

MHS *Choir*

McKinney High School Choir Handbook

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MISD Department of Fine Arts
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Dr. Dan White, Director

Mrs. Meredith Vestal, Office Manager

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Performing Groups

“McKinney Men” and “Chamber Singers” ***JV Men and JV Women***

Entry level to intermediate choir designed for men (McKinney Men) or women (Chamber Singers) with previous middle school choral experience or students new to the MHS program. Members will participate in the Fall, Winter, Pre-UIL, and Spring Concerts. Optional opportunities include: All-Region Choir Auditions, Department Musical, and MISD Vocal Solo and Ensemble Contest. Previous school choir experience is recommended. Audition/interview optional.

“Chorale Advanced” ***JV Mixed***

Intermediate to advanced level choir designed for students who have demonstrated an understanding and mastery of basic to intermediate choral music skills as well as strong work ethic in both choir and academic areas. All-Region Choir auditions, and/or participation in UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest is recommended. Participation in Department Musical and Madrigal Dinner is optional. Middle school/High school music experience is highly recommended. Audition and director approval is required.

“Bella Voce” ***Varsity Women***

Intermediate to advanced level choir designed for students who have demonstrated an understanding and mastery of basic to intermediate choral music skills as well as strong work ethic in both choir and academic areas. All-Region Choir auditions, Department Musical, and participation in UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest is highly recommended. Participation in the **MHS Madrigal Dinner is mandatory**. Middle school/High school music experience is necessary. Audition and director approval is required.

“Concert Choir” ***Varsity Mixed***

Advanced mixed choir designed for sophomore, junior and senior students who have strong choir background and have demonstrated understanding of advanced choral music skills as well as strong work ethic in both choir and academic areas. Prior high school music experience required. Audition and director approval required. **It is required to participate in Department Musical and MHS Madrigal Dinner**. Members are highly encouraged to participate in the All-Region Choir and MISD Vocal Solo and Ensemble Contest.

“Harmony” ***Vocal Jazz Ensemble***

Advanced level mixed vocal jazz ensemble designed for sophomore, junior and senior students who have strong choir backgrounds and have demonstrated understanding of advanced choral music skills as well as exceptional work ethic in both choir and academic areas.. Musical styles will focus on jazz, swing, and light pop literature. High school music experience, audition, and director approval is required. Concurrent membership in Concert Choir is required; director discretion may apply. Commitment to multiple extracurricular performances is required. **Auditioning for Region Choir is required.** **Failure to adhere to the MISD Student Co-Curricular/Extra-Curricular Guidelines is grounds for termination of membership from this ensemble.

Expectations

Classroom

Be Here...

Regular attendance in the classroom, extra rehearsals and concerts is required.

Be Here On Time...

Punctuality is a must. Campus tardy policy will be strictly enforced.

Be Here On Time, Ready To Go Forward...

Students are expected to come prepared daily for class with required materials, a respectful attitude, and a work ethic that propels us forward as a choir.

Tardy Policy

Our tardy policy is as follows:

- Must be **INSIDE** the Choir Room by the sound of the final bell.
 - If you are not in the room, take personal responsibility to get a tardy pass.
 - Go to the *Attendance Office, Room F122* (Ms. Kim Montgomery's office) to get the tardy pass.
 - When you come back to the Choir Room, place the pass on the piano, and proceed to your spot immediately.
 - You will have a 10-point deduction from your daily Procedural Effort grade.
- Must be **ON THE RISERS** by the end of the first warm up cycle (15 seconds).
 - If you are not, you are to remain on the sides of the risers until your director signals you to proceed to your spot. Do so *quietly* as to not interrupt the class.
 - You will have a 10-point deduction from your daily Procedural Effort grade.

****Constant tardiness to rehearsal will result in the following: verbal warning → conference with director → parent phone call → conference with directors and parents → written referral. Failure to show significant improvement will result in demotion in choir, or possible removal from the program.**

Restroom Policy

Students are allowed 5 bathroom passes for the semester to use.

- Passes may not be exchanged or given to another student.
- Lost passes will not be replaced.
- Passes do not carry over to the following semester.
- Abuse of restroom privileges will result in **permanent** revocation of passes.

Passes may be redeemed for rewards at the end of each semester!

Performances/Rehearsals

Participation in performances is a graded requirement for MHS Choir members. Consult the published choir calendar (<http://mhschoir.com/calendar/>) for the rehearsal and performance schedule. Any variance from the published calendar will be announced at least two weeks in advance in order to adjust work conflicts. Chronic absences may constitute removal from the performing organization.

Choir Uniform

Each MHS choir member will be issued a department-owned formal uniform for concerts and competitions. This rental is covered within the \$55 Choir Fee.

What to wear with formal uniform:

Ladies - black flat shoes. Small stud earrings are permitted, no necklaces, no bracelets/watches/etc. on the wrist.

Men – black dress socks and solid black dress shoes

Absence/Tardy Request

Students must submit an Absence/Tardy Request (located in the Turn-In box) DIRECTLY to the directors **one week** prior to the scheduled rehearsal/concert, *pending directors' approval*.

Absence/tardy request will be approved or denied within 24 hours.

Progress Assessments

Grades are determined by an average of rehearsal technique, written and singing assessments, and performance participation assessment. MISD grading policies are:

FORMATIVE: rehearsal technique/informal assessments = 30%

SUMMATIVE: mandatory rehearsal/concert/formal assessments = 70%

Eligibility

Choir activities are governed by the policies of the MISD Board of Trustees, Texas Education Agency, University Interscholastic League, Texas Music Educators, and McKinney High School. Texas Education Agency's "no-pass/no play" rules govern all "extra-curricular" activities such as UIL Choir Contest, TMEA All-Region auditions/concerts, certain choir trips and selected "admission" events such as the MHS Madrigal Dinner, and Department Musical. Students must earn 70 or above in all classes (all AP classes and Calculus classes are exempt from this rule) to maintain eligibility status. Other details concerning eligibility will be communicated regularly in class.

MISD Music Organization Participation Policy

In order to participate in UIL group contests, a student must be enrolled in the respective competing band, choir or orchestra. The only exception to this policy is for a student enrolled in a band or orchestra who, with director approval, wishes to compete at contest in a second band/orchestra. Under this exception, a student is required by UIL policy to play a different instrument in the second ensemble from that played in the primary group [UIL CCR Section 1102 (b)(1)(B)].

As an MHS Choir student, your grade for the 9 weeks is comprised of grades for: rehearsal technique, mandatory rehearsals, and concerts. **Because the majority of your grade is your effort in class each day, we want to be clear as to how we calculate the grade. Our goal is for outstanding effort and concentration at every rehearsal.**

Daily grades will be averaged to a **weekly** effort grade.

PROCEDURAL EFFORT	
A student will earn all of their procedural points if they remember to do the following.	
–	<i>Bring folder to the risers by the tardy bell. Put folder away in correct slot at the end of class.</i>
–	<i>Have a sharpened pencil on the risers by the tardy bell.</i>
–	<i>Have all of his/her music on the risers by the tardy bell.</i>
–	<i>Be in the room by the sound of the final tardy bell.</i>
–	<i>Be on the risers by the end of the first warm up cycle (15 seconds).</i>
–	<i>Bring no 'unauthorized materials' to the risers; this includes gum!</i>

There is a 10-point penalty from a student's Personal Effort grade for each Procedural Effort behavior that is not followed.

PERSONAL EFFORT GRADE	
A+=100	Student exhibits all the attributes outlined for an "A" for the entire class as well as: outstanding leadership, courage, problem solving and attitude.
A = 95	Student exhibits: sitting up with correct singing posture <i>all of the time</i> , chooses to sing out <i>majority</i> of the time, chooses to answer questions, chooses to have eye contact a <i>majority</i> of the time when teacher is speaking, is ready to sing when requested and chooses to mark music both when requested by the teacher and as needed personally.
B = 85	Student exhibits: sitting up with correct singing posture <i>all of the time</i> , chooses to sing but does not necessarily <i>lead out</i> with voice, chooses <i>not</i> to answer questions, chooses to have eye contact a <i>majority</i> of the time when teacher is speaking, is ready to sing when requested and marks music when requested by the teacher but <i>not as needed personally</i> .
C = 75	Student exhibits: sitting up with correct singing posture <i>most but not all of the class</i> , <i>sometimes</i> chooses not to sing, chooses <i>not</i> to answer questions, chooses to have <i>minimal</i> eye contact when the teacher is speaking, is <i>not always ready to sing</i> when requested, <i>chooses to not mark music</i> and <i>talks or distracts</i> .
F = 65	Student exhibits: <i>poor posture</i> most of the time, <i>chooses not to sing</i> for most of the class, <i>chooses not to make eye contact</i> when teacher is speaking, is <i>rarely ready to sing</i> when requested, <i>chooses not to mark music</i> , and <i>chooses to be very talkative, distracting</i> .

Grade Calculation:

PERSONAL EFFORT GRADE
 – POINTS LOST FROM PROCEDURAL EFFORT GRADE

 REHEARSAL TECHNIQUE GRADE

Fundraising

While MISD provides financial support for the choral program, MHS Choir students will have the option of participating in two product-type fundraisers during the year to help reduce the cost of travel, social events, and other designated expenses beyond the organizational fee.

Fundraising guidelines:

Profits from fundraising are not refundable or transferable to other students and may not be distributed to students in the form of cash.

Profits derived from fundraising may or may not “carry over” from one year to the next.

All profits generated by students belong to the MHS Choir Activity Fund (fundraisers, other fees and student payments). Direction of such funds is at the discretion of the MHS Choir Directors.

Finances

All MHS Choir students are required to pay a \$55.00 organization fee. Included in this fee are class materials, the fitting and rental of formal concert attire for all choirs, choir t-shirts (2 minimum), and helps underwrite social events. **Family Discount:** Families with **multiple students** in choir pay **\$40 per student, a \$15 reduction per student.**

ORGANIZATION FEES ARE DUE BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2016.

Should you need to split this organization fee into two payments, please pay \$30.00 on September 2nd and \$25 on September 16th or \$20/\$20 per date per student for families with multiple students.

Please speak with your director if you have any questions or needs in the area of finance.

Students may plan to use fundraiser monies or Charms balances from prior years. See Internet page for instructions on how to utilize our Charms database.

Extras

Private Voice Instruction

Students interested in private voice instruction may apply through the Choral Music Department. Schedule permitting, selected students are eligible to take one 25-minute lesson per week during their choir class period. Cost of lessons is the responsibility of the student/parent. Voice teachers will make a presentation during the first week of school. More detailed information will be distributed during the presentation.

Music Enrichment Series

During the course of the year, special music enrichment trips may be offered. Activities may include (but not be limited to) special professional concerts in the DFW area. The students are responsible for ticket costs (where applicable), while transportation costs are covered by MHS Choir.

Announcements concerning our Music Enrichment Series offerings will be made in class and reflected on the choir calendar. All choir fees must be paid prior to participation in these events.

Eligibility according to UIL rules will apply.

Internet

Electronic Communication

The internet provides the easiest, fastest, and most efficient way for us to communicate with our students and families throughout the year. Please visit the official MHS Choir website at www.mhschoir.com and check your email often; this is the best form of communication. On our website, you will find the **official choir calendar** which is updated continuously throughout the year as well as up-to-date news and information on events. Important documents are on this site including an electronic copy of this handbook, required signature pages for handbook, fees and Charms assignment, and the MISD Co/Extra Curricular and Drug Testing policies. Announcements will be posted as needed. **PLEASE FOLLOW/LIKE US** on MHSChoir page on Facebook, follow us on Twitter @MHSChoir, and/or follow us on Instagram @mhschoirgram.

RankOneSport Documents

Please visit <https://mckinneyfinearts.rankonesport.com> For assistance, click on "Directions." For forms, click on "Electronic Participation Forms." Student MISD id# is required to access the forms. *Students in multiple Fine Art programs need only fill the out once. Students involved in non Fine Arts UIL governed organizations such as athletics must fill out all three forms for both groups.*

Charms

Charms is an internet-based data management system used by MHS Choir to store student information as well as manage finances and inventory. We will continue using Charms to supplement our website (www.mhschoir.com). It is important that the student/parent information is always current in Charms **ESPECIALLY EMAIL** as we use this service to communicate with our students and families through email. Parents and students may also monitor finances via Charms.

Access to CharmsOffice.com:

You can access CharmsOffice.com through the our website, www.mhschoir.com, or just type in the address: www.charmsoffice.com

1. In the "parent/student" login area, please enter the school code: **mckinneyhsc** (abbreviation for McKinney High School Choir)
2. At the **student ID/password** prompt, enter your MHS numeric student ID, for example 123456.

This allows you to enter the area that includes more student specific information such as your personal contact information, t-shirt size, and financial reports including fees paid and fundraising activity. All students must complete the Charms update assignment.

ONLINE SIGNATURE PAGE

Click on the link below to fill out the MHS Choir Required Documents as the final step. This is due for a homework grade by Friday, September 2, 2016!

www.tinyurl.com/mhschoirforms