

# Baytown Junior School Choir

Handbook & Calendar 2021-2022



## Policy and Procedures Handbook

- ◆ Grading Policy and Required Activities
- ◆ Rules, Procedures, and Consequences
- ◆ Financial Information & Fund Raising
- ◆ Supplies & Concert Attire
- ◆ Concert Etiquette and Expectations



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

Anything in which we receive scores or ratings (Concert & Sight Reading, Solo & Ensemble)

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. Booming, "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 will need 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 various expenses related to choir as determined by the choir officers. If students require a replacement choir shirt the cost is \$10. A replacement choir book is \$5.

Students will be required to provide the following supplies for choir:

- \* 1" 3-ring binder clearly marked with student's name on spine
- \* Pencils (24 wooden or 12 mechanical)
- \* Highlighters (5 colors) or map pencils (12)
- \* 1 box facial tissue OR 1 container hand sanitizer
- \* Set of headphones for piano practice (3.5 mm. "aux" connector)

Activity fees can be turned in beginning immediately and may be paid at once or in installments. Cash is preferred for ease of handling but checks will be accepted with a current Texas driver's license number written on the check. Check processing generally takes 6-8 weeks.

## 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. Officer elections will be held within the first three weeks of school and minutes from officer meetings are submitted with any expenditure from the Activity Fund.



## **WE NEED PARENTS!!**

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.

**WE CANNOT DO ANYTHING OFF CAMPUS  
WITHOUT PARENTS!! WE MUST HAVE  
CHAPERONES OR WE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED  
TO PARTICIPATE IN OFF CAMPUS ACTIVITIES!  
WATCH OUR NOTES HOME FOR EVENTS  
REQUIRING CHAPERONES.**

## 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 make-up 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. Students will fill in the dates as we receive them for the various choirs.

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!

# **BJS Choir Dates 21-22**

- ♪ September 30: Region Camp (only 7/8 students trying out for region attend; Gentry 5-7 pm)
- ♪ October 22: T/B Region auditions (7/8 auditioning tenors and basses only)
- ♪ October 23: S/A Region auditions (7/8 auditioning sopranos and altos only)
- ♪ October 28: Fall Concert @ BJS 6:30 (ALL STUDENTS)
- ♪ October 30: Region Clinic & Concert (7/8 region choir members only)
- ♪ November 19: Varsity Choir Day (7/8 only)
- ♪ December 2, 3, 4: December musical performances (ALL STUDENTS)
- ♪ February 15: Pre-UIL (7/8 UIL C&SR students)
- ♪ March 2, 3, 4: UIL C&SR (Exact date/time TBA; 7/8 UIL C&SR students)
- ♪ April 14: Solo Contest @ CBJ (Participating students)
- ♪ May 17: Pop Show

NOTES:



## Baytown Junior School Choir

TMS

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