



NEW CANEY ISD

Choir Handbook

Table of Contents

I. Welcome

II. Vision

III. Objectives

IV. General Expectations

V. Grading

VI. Uniform

VII. Calendar

The handbook is designed to foster the success of the New Caney ISD Choral Department, inform the students and their parents, and address questions and concerns that may arise throughout the school year.

We are proud of our choir program and the respect that it has earned by the diligent efforts of students, parents, directors, and administrators. As a choir student, each of you accepts membership into an organization built upon that same pride and commitment to excellence. Please note that you are responsible for all information presented. If you should have further questions that are not answered in the handbook, feel free to ask your campus choir director.

Vision: The New Caney Independent School District Choral Program will develop confident, successful, literate musicians and will foster love and appreciation for music through high quality artistry. This is accomplished by creating a culture of excellence through student-centered instruction with parental and community engagement.

Objectives:

1. To emphasize the development of singing and music reading skills necessary to make an enjoyable contribution to a quality choral organization.
2. To enjoy making music. **Music is fun, but there is no fun in mediocrity.** To ensure the success of the group, each student, parent, and director must realize his/her responsibilities. Each must be willing to sacrifice individual desires for the betterment of the choir.
3. To have a good attitude about choir. The amount of satisfaction and fun you receive from your choir will be no greater than the amount of hard work and enthusiasm you are willing to consistently contribute. Your attitude will have a direct impact on your achievements.
4. To understand the importance of proper conduct, consideration of others, and courtesy as a vital part of the choir.

General Expectations

1. Upon entering the choir classroom, a student should immediately retrieve their assigned choir materials.
2. Students must be sitting in their assigned seats in the choir room with their music folder and a sharpened pencil when the bell rings, or the student will be marked tardy. (This means sharpen the pencil in a previous class or before the bell rings)
3. Students are not allowed to play the piano without permission from the teacher.
4. Permission must be granted to enter the music library, office, or practice rooms.
5. Gum is not permitted during rehearsals or performances.
6. Students are allowed to write directions (notes) on his/her music with PENCIL only.
7. The teacher, not the bell, dismisses students.
8. When a visitor enters the room, pride in the choir program will be demonstrated by the courteous behavior of each student.

9. Honesty, integrity, and self-discipline are a must at all times.
10. Behavior Expectations and Consequences will be based on Campus Expectations

G

Grading

The minimum grades will follow district guidelines. The process of student assessment will include the evaluation of individual performance, achievement and improvement, knowledge of music performed, class assignments and assessments, attendance, and participation in rehearsals and concerts.

- I. *Class Participation*: includes attending class and exhibiting appropriate rehearsal behaviors as well as coming prepared to class; music/pencil/folder
- II. *Assessments*: for the following categories: sight-singing, rhythmic dictation, melodic dictation, music theory concepts, and voice testing
- III. *Class Assignments*: any assignment to be completed during the class period
- IV. *Concert participation*: Concerts throughout the year allow students the opportunity to showcase their hard work and achievements. Since each and every student is a valued, contributing member of the ensemble, attendance and participation in all concerts is required. In the event that a student must miss a concert for unforeseen circumstances, a doctor's note or parent excuse will be required and a makeup assignment must be completed. Students absent from concerts are still responsible for learning repertoire and completing a voice test.
- V. *Region Choir Auditions/Solo & Ensemble Competitions*: varsity level groups will be required to learn the music and prepare for auditions. Once a student has made a commitment to audition or compete, the student will receive a grade based on the preparation of the music and the follow through of the said commitment.

U

Uniforms

Uniforms will be based on campus availability.

C

Calendar

The calendar of events will be based on the campus calendar.

White Oak Middle School



Choir
Handbook
2019-2020

director: Debbie Saul 

Choir Expectations

1. To be on time is to be in your spot on the risers with the necessary materials for rehearsal when the tardy bell rings.
2. Chewing gum is strictly forbidden in a choral rehearsal! One cannot participate properly in singing with gum in the mouth.
3. Talking or other disturbance during rehearsal is prohibited during teacher led instruction.
4. All students **must** have a pencil with them in rehearsal every day. Only write in pencil on your music or you will be asked to purchase the music.
5. Students are to place their folders in the proper place at the end of each rehearsal. Please respect other student's materials.
6. Please do not place anything on the piano or music cabinets. Books, purses, backpacks, etc. are to be left in the assigned area. Only have your music, pencil and folder with you on the risers.
8. Each student is expected to act properly: be polite, use proper language, take care of property, show respect to those in authority, and try to the best of their ability.

These rules and procedures are to ensure a good learning and rehearsal environment so that this choir can and will reach its full potential. For me to allow anything less would be cheating you from the benefits and enjoyment choral singing can provide. If you come to class each day with the proper attitude, this can be the high point of your day. I will do all I can to help you have a great experience in choir.

If you need extra help, I am available before and after school. Do not struggle—**ASK FOR HELP!!!**

Officers

Officers will be elected from each class. Elections will be held during class. A secretary will be chosen from each class. These officers will be assigned special duties. They will also be asked to help organize choir events. Officers must also abide by all choir rules. If they fail to do so, receive a detention or referral in choir, they will be removed from their office. I will choose a replacement until new elections can be held. If you are interested in running for an office, look for election dates coming soon.

Plan of Excellence

Grading Policy:

Class Participation and Performances

Each student is automatically given 100 points for doing what is expected of them. I assume they will not only follow and respect school rules, but will take a step further in upholding the highest choral standards. The participation grade is a composite average of daily participation.

Performance Grades include rehearsals and all performances.

The district grading policy is followed in choir.

Daily Grades will include such things as written and oral demonstration of skills.

Major Grades include such things as rehearsals, concerts and in class assignments. Concert performance grades will count for at least three major grades. Everyone is expected to be at performances unless otherwise excused.

All grades will be averaged together. Don't forget that performance grades will count for at least three test grades. Folder checks will occur randomly. Have everything with you every day!

VALID EXCUSE: The director determines the validity of the excuse. The excuse **MUST** be in writing **BEFORE** the event. Please plan ahead. All students are expected to attend all rehearsals, performances and scheduled Choir Activities.

MISSED PERFORMANCES: Concerts and performances determine the majority of your grade. Missed performances will result in at least three test grade zeros. I will assign a missed performance assignment in order to make up the grades if the absence is excused. I must be notified in advance for any absences to be excused.

MAKE-UP WORK: The school policy on make-up work will also apply to choir. It will be your responsibility to arrange a time to make-up any tests or singing work. Please be responsible and keep up with your work.

MUSICAL KNOWLEDGE: This includes oral and written testing of sight-reading, theory, rhythms, music history and other musical related skills and knowledge of assigned music.

PARENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED UPON A CONTINUANCE OR IMPROPER OR PROPER PARTICIPATION: In severe accounts of improper participation, the director reserves the right of writing a referral, lowering the student's grade or suspending the student from the choir and choir activities. All school discipline rules apply to choir as well. For those deserving, the director will provide as many opportunities to perform as possible.

TARDIES: We will follow the school's policy on tardies. **TO BE ON TIME** is to be on the risers in your proper place, with your materials when the tardy bell rings.

UIL ABSENCES: Please refer to the student handbook on absences for UIL events. Every student is allowed only 20 days a year. Please keep up with your absences.

Uniforms

6th Grade Choir Uniform:

Choir t-shirt and jeans

General Choir Uniform:

Choir t-shirt and jeans

Girl's Honor Choir Competition Uniforms:

Choir Dress: Information coming soon

Dress and Trip Guidelines:

1. Clothing:

ALL school dress code rules are in place with the following modifications.

Always dress nice. You represent our school and our choir.

Shorts are worn only with director's permission and must be within the school dress code.

Bathing suits for girls must be a one piece or a tankini that completely covers the stomach.

When asked to dress nice all day that means from the time we leave until the time we return.

Not following the directions of the director will result in a grade reduction and may cause you to be suspended from other choir activities.

2. Uniform: Be sure to have your complete uniform for all performances.

3. Never leave the area without the consent of the director.

4. The buses will be cleaned by everyone.

5. Be sure to bring any medication needed and make the director aware that you have the medication and why.

6. No tobacco, drugs or alcohol of any kind!

7. Displays of affection are not appropriate.

8. Do not borrow things from each other.

9. Be friendly, but never tell strangers where we are going or staying. A good policy is not to give out any information to anyone outside our group.

10. Under no circumstances should you ever depart from the group.

11. No students can travel without all their forms signed and turned in to the director.

** Remember the reason for going to competitions is to perform the best we can and have fun. Do what others (especially chaperones) ask you to do and be polite to each other. Control your temper and always treat the drivers and chaperones with great respect.

** I must accept all responsibility personally, musically, and professionally for everything you do on any trip we take. Do as I ask, for I would also like to enjoy the trip. Let's be proud of the great things we can accomplish.

Eligibility

No student shall take part in choral extra-curricular activities that is not passing all classes at the end of each nine week grading period with a grade of 70 or above. A student may "regain" their eligibility after 3 weeks if they are passing everything with a grade of 70 or above. **This is mandated by House Bill 72 and is not a negotiable issue.**

Concerts and performances are considered part of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Choir and all students can participate regardless of eligibility unless otherwise specified by the director. All students are required to participate in concerts unless excused by the director prior to the event.

Spring Trip

We will be taking a spring trip. In order to be eligible for this trip you must do several things throughout the year.

1. You will be asked to raise the funds to pay your way. You will have an opportunity to do this through the fundraiser. If you wish, you may pay your own way.
2. You must also have attended the concerts and UIL contest (if applicable to your choir).
3. You must meet all the eligibility requirements. This includes passing all your classes.
4. You must not have been in ISS.
5. You must have all forms completed and turned in on time. This includes all medical forms.
6. You must follow the dress code set forth for the trip or you will not be allowed to attend.

Let's have a great year in choir and enjoy ourselves in our quest to become fabulous musicians!