

Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District

Baytown Junior School Choir

Handbook

Expectations for Choir:

1. ATTEND ALL REQUIRED CONCERTS AND EVENTS for your choir during the school year.
2. Participate cheerfully in the classroom.
3. Keep up your eligibility: pass every class, every six weeks.
4. Pay your fees by the deadlines given to you (including overdue books, fund raisers, trip money, etc). Talk to your director promptly if there are problems.
5. Have all required materials every day.

OVERVIEW

Choir students will be developing their skills for reading music, listening, and working as a group toward common goals. A great deal of class time will be spent on singing, listening, and learning how to “sight-read” music that they have never seen before. We will also spend a great deal of effort on breathing properly, to assure proper posture and tone. Parents can look forward to the demonstration of these skills at our performances.

Students will also be expected to compete (when eligible) at competitions such as All-Region Choir Auditions, Solo and Ensemble Contest, and Concert/Sight-Reading Contest. These opportunities are intended to give the students positive experiences.

I look forward to working with our kids this year!

GRADING POLICY

Grades largely depend on attendance and performance for concerts and contests.

60 % Major Grades: Performances, Auditions, Tests

40 % Daily Participation

ELIGIBILITY

To be academically eligible, a student must receive a grade of 70 or above in every class on the report card issued each 6 weeks. If eligible, a student remains eligible until the next report card. Eligibility can be restored with all passing grades on the following progress report.

WHEN DOES ELIGIBILITY MATTER?

Students must be academically eligible to participate in anything considered extra-curricular or competitive, or anything for which an admission is charged.

Examples of events requiring eligibility include:

All-Region Choir Auditions

Concerts which take place off campus during the school day

Field trips during a school day

Any event for which admission is charged

Eligibility will not be a factor for the concerts required for your class. Those are considered “co-curricular” and attendance is mandatory for all enrolled students regardless of eligibility.

CONCERT ETIQUETTE AND GRADING POLICY

Each performance given by the choir will result in three major grades: one for performance quality, one for performance etiquette, and one for audience etiquette. Each of these is a specific component in the curriculum set forth in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). In order to help students achieve the highest grade possible, non-performing audience members are strongly urged to follow audience etiquette guidelines.

Etiquette for Performers:

1. Performers are to enter and leave the performance area silently, with a body language demonstrating focus and excellence.

2. Performers are to keep attention toward the director at all times. Performers should not wave or otherwise acknowledge audience members directly.

3. There is never to be talking between performers onstage.

Etiquette for Audience Members:

1. Audience members should remain seated at all times during the performance. Late arrivals or necessary departures should take place between songs, during applause, if possible.

2. Audience members should not use cell phones during the performance. If phone is being used as a camera by an adult, it should be done with a minimum of distraction. All phones must be silent; if an emergency necessitates a conversation, the audience member should exit in order to address the situation.

3. Audience members should do nothing that has the potential to distract from the performance. This includes talking or whispering; yelling, whistling, or screaming; clapping during the music, or otherwise drawing attention away from the performers onstage. Unintentional distractions (crying children, coughing, etc.) should be removed from the performance quickly.

4. Appreciate should be shown by sincere applause between songs. Booing, "slow claps," or other negative expressions are disrespectful to all performers.

RULES FOR CHOIR CLASS ("REHEARSAL")

1. THERE WILL BE NO CELL PHONES, TOYS, **GUM**, OR EATING DURING REHEARSAL. BOTTLED WATER IS ALLOWED ANY TIME BUT WILL BE TAKEN UP IF IT BECOMES A DISTRACTION.

2. THERE IS NO TALKING IF ANYONE IS SINGING.

3. PARTICIPATION IN ALL ACTIVITIES IS REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HAVING THEIR MATERIALS EVERY DAY.

4. ONLY SUPPORTIVE, POSITIVE LANGUAGE IS USED IN THE CHOIR ROOM.

Each class, and individual, is expected to follow these rules.

Persistent refusal to follow these rules by an individual student will result in individual disciplinary action as defined in the Code of

Conduct. If lack of compliance is class-wide, more stringent rules will be set in place for that class. It is my hope that our classes develop a positive culture in which negative reinforcement is usually unnecessary. Classes which follow the rules and surpass expectations will be rewarded. Individuals who show excellence will also be rewarded.

FACILITIES AND MATERIALS

Students will respect our facility by keeping things clean and free from damage. Any damage or vandalism should be promptly reported. Consequences will be less severe if students are honest and alert me to problems quickly. Please see the school handbook for a complete list of rules and consequences.

PARTICIPATION

Choir is a performance-based elective. Students learn by doing. Therefore, every student's grade is dependent on participation. Lack of participation will result in a lower academic grade. If a student demonstrates repeated or obvious resistance to rehearsal participation, disciplinary action will follow. The student may also be removed from choir trips, activities, or parties. Privileges and rewards will be based on effort and attitude. These rewards will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Rewards are at my discretion and may be given to an entire class or one student.

CONCERT ATTIRE

We will be performing several times over the course of the school year. The impression that we give to other schools is very important to our success. We will have a uniform consisting of an official choir t-shirt and jeans. The cost of choir shirts will be covered through the choir activity fee. Extra shirts for family members or friends can be ordered if desired; contact Mrs. Silverberg for information.

FORMAL CONCERT ATTIRE: Selected concerts and competitions for JV and Varsity choirs will require formal concert dress. Specific details regarding those guidelines will be forthcoming.

ACTIVITY FEE AND SUPPLIES

In order to meet the costs of materials for choir class, each student is asked to pay a \$20 activity fee to Mrs. Silverberg. (Cash is preferred; please contact Mrs. Silverberg for alternative payment information.) This fee can be paid at once in the fall, or in two installments (September and January). Students will not be penalized if this fee poses too much hardship to their family. Please communicate with Mrs. Silverberg regarding this issue as soon as possible. The \$20 activity fee covers the cost of 1 choir t-shirt, choir workbook, and daily classroom supplies. If students require a replacement choir shirt the cost is \$10.

Activity fee (\$10 for the fall or \$20 for the year) and supplies are due the day after Labor Day, September 5. If you choose to pay in two installments, the spring portion of the fee will be due Monday, February 5.

OTHER FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Certain activities that are categorized as "extra-curricular" will have costs associated with them. Students will have to pay to participate in these activities; however, we plan to do fundraisers at different times throughout the year to help keep these costs as low as possible.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips will be taken by different groups at various times of the year. Extracurricular trips will only be permitted for students who meet all qualifications for that specific event. Students who participate in off-campus activities and their parents may be

required to sign a behavior and financial contract before traveling with the choir.

FUNDRAISERS

Fundraisers are necessary to meet expenses we will incur for daily instruction

as well as extra-curricular trips. More details about specific fundraisers will be

given in advance of each.

For all fundraisers, the following rules apply:

1. No student will ever be required to participate in a fundraiser; however, students who do not participate may face a larger out-of-pocket cost for certain activities. Parental permission slips will be required for all fundraisers.
2. All monies obtained through fundraising are non-refundable. If a student becomes ineligible, leaves the organization, school, or district, the money he or she raised for the choir will remain with the choir.
3. BJS Choir reserves the right to prohibit students from participating in fundraisers if appropriate. We are representing our families, organization, school, and community and must be honest with money collection and item delivery. STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO RETURN FUND RAISING MONEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN FURTHER FUND RAISERS.

ACTIVITY FUND POLICY: All money turned in to the choir is put into the Choir Activity Fund. This money cannot be spent without the approval of choir officers, who work with the director to determine the best use of that money. Minutes from officer meetings are submitted with any expenditure from the Activity Fund.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parent involvement is essential to our program. We welcome parents as volunteers to help with clerical tasks like copying and sorting music, as chaperones for trips, and as organizers and helpers during concerts and fundraisers. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit the GCCISD website and fill out the information required for the

legally mandated background check. This must be done yearly; however, it applies to every campus throughout the district.

ATTENDANCE

Concerts are required as part of the student's commitment to choir. This means that each student is expected to participate in choir concerts. The only exceptions are conflicts with other school sponsored events, or emergencies within the family. Conflicting school events must be excused with a signed note from parents at least a week before the performance. Emergencies must be discussed with me personally as soon as possible after the performance. Usually, a note from the doctor is enough. Students will conference with Mrs. Silverberg to determine an appropriate makeup for their concert grade.

Certain competitions and activities are optional and may only be open to certain students. These activities will not count as a grade; however, behavioral expectations are always in place. Please refer to the calendar for required events.

We look forward to a great year. My expectations are high, and I know that together we can work hard AND have a lot of fun making music!

2022-2023 Choir Activities Calendar:

September 22: Activity fee due date

October 7: All-Region Practice Camp (only region auditioning students)

October 20: Fall Concert at Lee High School Auditorium

October 22: *Region choir auditions (selected 7th and 8th graders only) (Students who make region choir will get a list of requirements and concert date)

December 6: Winter Concert @ BJS Auditorium (ALL STUDENTS)

February 16: Pre-UIL (UIL contest students only)

March 7 - March 9: UIL Concert & Sight Reading Contest (Selected students)

April 10: Pop Show Audition week (All interested students)

April 15: Solo & Ensemble (ALL INTERESTED STUDENTS)

April 27: Spring concert/Pop Show (ALL STUDENTS)

Information about additional events and field trips, including requirements and financial responsibilities for attendance, will be sent home as soon as those details are finalized.

Baytown Junior School, Room 152

7707 Bayway Dr.

Baytown, TX 77522

Phone: 281-420-4560

Fax: 281-420-4908

Email: Deborah.Silverberg@gccisd.net

Facebook: facebook.com/goslinchoir

Youtube: youtube.com/goslinchoir