com). It will also be sent home every 2 months with all students. Please check it regularly. Our program includes 5 different performing choirs as well as a few small ensembles. We are a BUSY department. Please help your student keep track of all their rehearsals and performances.

Condensed Choir Calendar

Date	Event	Time	Location / Notes
Tues, Aug 21, 2018	All Parent Meeting	6:30PM	TCHS Choir Room
Sat, Sep 22, 2018	District Choir Auditions	TBD	Angleton HS
Mon, Sep 24th, 2018	Fall Concert Dress Rehearsal	4:30PM	TCHS Auditorium
Tue, Sep 25th, 2018	Fall Concert	7PM	TCHS Auditorium
Sat, Oct 6th, 2018	Princess Tea	9:30-12:30	TCHS Cafeteria
Sat, Oct 20th, 2018	Region Choir Auditions	TBD	Clear Lake HS
Thu, Nov 8th, 2018	Region Choir Clinic	TBD	Moody Methodist Church
Sat, Nov 10th, 2018	Region Choir Concert	All-Day	Blocker Middle School
Sat, Dec 1st, 2018	Pre-Area Competition	TBD	Clear Springs HS
Thu, Dec 13th, 2018	Christmas Concert	7:00PM	TCHS Auditorium
Jan 10-12, 17-19, 2019	TCHS Musical	7:00PM	TCHS Auditorium
Sat, Jan 12, 2019	Area Auditions	TBD	Ridge Point HS
Fri, Feb 8th, 2019	Legacy Show Choir Competition	TBD	Mansfield, TX
Fri/Sat, Feb 22/23, 2019	Lonestar Show Choir Invitational	TBD	Keller, TX
Sat, Feb 23, 2019	Solo and Ensemble	TBD	Manvel HS
Fri/Sat, Mar 8th/9th, 2019	Heart of America	TBD	TBD
Wed/Thu, April 3rd/4th, 2019	UIL Concert and Sightreading	TBD	Dickinson FUMC
Tue, May 14th, 2019	Choir Banquet	TBD	TBD
Fri/Sat, May 17th/18th, 2019	Spring Show	7:00PM	TCHS Auditorium

General Choir Fees

The Texas City High School Choir Program is committed to excellence and strives to create meaningful music-making experiences for every member of this program. Every choir student has the option of selecting one of two different payment plans. TCHS Choir thanks you in advance for your investment into this program and these students.

Choir Fee Option #1	Total
TCISD "Participation Fee" (May be paid through participation in athletics, band, cheer, etc.)	\$25.00
Choir Fee*	\$25.00
Choir T-Shirts ('18- '19 Choir Shirt and '19 Spring Show Shirt)	\$15.00
Fee Total	\$65.00

*Fundraised money may be used to cover the \$25 Choir Fee.

Choir Fee Option #2 – Buy-out (no fundraising required)	Total
TCISD "Participation Fee" (May be paid through participation in athletics, band, cheer, etc.)	\$25.00
Choir Fee	\$25.00
Choir T-Shirts ('18- '19 Choir Shirt and '19 Spring Show Shirt)	\$15.00
Buy-Out (student is not required to fundraise)	\$150.00
Fee Total (Due by October 1st, 2018)	\$215.00

**Please see "Fundraising Information"

Fundraising Information

Fundraising is expected of all TCHS Choir students. Each student who chooses option #1 (please see "General Choir Fees") is required to fulfill requirements of at least one fundraising opportunity. The monies earned through fundraising belong to the activity account but can be earmarked for your student. Fundraised money may be used to cover out-of-state choir trips, in-state choir trips, one student Banquet ticket, or the \$25 Choir Fee.

Procedure for turning in money:

- **Fundraiser payments must be made in CASH (bills), MONEY ORDER, OR ONE CHECK FROM A TCHS CHOIR PARENT. No coins accepted. We will not accept numerous checks from students' customers.** (Example: customers will make out checks to choir students' parent. Parent will write ONE check to the "TCHS Choir"). *Payments made to "TCHS Choir"*. Fill out envelope next to Fundraiser Box in the choir room– **COMPLETELY**. Name, Period, amount & purpose, i.e., Cookies, pies, etc. **NO LOOSE CHANGE MAY BE TURNED IN! Once your envelope is filled out accurately you will put that in the box. NO MONEY FOR FUNDRAISING OR FOR OTHER PAYMENTS SHOULD BE LEFT ON A DIRECTOR'S DESK!**
- Parents are welcome to turn in cash or check deposits for their students before school or after school. It is imperative that deposit envelopes are filled out **correctly**.
- Your student WILL RECEIVE A RECEIPT FOR MONEY TURNED IN FOR FUNDRAISING. **Monthly statements will be sent out via email.** You may email Mr. Hamilton or Mr. Angel regarding account status, however, please do not call for account balances.

Money earned through fundraising is not refundable for any reason. Should your student leave the choir department, the monies earned through fundraising opportunities will remain with the choir activity account per TCISD policy.

Any money **deposited** in a student account that is not used to pay for a fundraiser, by either the parent or the student, is called **personal money**. *Only personal money can be refunded.* However, if your student owes money for a fundraiser and does not take care of making payment in a timely manner, the following will occur:

1. If there is personal money in their account, it will be used toward the delinquent amount.
2. If there is not enough money to cover the delinquent amount a hold will be placed on their records. They will not get progress reports or report cards, until they have cleared the delinquent amount.
3. They will forfeit the privilege of future fundraising activities.

Due dates for fundraiser monies and forms are set on the fundraising calendar and students are reminded daily through announcement and reminders in the classroom. Students on the delinquent list will not be allowed to begin another fundraiser until they have cleared. **Spreadsheets** are kept up to date by Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Angel and on CHARMS. Students may check their CHARMS account for a balance of their fundraised monies.

Choir Uniforms

Texas City ISD will provide every choir member with a curricular choir uniform. These uniforms will be assigned to students and should be taken care of when worn and turned back in in the same condition received. Any student who fails to turn in their choir uniform in the condition it was checked out to them will be responsible for the cost of replacing their uniform.

Women's Concert Attire

Black concert dress. Black shoes- closed or open toed. NO FLIP-FLOPS AND NO ATHLETIC SHOES! Jewelry will be provided for concerts and competition and must be returned.

Hair/Make-up: Hair MUST be neatly groomed and be out of face. No unnatural hair colors will be permitted on stage. Enough makeup should be worn to avoid the "washed out" look, but it should not be overdone.

Men's Concert Attire

Black tuxedo with white tuxedo shirt, black socks, black dress shoes. NO ATHLETIC SHOES. ONLY BLACK SHOES!!!!

Hair MUST be up and out of face. NO unnatural hair colors will be permitted on stage.

Field Trip Attire

TCHS Choir T-Shirt, blue jeans without holes, closed-toe shoes

**All choir students are expected to follow the TCHS Dress Code *at all times*.

Communication

In an effort to communicate effectively with parents, we will present up-to-date choir information in the following ways:

- “Remind” messages (see below)
- CHARMS emails (please make sure your email is up to date)
- Skyward emails (please make sure your email is up to date)
- www.TexasCityHSChoir.Com
- Social Media Accounts
- TCHS Choir Booster Club

“Remind”

“Remind” is a platform in which Mr. Hamilton or Mr. Angel will send reminders and updates. You can sign up for “Remind” text messages on your phone or you can download the “Remind” App on the App Store (iPhone users) or Play Store (Android users).

To Sign Up for “Remind” Text Messages (without the app)

Master Chorale: Text @masterc to 81010
Men’s Choir: Text @e16df to 81010
Soundsations: Text @r1415 to 81010
Varsity Women: Text @varwom to 81010
Women’s Choir: Text @womenschoi to 81010

To Sign Up for the “Remind” App

Once you have joined TCHS, enter the following codes to join.

Master Chorale: @masterc
Men’s Choir: @e16df
Soundsations: @r1415
Varsity Women: @varwom
Women’s Choir: @womenschoi

Rico D. Hamilton

Head Choral Director

rhamilton@tcisd.org

Choir Office: (409) 916-0957

Jacob Angel

Assistant Choral Director

jangel@tcisd.org

Choir Office: (409) 916-0957

TCHS Choir Letterman Jacket

To qualify for a letter jacket, students must earn a minimum of *12 points over the course of 1 year* through participation in TCHS Choir Competitions. Students may earn ONE letter jacket during their High School career.

Choir members may earn points in the following manner:

All-State Choir Process

- 2 points* — gaining membership through audition into the All-District Region Choir
- 2 points* — gaining membership through audition into the All-Region Women's
- 4 points* — gaining membership through audition into the All-Region Mixed Choir
- 2 points* — participating and performing in the Region Choir Clinic and Concert
- 4 points* — placing in the top 5 at TMEA Pre-Area Audition, audition for All-Area
- 12 points* —gaining membership through audition into a TMEA All-State Choir and performing with an All-State Choir at the TMEA Convention in February

UIL Concert and Sightreading Competition

- 3 (or 4) points* — participation and performance in UIL Concert and Sight-reading (one additional point if this choir receives Sweepstakes)

UIL Solo and Ensemble Competition (Regional)

- 1 point* — performing a Class 1, 2, or 3 Solo and making an "Excellent" rating (2)
- 2 points* — performing a Class 2 or 3 Solo and making a "Superior" rating (1)
- 3 points* — performing a Class 1 Solo and receiving a "Superior" rating (1)

UIL Solo and Ensemble Competition (State)

- 2 points* — performing a Class 1 Solo and making an "Excellent" rating (2)
- 4 points* — performing a Class 1 Solo and making a "Superior" rating (1)
- 1 point* — performing a Class 1 Ensemble and making an "Excellent" rating (2)
- 2 points* — performing a Class 1 Ensemble and making a "Superior" rating (1)

Other

- 2 points* — 1 year of satisfactory performance in the TCHS *Soundsations*
- 2 points* — 1 year of satisfactory performance in Chamber or Vocal Jazz performances
- 1 point* — 1 year of satisfactory performance in Choir at TCHS
- 2 points* — 2 years of satisfactory performance in Choir at TCHS
- 5 points* — 3 years of satisfactory performance in Choir at TCHS
- 10 points* — 4 years of satisfactory performance in Choir at TCHS

Code of Conduct

Personal reputation with social media and digital photos

Any choir member representing themselves, or their organization, in an unfavorable, questionable, or illegal manner through electronic media (including but not limited to: personal homepages, blogs, text messages, Facebook, Twitter or websites) or using electronic communication devices in such a way as to bring discredit, dishonor, or disgrace on the organization or members of any other school organization including themselves (i.e. camera phones, digital photos, electronic descriptions) will be subject to the disciplinary actions determined by the directors and/or appropriate school officials, including but not limited to probation or dismissal from the choral program.

Student Offenses which could cause removal from the Choral Program:

1. Inappropriate off-campus behavior while in uniform or representing a program
2. Repeated assignment to SAC
3. Harassment
4. Vandalism/Theft
5. Fighting/Assault
6. Use/possession of alcohol/tobacco/illegal drugs on campus
7. Placement in DAEP
8. Expulsion

From *Student Code of Conduct in TCISD Student Handbook*

Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources

“Students are prohibited from possessing, sending, forwarding, posting, accessing, or displaying electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another’s reputation, or illegal. This prohibition also applies to conduct off school property, whether the equipment used to send such messages is district-owned or personally owned, if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment.

Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, possessing, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content, commonly referred to as “sexting,” will be disciplined according to the ***Student Code of Conduct***, may be required to complete an educational program related to the dangers of this type of behavior, and, in certain circumstances may be reported to law enforcement. Because engaging in this type of behavior can lead to bullying or harassment, as well as possibly impede future endeavors of a student, we encourage you to review with your child <http://beforeyoutext.com>, a state-developed program that addresses the consequences of engaging in inappropriate behavior using technology.

In addition, any student who engages in conduct that results in a breach of the district’s computer security will be disciplined in accordance with the ***Student Code of Conduct***, and, in some cases, the consequence may rise to the level of expulsion.”

Benefits of Choral Music Education

The benefits of a well-rounded education for all students cannot be overemphasized. One very important area of this complete education is the study of music. The aesthetic joys of making music cannot be duplicated in any other art form; it is a communication unto itself. It also has been found that the study of music strengthens the mind's learning potential. Students who are part of a music program tend to achieve at higher levels in all areas of school. Simply put: music makes better students, and music makes students better.

Ongoing research continues to offer dramatic statistics concerning young people who participate in their school music programs. In the 1997 publication, Profiles of SAT and Achievement Test Takers (from The College Board), it was discovered that, "Students with course work experience in music performance scored 89 points higher on the SAT tests than students with no course work in the arts." This kind of information positively marks the future of our young musicians.

In addition to the educational benefits, music education also teaches important life skills. Music teaches discipline. Music develops self-confidence. Music gives students a feeling of pride and accomplishment. Singing in a choir teaches students the importance of working with others and helps them develop the social skills necessary to be part of a performing organization. It instills values, responsibility, purpose, direction, and devotion to duty, the spirit of cooperation and sensitivity to the beauty in our world. Not all choir students become great musicians, but all will certainly become more mature, cooperative, self-disciplined, hardworking members of their communities with an appreciation of the arts.