



**TEXAS CITY HIGH SCHOOL**  
**CHOIR HANDBOOK**  
2020-2021

Matthew Taylor, Head Director  
Eliza Nicholson, Assistant Director

## Course Objectives and Goals

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Through the courses offered in this department, students will:

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

## Classroom Expectations

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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

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- District-approved mask (provided by the student)
- Folder with music
- Pencil
- Water bottle (optional)
- Plastic face shield (This will be provided by the teacher and kept in the student's folder)
- One-to-one laptop (to remain in backpack unless instructed otherwise)
- All materials above are to be brought to class with the student each day, and not left in the choir room at any time.
- NO MATERIALS WILL BE LEFT IN THE CHOIR ROOM

## Attendance Guidelines

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*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

Throughout the school year there will be after-school rehearsals. 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 (Subject to the Absence Policy Below)**

Participation in performances outside of class time is part of the choral program at Texas City High School. Concerts and rehearsals are considered curricular activities. Therefore, attendance and participation in all concerts is mandatory and part of the student's grade. Concerts are the culmination of much 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.

### **Recordings (Subject to the Absence Policy Below)**

Due to COVID-19, and per the guidelines put out by the district, TEA, and the CDC, during the Fall Semester, all performances by the choral department will be virtual. To that end, individual recording and videos will take the place of all in person performances until further notice. These recordings will either be done in person, in the choir room (using properly disinfected, professional recording equipment) or (in director approved circumstances) at home using a personal recording device.

These recordings will be scheduled well in advance and will be mandatory. Failure to complete any recordings over the course of the semester will result in the make-up assignment outlined below.

## **Absence Policy**

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**All absences must be approved by the directors prior to an event.**

### **Excused Absences**

- **Personal Illness**
- **Family Emergency or School Conflict**
  - If personal illness or a family emergency prevents you from attending a scheduled event, you must email both Mr. Taylor and Ms. Nicholson, or call the choir office (409) 916-0957, and leave a detailed message.
  - A note or email from a parent, guardian, or doctor is required and must be submitted either in person or via email within 3 days of the missed event.
  - In the case of school conflicts, the student is responsible for notifying the directors and acquiring approval PRIOR to the event. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence and a grade no higher than an 80%.

In the event of an absence, students will be given the opportunity to make up the missing grade using the assignment outlined below. **However, unexcused absence assignments will begin at an 80%.**

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

\*\*Work related conflicts are unexcused.

### **Concert/Recording Make-up Assignment**

- The following essay must be completed and submitted in canvas by 4pm on the 7<sup>th</sup> day following the missed event regardless of the day of the week on which the due date falls. Failure to complete the assignment will result in a **zero test grade and CANNOT BE MADE UP.**
- **ESSAY REQUIREMENTS**
  - The student will view a provided video recording of the event available on Canvas the day following and will compose a review and research essay following the guidelines below.
  - 1,000 words, single spaced, using Arial font size 11, in prose format (NO BULLETS)
  - A review of each number of the concert focusing on the following:
    - Success of the number
    - Observations of good concert etiquette
    - Observations of good overall quality of singing

- The student will also include research into one piece of their choosing focusing on one of the topics below:
  - The origin of the text
  - Current events surrounding the composition of the piece
  - The life of the composer
- The student must also supply a bibliography of no fewer than three sources used in the research portion of the paper.
  - **WIKIPEDIA IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE SOURCE**
- Grading of these essays will be at the sole discretion of the teacher; however, the weighting of the rubric will be as follows
  - Content: 60%
  - Formatting/length/following of instructions: 40%

## Grading

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Choir is a performance-based course with a rigorous, well-rounded curriculum. Our performances/recordings are a culmination 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 Grades May Include:** concerts/events, performance analysis, album recordings, and voice lesson attendance.

**Minor Grades May Include:** daily participation, quizzes, weekly performance grades and part checks, daily sight-reading as well as weekly sight-reading recordings, general written assignments, tests, periodic folder/pencil check, listening, and rehearsal attendance

Grade Level/Subject	Categories	Content of Categories
<b>Non-Performance Groups:</b> Art, Band, Choir, Dance, General Music, and Theater	30% - Major 70% - Minor	<b>30% Major</b> * Minimum of 6 recorded grades per nine weeks * Includes - Quizzes, Tests, and/or Projects <b>70% Minor</b> * Minimum of 12 recorded grades per nine weeks * Includes - Class Participation and Assignments
<b>Performance Groups:</b> Art Band Choir Dance General Music Theater	30% - Major 70% - Minor	<b>30% Major</b> * Minimum of 6 recorded grades per nine weeks * Includes - Afterschool Rehearsals, <b>Performances</b> , Quizzes, and Tests <b>70% Minor</b> * 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>

### 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. So, you **MUST PASS YOUR CLASSES IN ORDER TO ATTEND ANY TCHS CHOIR ACTIVITY.**

**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! It is imperative that singers should be artistically and academically successful.

## TCHS Voice Lesson Program

**2020-2021**

*It is the endeavor of the Texas City High School Choral Department that every varsity student will be able and required to take private voice lessons. We believe whole heartedly that this opportunity will not only increase the competitive edge of Texas City to equal and even surpass that of the largest and most aggressive programs in the state, but will also endow the students with a stronger sense of personal responsibility and agency that will transcend their high school experience.*

### Student Responsibility

- Every student enrolled in a varsity ensemble will take one private half-hour voice lessons per week
- Completion of voice lessons will result in an attendance grade, weighted as a test, each semester
- Completion of these lessons will be monitored by the voice teacher, the student, and the Director [via Canvas (Students) and Google Spreadsheet (Teachers)]
- Students will log in to Canvas to record their attendance
- Students who are unable to attend a lesson will be expected to make up the lesson at a time decided upon by the student and voice teacher
- Students and teachers may also agree to reschedule lessons due to conflicts or up-coming performances (this will be at the discretion of the teacher)
- Lessons during distance learning will be taught online, and in person lessons will be taught in a combination of studios in the choir room, online, and at teacher's private studios. These will be decided upon between the student and the teacher
- Students MUST meet the following quota of private lessons:
  - Fall Semester: 14 Lessons
  - Spring Semester: 16 Lessons
- A student fee of \$3.75 per lesson will be paid at the beginning of each semester (total below) and will be assessed as a choir fee for Varsity ensembles.

**This is 15% of a \$25 per half hour fee.**

**This is an EXTREMELY minimal cost for individual vocal instruction!**

- Students who are unable to afford the increased fee will have the opportunity to fundraise specifically for their voice lesson fees at a designated event in the year.
- All varsity students will be required to compete in the All-State process, perform in all concerts/recordings, as well as attend Solo & Ensemble contest in at least one category (preferably both).
- Students will have the opportunity to retain their previous voice teachers or switch to a new studio each year, **and this selection will occur on the first day of classes.**
- Lesson times will be selected by seniority and agreed upon between student and teacher.
- In order to facilitate everyone taking lessons, lesson times will include times outside of school to be agreed upon with the teacher. These times carry the weight of an actual class, and failure to attend your lessons WILL AFFECT YOUR END OF SEMESTER TEST GRADES.

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*This is an unheard of and unbelievable opportunity that we have been given as a program - and one of which we must be good stewards. The offer to provide voice lessons on this scale is collegiate in nature, so varsity choir members will be expected to conduct themselves in a collegiate manner. This includes being proactive in communicating with teachers, properly preparing for lessons, and keeping up with logging your lessons on canvas. Teachers are not responsible for tracking down students to make up lessons, and directors will only be checking those records periodically.*

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## Voice Teacher Responsibility

- Teachers will teach a single lesson during the class time of that student's ensemble and all other lesson times will be decided upon with the students individually.
- Teacher will decide on a lesson time with the student. This lesson time should be a fixed schedule but can be altered at the voice teacher's discretion
- Conflicts will occasionally arise between voice lessons and after school rehearsals. These should be dealt with on a case by case basis; however, after we get past COVID, we should be able to plan all conflicts of that nature ahead of time.
- All teachers will have access to a unified Google Spreadsheet where each lesson will be recorded for grading purposes and teacher records
- Lastly, this program will only cover lessons during the school year. Any lessons given outside of the school year will be an agreement between the voice teacher and student, and all costs associated will be paid directly to the teacher by the student.

## Cost

Half hour lesson:	\$25
(Paid to the voice teacher by the district)	
Student Cost per lesson:	\$3.75
(15% of total cost)	
Foundation Cost per lesson:	\$21.25
	<b>PER STUDENT</b>
Student Cost per semester:	Fall: \$52.50 (14 lessons)
(To be assessed as a fee)	Spring: <u>\$60.00</u> (16 lessons)
Total Student Contribution (2020-2021):	\$112.5

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*Texas City High School Choir is committed to providing the most comprehensive and supportive musical environment possible, while continuing to compete at the highest levels, even during these uncertain times. Private voice for every student is an invaluable advantage in areas ranging from TMEA, to UIL, to college auditions. **Choral scholarship opportunities at universities are NOT limited to music students**, and the proposed system has benefits beyond the high school classroom for every student from vocal music majors to engineers to agriculture majors. I am so excited, not just for our program, but for the lasting effects of an opportunity like this. We are so lucky to be able to offer this.*

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### **Voice Lessons for Non-Varsity Choirs**

Every student at TCHS is encouraged to take private voice. At this time, students outside of Varsity ensembles are not eligible for a voice lesson grant; however, interested students may speak with Mr. Taylor or Ms. Nicholson and be put in touch with any of our excellent voice faculty for private lessons.

### **Choir Auditions**

ALL choir students at TCHS will audition in the Spring for placement into a choir and voice studio 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.

## 2020-2021 Choir Calendar

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Our full choir calendar is online ([charmsoffice.com](http://charmsoffice.com)) and will be available at all times.

**DUE TO THE EVER-CHANGING LANDSCAPE SURROUNDING COVID-19, ALL DATES BELOW ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ONLY REFLECT THE DATES SET AS OF THE START OF THE FALL SEMESTER. A SECOND CALENDAR WILL BE RELEASED NO LATER THAN THANKSGIVING BREAK AND WILL REFLECT THE MOST CURRENT CONTEST DATES PROVIDED BY THE STATE.**

Please check CHARMS regularly and help your student keep track of all their rehearsals and performances.

Date	Event	Time	Location / Notes
Sat., Oct. 10th, 2020	TMEA Round 1 Cuts Drop	10:00AM	Virtual
Wed., Oct. 14th, 2020	TMEA Round 1 Submission Due	11:59PM	Virtual
Fri., Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	Fall Fees Due		
Sat., Nov. 28th, 2020	TMEA Round 2 Cuts Drop	10:00AM	Virtual
Wed., Dec. 2nd, 2020	TMEA Round 2 Submission Due	11:59 PM	Virtual
Fri., Dec. 4th, 2020	Album Recordings Due	5:00 PM	
Tues., Dec. 15th, 2020	DRIVE-IN NIGHT	TBD	TCHS Parking Lot
Sat., Jan. 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2021	TMEA Round 3 Cuts Drop	TBD	Virtual
Wed., Jan. 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	TMEA Round 3 Submission Due	TBD	Virtual
Sat., Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	UIL Solo and Ensemble	TBD	Angleton HS
Thurs., Mar. 18th, 2021	Pre-UIL Contest	4:00-8:00	TBD
May 20 <sup>th</sup> -April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	UIL Concert and Sight-reading	TBD	Clear Lake PAC
April 2021	SPRING SWING EVENT	TBD	TBD
May 20 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	Spring Sting Sing	TBD	TCHS Auditorium

### General Choir Fees

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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 the different payment plans. TCHS Choir thanks you in advance for your investment into this program and these students.

<b>Choir Fee Option #1</b>	<b>Total</b>
TCISD "Participation Fee" (May be paid through participation in athletics, band, cheer, etc.)	\$25.00
Choir Fee*	\$25.00
Choir T-Shirts (Choir Shirt and Spring Show Shirt)	\$15.00
<b>Fee Total (Due by November 6th, 2020)</b>	<b>\$65.00</b>

<b>Choir Fee Option #2 – (fundraising not required, but does NOT cover Voice Lesson Program)</b>	<b>Total</b>
TCISD "Participation Fee" (May be paid through participation in athletics, band, cheer, etc.)	\$25.00
Choir Fee*	\$25.00
Choir T-Shirts (Choir Shirt and Spring Show Shirt)	\$15.00
Buy-Out (student is not required to fundraise in general program fundraisers)	\$150.00
<b>Fee Total (Due by November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020)**</b>	<b>\$215.00</b>

<b>MASTER CHORALE AND VARSITY WOMEN'S CHOIR FEES</b>	<b>Total</b>
General Choir Fees Option #1	\$65.00
Voice Lesson Fee: Fall*	\$52.50
Voice Lesson Fee: Spring*	\$60.00
<b>Fee Total (Fall Due by Nov 6th, 2020 &amp; Spring Due Mar 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021)</b>	<b>\$177.50</b>

<b>SOUNDSATIONS FEES</b>	<b>Total</b>
Staff Fee – Videographer/Audio Engineer*	\$50.00
Rights and Arranger Fee*	\$50.00
Soundsations Polo*	\$25.00
<b>Fee Total (50% Due by Nov 6th, 2020 &amp; Rest Due Feb 12th 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021)</b>	<b>\$125.00</b>

\*Denotes fees which may be paid for by fundraisers

\*\* Buyout option will be forfeited if amount is not paid in full by Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and the student will be responsible for fundraiser participation AND the outstanding fee amount.

## **Fundraising Information**

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Fundraising is expected of all TCHS Choir students. All fundraisers for TCHS Choir will fund specific accounts for the next year. Fundraiser types will be as follows:

### **Program Fundraiser**

- These fundraisers will solely benefit the student activity accounts at TCHS. Money earned will be spent on future fundraiser start-up costs, music, clinicians, equipment, and travel not covered by the district. This is our opportunity to financially support the program both now and in the future.

### **Personal Fundraiser**

- There will be one of these types of fundraisers each semester, and money earned will solely benefit the individual student.
  - Money raised during these fundraisers may be used to cover the "choir fee" found above,

Varsity Voice Lesson fees, and Soundsations fees.

- Money earned in excess of the amount owed may be retained for the following year in order to mitigate future cost. This money will be stored in the Choir Activity Account but will be visible and trackable in CHARMS.

**Each student who chooses option #1 (please see "General Choir Fees") is required to fulfill requirements of at least one Program Fundraiser.**

**Procedure for turning in money:**

- **Fundraiser payments must be made in CASH, 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. **Statements will be sent out via email.** You may email Mr. Taylor or Ms. Nicholson 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.

*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. **Spreadsheets** are kept up to date by Mr. Taylor or Ms. Nicholson and on CHARMS. Students may check their CHARMS account for a balance of their fundraised monies.

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*NO STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO BEGIN ANOTHER FUNDRAISER WHILE ON THE DELQUENT LIST, AND ADDITIONALLY...*

**NO STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO AUDITION FOR ANY VARSITY ENSEMBLE, INCLUDING SOUNDSATIONS, WHILE MAINTAINING AN OUTSTANDING BALANCE. THIS IS A NON-NEGOTIABLE POLICY MEANT TO PROTECT BOTH YOU AND THE PROGRAM.**

*In the event of financial hardship, it is the responsibility of the student to reach out to Mr. Taylor to set up a payment plan. THE VOICE IS THE CHEAPEST INSTRUMENT ON THE EARTH AND MONEY SHOULD NEVER STAND BETWEEN YOU AND PLAYING THAT INSTRUMENT, SO PLEASE REACH OUT IN A TIMELY FASHION TO AVOID PROBLEMS AND WE WILL FIND A WAY TO HELP!*

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## Choir Uniforms

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In the Spring Semester of 2021, 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 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. 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.

### 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

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

### Canvas

Canvas will be used for curricular purposes. Per TCHS procedures, Canvas will be used for lessons, assignments, quizzes, and tests. Keep in mind, cumulative grades will be posted to Skyward. Parents do not have direct access to Canvas.

### MusicFirst

"MusicFirst" is the primary platform that Texas City ISD choirs will be using to facilitate online learning. Practice First, Sight Reading Factory, and Auralia are just a couple of the programs we will use to practice sight reading and prepare selected music. Students will see assignments through Canvas and have completion work most days, with recorded assessments on Fridays. We will add students by class and submit all grading through Canvas.

### "Remind"

"Remind" is a platform in which Mr. Taylor or Ms. Nicholson 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)**

Text the following code to telephone number 81010

Master Chorale	@MasterC
Men's Chorale	@TchsMens
Varsity Women	@VarWom
Women's Chorale	@TchsWomens
Soundsations	@TcSound
Sweet Adelines	@TchsSweet
TCHS Choir Booster	@TchsCBC

[www.CharmsOffice.com](http://www.CharmsOffice.com)

School Code: TexasCityHSChoir

Please make sure your email with us is up to date. There is also an app called "Charms Blue" if you would rather not use the browser software. Charms is a special database for music programs in which...

- a. The Directors can effectively send out mass emails/all-calls
- b. Parents/students can view the choir calendar
- c. Parents/students can view your student's financial statements
- d. Parents/students can view uniform check-out number and more

[www.TexasCityHsChoir.com](http://www.TexasCityHsChoir.com)

#### Email

**Matthew J Taylor**

Head Choral Director

[Mtaylor@tcisd.org](mailto:Mtaylor@tcisd.org)

Choir Office: (409) 916-0957

**Eliza Nicholson**

Assistant Choral Director

[Enicholson@tcisd.org](mailto:Enicholson@tcisd.org)

Choir Office: (409) 916-0957

#### **TCHS Choir Letterman Jacket**

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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 Point: participating and performing in the Region Choir Clinic and Concert
- 4 point: placing in the top 5 at TMEA Pre-Area Audition, audition for All-Area
- 12 point: 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

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### **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, 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 or on ANY AND ALL FORMS OF SOCIAL MEDIA OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION
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

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*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 has also 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. Which to the most pertinent benefit of all: citizenship. Being a part of the choral ecosystem creates a blueprint for effective members of a compassionate, hardworking, and responsible society. Choir teaches personal responsibility as it relates to the success or failure of the whole, thus encouraging both individuality and globality simultaneously.***

## COVID – 19

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*The challenges presented to the performing community as a whole in the past few months cannot be understated. And while many questions remain unanswered, we are prepared to answer one with great certainty.*

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***This program's focus for the 2020-2021 year will be first and foremost on the health and safety of the students of Texas City High School and their families. And to that end, any and all measures will be taken to ensure that safety.***

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Per Texas City High School guidelines, there will be ONLY VIRTUAL CHOIR CONCERTS THIS FALL. However, Texas City High School is committed to providing the most cutting-edge music experience in the forms of music videos and albums, affording students a unique opportunity to work with leading sound and visual engineers in the music field to create original content which will pave the way for even greater innovation after we have found our way through these troubling times.

The following guidelines were established under the guidance provided by TCISD, the Texas Education Agency, TAEA, TDEA, Kansas City Chorale, the University Interscholastic League, and NFHS in conjunction with the University of Colorado at Boulder. We will continue to work closely with district, local, and state officials to ensure that our plans are guided by the most timely and appropriate information regarding our public health situation. The information in this document will be updated accordingly to reflect the latest available guidelines.

### **ENTRY**

- Students will line up outside the door standing at a safe social distance of 6 feet apart.
- Standing at the threshold, the teacher will allow students to enter one at a time. Students will proceed to their assigned seats. Students will place their belongings (backpacks, purses, etc.) along a designated wall, ensuring that no two students' belongings make contact.
- **STUDENTS MUST, AT ALL TIMES, WEAR BOTH A MASK AND FACE SHIELD. DUE TO THE AEROSOL BEHAVIOR DURING SINGING AND THE SIZE OF THE CLASSES, THIS WILL BE MANDATORY. FAILURE TO COMPLY WILL RESULT IN REMOVAL FROM CLASSES AND POTENTIAL SUSPENSION FROM RETURNING FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEMESTER.**

### **MUSIC AND SUPPLIES**

- Music, materials, and a face shield will be distributed to each student in the first week of classes. It is the responsibility of the student to transport materials to and from class each day. Replacements will be extremely limited.
- Students should not have to leave their seats to retrieve materials and supplies from another part of the room.
- Students will not share any materials.

### **FACILITATING INSTRUCTION**

- Masks must be worn at all times while in the class or rehearsal room.
- Students and staff not wearing masks may not enter the class or rehearsal room for any reason while an active rehearsal is taking place.
- All staff should wear both a face mask and a face shield while an active rehearsal is taking place.
- The teacher will take all measures to maintain a safe social distance at all times while delivering instruction.
- Singing in a full choir setting will be limited to humming unless outdoor opportunities arise throughout the semester.
- When recordings occur, students will rotate through 3 separate recording spaces so as to allow for disinfecting and aerosol dispersal.

### **CLASSROOM LAYOUT**

- Students will be seated in chairs on the floor. No form of riser may be used.
- Studies conclude that singing poses an increased risk, due to droplets projecting further when an infected singer is participating. Therefore, student chairs will be positioned at a safe social distance of 10 feet per singer.
- Markings will be placed on the floor to indicate the correct position of each chair.
- If the weather and temperature permit, rehearsing outdoors is also recommended.
- It is recommended that no more than 12 choir students per 1800 ft<sup>2</sup> of rehearsal space gather at one time.

### **DISMISSAL**

- The teacher will facilitate a staggered dismissal, ensuring that students exit the room at a safe social distance of 6 feet from their peers.
- During class changes, campus procedures for sanitization will be administered by the appropriate personnel.