



# Seven Lakes High School Choir

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Klint Jordan and Elizabeth Tait, Directors

## 2019-2020 Choir Handbook

Welcome to Seven Lakes High School and to the Spartan Choir! We are very happy that you are joining our choir family. The purpose of this packet is to familiarize each choir member with: (1) the general operation and procedures of the Seven Lakes Choir, and (2) the standards by which all choir members are expected to conduct themselves.

**The Handbook Acknowledgment Form is due Wednesday, August 28th in class**

This handbook will be discussed at our Choir Parent Night on September 5<sup>th</sup>. This document will remain on the Seven Lakes High School Choir website all year and can serve as a reference to you at any time during the 2019-2020 school year.

# Seven Lakes High School Choir

2019-2020 Event Calendar

(Updated August 5, 2019)

For updated calendar information throughout the year, please check Charms

## August

- 1 Chorale Camp 9am-2pm- Choir Room
- 5 Fish Camp
- 14 First Day of School
- 26 Monday Night Rehearsal Begins (Chorale Only)
- 28 Open House
- 31 SLHS vs SB Memorial- Rhodes Stadium- 7:00pm (Chorale Only)

## September

- 5 Choir Parent Night- SLHS PAC- 6PM
- 13 SLHS vs. Ft. Bend Austin - Rhodes Stadium- 7:30pm (Chorale Only)
- 17 Coffee House Auditions, TBD
- 25 Choir Participates in Homecoming Parade
- 27 SLHS vs Tompkins (Homecoming) - Rhodes Stadium- 7:30pm (Chorale Only)
- 28 TMEA District Choir Auditions – Cinco Ranch High School

## October

- 8 Fall Coffee House - 9th Grade Commons - 7pm
- 17 Choir Picture Day (Choir Room)—during class
- 21 Fall Concert—SLHS PAC—7pm
- 22 Sensations Rehearsals begin in PAC
- 26 TMEA Region Auditions- Morton Ranch High School
- 31 Sensations Show JH Preview (during the school day)

## November

- 1 Sensations Show – PAC – 7pm
- 2 Sensations Show- PAC- 2pm, 7pm
- 2 SLHS vs Morton Ranch- Legacy Stadium- 11:00am (Chorale Only)
- 8 SLHS vs Cinco Ranch- Rhodes Stadium- 7:30pm (Chorale Only)
- 8 TMEA Region Choir Clinic – Cinco Ranch High School – 4pm-8:30pm
- 9 TMEA Region Choir Clinic/Concert – Westbury Baptist Church
- 16 TMEA Pre-Area Choir Auditions – Alief Elsik High School- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center
- 25 Thanksgiving Holiday

## December

- 9 Choir Holiday Concert – SLHS PAC – 7pm
- 11 Holiday Extravaganza Rehearsal (Chorale Only) – PAC – 3pm-5pm
- 12 Fine Arts Department Holiday Extravaganza – SLHS Main Commons, PAC – Time TBA

10 Guest appearance at BDJH Holiday Concert (Sensations Only) 7pm

## **January**

11 TMEA Area Choir Auditions – Ridge Point High School

17 Singing Valentines Auditions – During Class

29 Masterworks Setup

30 Masterworks Rehearsal with Clinician

31 Masterworks Rehearsal

TBD All-State Musicians Student/Parent Meeting – ESC – 7pm

TBD Chamber Singers Rehearsals Begin

## **February**

1 Masterworks Concert, SLHS PAC (Chorale Only)

8 UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest – Mayde Creek High School

11 Singing Valentines Delivered During the School Day

12-15 TMEA Convention, Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio

20 All-State Musicians School Board Recognition – ESC Board Room – 6:30pm

## **March**

7 Sensations/Chamber Singers performs at Madrigal Festival –University United Methodist Church

9-13 Spring Break

19 Pre-UIL Concert-PAC – 7pm

31-1 Non Varsity UIL Concert and Sight Reading- St. Peter’s UMC

## **April**

3-5 Spring Trip, Dallas

9 Coffee House Auditions – Choir Room

15-16 Varsity UIL HS Choir Concert & Sight Reading Contest – Westbury Baptist Church

20 Celebration of Excellence- South Main Baptist Church (Chorale Only)

23 Choir Coffee House – 9th Grade Commons – 7pm

27 Chorale Callback Auditions, Choir Room 3-7pm

## **May**

1 Sensations Auditions

9 Choir Banquet- Safari Texas Ranch- 6:00pm

11 Pop Show Rehearsal – PAC – 3pm-9pm

13 Choir Pop Show – PAC – 7pm

15 Last Day of School for Graduating Seniors

16 SLHS Graduation - 7pm, Merrill Center

21 Last Day of School for Underclassmen

30 UIL Texas State Solo & Ensemble Contest – UT Austin

TBD KYAC

# Grading Template: High School Choir

## Katy Independent School District

Grades earned by High School Choir students will fall under the following three categories:

- Major – 50% of the six weeks average
- Minor – 35% of the six weeks average
- Other – 15% of the six weeks average

Student assessment will follow the guidelines outlined below.

### Major Grades

The following activities are examples of criteria which may be assessed as major grades by choir directors:

- Performances
- Tests (performing large sections of music, All-Region/State music, sight singing melodies, OR written tests)
- Daily classroom engagement in skill development
- After school engagement/attendance/participation

*Some ensemble and individual required activities may be governed by TEA UIL eligibility rules. Instructors assessing these activities must provide a TEKS-based alternative for ineligible or non-participating students. Please note that different ensembles have different course expectations and responsibilities. Failure to fulfill course responsibilities/expectations may result in loss of position in ensemble.*

*\*\*Tests are understood to be assessments of an extended length and for which students have received notice well in advance of the assessment. Quizzes are understood to be assessments of shorter length for which 0 – 24 hours' notice has been given.*

### Minor Grades

The following activities are examples of criteria which may be assessed as minor grades by choir directors:

- Quizzes
- Concert/Performance Attire and Punctuality
- Sectionals/Rehearsals

*Some ensemble and individual required activities may be governed by TEA UIL eligibility rules. Instructors assessing these activities must provide a TEKS-based alternative for ineligible or non-participating students. Please note that different ensembles have different course expectations and responsibilities. Failure to fulfill course responsibilities/expectations may result in loss of position in ensemble.*

*\*\*Tests are understood to be assessments of an extended length and for which students have received notice well in advance of the assessment. Quizzes are understood to be assessments of shorter length for which 0 – 24 hours' notice has been given.*

### Other Grades

The following activities are examples of criteria which may be assessed in a category other than major or minor grades:

- Daily skills
- Preparation – materials, music, etc.
- Written homework

# SLHS CHOIR GRADING POLICY

Each student will receive major, minor and other grades each six weeks.

## **Major Grades (50% of 6 weeks average):**

- Participation in Required Performances
- Part Checks and Memory Checks
  - Periodically throughout the year, students will perform concert repertoire in octets for the other students in the class. **For a part check**, students will use music and demonstrate mastery of pitch, rhythm and musical shaping. **For a memory check**, student will demonstrate mastery of pitch, rhythm and musical shaping without using music.
- Written Tests
- After school attendance and participation when applicable
- Concert Attire and Punctuality
- Monday Night Rehearsal Participation (Chorale Only)

## **Minor Grades (35% of 6 weeks average)**

- Sight Reading Tests
- Part Checks and Memory Checks
- Quizzes
  - May include music theory and music history

## **Other Grades (15% of 6 weeks average)**

- Daily skills
- Preparation for class
- Written homework
- Grade for Materials

# Academic Eligibility and UIL Behavior Expectations

**In order to participate in some extracurricular activities, a student must have a 70 or better average in all classes, excluding Katy ISD approved waivable courses.** Students with a failing grade in these courses are restricted from participating in some extracurricular activities for the next grading period. There is an opportunity to regain eligibility earlier if the student earns averages of 70 or above in all classes at the next three-week progress report.

For specific dates regarding gaining and losing eligibility refer to the 2019-2020 TEA/UIL Eligibility Calendar posted to the Katy ISD Athletic website.

All courses are considered for eligibility status, including AP classes. No classes are exempt from consideration. Students and parents should be aware that an “I” (incomplete) on a report card or progress report has the same impact on eligibility as an “F” (average below 70).

**Remember, all school concerts are required for EVERY student, whether ineligible or eligible.** *The events that require student eligibility to perform/participate are:*

*TMEA All-State audition process, including Region Clinic and Concert*

*Sensations Show (performers only)*

*Fall and Spring Coffee House (performers only)*

*UIL Solo & Ensemble*

*Singing Valentines*

**As of the 2019-2020 school year, academic eligibility no longer applies to UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest.** However, students are expected to abide by the SLHS Choir Code of Conduct (included in this handbook), and can be restricted from participating in any choir event, including UIL, at director discretion. While UIL is a benchmark assessment for the performing ensemble, it is also a privilege for the individual, which must be earned with full participation in the ensemble throughout the school year.

## SUPPLIES / FEES

- Each student will be supplied with his/her own copy of all music to be rehearsed and/or performed. The music should be kept neatly in a choir folder. Music will be checked out to the student and must be returned in good condition. **Any music that is lost or returned in damaged condition must be replaced at the current market replacement cost for the music.**
- Each student must pay a Choir Fee that corresponds with their group. This fee covers the following:
  - Uniform usage, 1 cleaning
  - Choir composite picture sitting fee
  - Choir Performance Polo Shirt/ T Shirt
  - Purchase music for the choir
  - Provide accompanists for choir concerts and rehearsals
  - Choir Social Events
  - UIL Group Meals (the degree to which any of these students participate)
  - TMEA District Entry Fee (Chorale Only)
  - Varsity Showcase Meal Fee (Chorale Only)
  - Madrigal Festival Fee (Sensations Only)
  - Sensations Ad Fee (Sensations Only)
  - Choreography Costs (Sensations Only)
  - Sensations Meal Costs (Sensations Only)
- **Fee Breakdown:**
  - All Non Varsity Choirs (Bel Canto, Cantiamo and The Statesmen): **\$140**
  - Varsity Choirs (Chorale): **\$180**
  - Sensations: **\$600 (this INCLUDES the \$180 Chorale Fee)**
- Each Non-Varsity choir member must provide a black 1/2” 3-Ring Binder with a clear plastic cover. Members of Chorale must bring a 1” 3-Ring Binder with clear plastic cover. This folder may be stored in the folder cabinets provided in the choir room.
- Students must have a pencil with an eraser for **all** rehearsals.
- Students who participate in the All-State Audition Process must purchase their own music. The contest entry fee is \$20 for **non-chorale** members only (entry fees for chorale members are included in their Choir Fee).
- Students who participate in UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest are responsible for paying the entry fee which is \$10 per person per event as well as the accompanist fee which ranges from \$40-\$50 depending on the level of difficulty of the solo.
- Choir students who choose to go on the Spring Choir Trip are responsible for paying their individual cost for the trip.
- Students in Chorale, Cantiamo, and The Statesmen are required to purchase a *Tote Unlimited* choir garment bag, at \$40, or they must have a garment bag of similar sturdiness to house their choir uniform while at home. Students in Bel Canto may also purchase these items if they choose.
- Female students in Cantiamo and Chorale must purchase their own black character shoes for performances. Students may purchase these from any vendor. *Costumes and Dancewear* will be coming to SLHS for Cantiamo and Sensations to fit students for character shoes on Friday, Aug 23rd. Students have the option to order shoes at that time with \$32 CASH.
- Male students in The Statesmen and Chorale must purchase their own tux shirt for performances. See the tux shirt order information sheet for more details

# Instructions for Online Choir Payments

The following payments can be made on the Seven Lakes Choir website:

- Yearly Choir Fee specific to your student's designated choir (REQUIRED)
- Booster Club Membership (optional but encouraged)
- Trip Payments for the Spring Trip (required if planning to participate in trip)

1. Go to <http://www.sevenlakeschoir.com/>
2. Select Choir Store in the upper right portion of the screen.
3. On Shop screen, select Yearly Choir Fees.
4. Select the appropriate Choir Fee based on the class your student is enrolled in by clicking "add to cart". You will see a confirmation statement at top of page under "Yearly Choir Fees" acknowledging you have added the item to your cart.
5. To then add either your Spring Trip Payments (this is our annual trip to a fun location and more information will come out regarding this trip soon) or your Booster Club Membership payment, click the "Choir Store" again in the upper right corner and follow the same instructions to add these to your cart. Please note that you do not need to pay for all these items at once in case you are unsure at first which Booster Club level you want to choose. You can return to the Choir Store as often as you need to. We will also be adding additional items to the store as the year progresses.
6. Once everything is in your cart and you are ready to view it you can click the "cart" dropdown under the Choir Store tab in the upper right hand corner or view cart. If everything looks right then click "Proceed to Checkout".
7. On the Checkout Page you will complete all required fields paying special attention to add your student's name where requested (it's not a required field but should be).
8. At the bottom of this page please click on the circle near "Authorize.net Payment" and then click on "Place Order" at the bottom right of the page.
9. On the "Pay for Order" page click on the "Pay on Authorize.net" box.
10. This takes you to a secure site in which you will complete the required fields to complete your order. Once completed click on "Pay Now" at the bottom of the page.
11. This will take you to an "Order Received" page which will confirm your payment. You will also receive an email confirming the payment.

You also have the option to pay by cash or check to the choir program. Please make all checks out to "Seven Lakes HS Choir Booster Club" or "SLHS CBC"



# PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- **Choir Placement**

- Placement in the Seven Lakes choirs is based on sight-reading ability, tonal memory, tone quality, attitude, and academic eligibility.
- Just as there are different levels in other subject areas, it is also necessary to have different levels within the choir program. All choirs at Seven Lakes High School are equally important performing organizations.

- **Choirs**

- ***The Statesmen*** is comprised of young men who will focus on sight-reading and vocal singing technique throughout the school year. No audition is required for membership in this ensemble. Students are required to participate in the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Evaluation and are encouraged to participate in UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest.
- ***Bel Canto*** is comprised of young women who will focus on vocal tone and sight reading throughout the school year. No audition is required for participation in this ensemble. Students are required to participate in the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Evaluation and may choose to participate in UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest.
- ***Cantiamo*** is an auditioned ensemble that features women's voices. Students in this choir display a well-developed vocal production, proficiency in sight-reading, and a good academic record. Students are required to participate in the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Evaluation and are encouraged to participate in UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest and the All-State audition process.
- ***Chorale*** is the varsity mixed choir. Singers in this choir are advanced musicians who have a developed vocal tone, strong sight-reading abilities and a good academic record. Chorale participates at the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Evaluation and also participates in the SLHS Chorale "Spring Performance Tour". Students in this choir are **required** to participate in the Texas All-State Choir Audition Process and are strongly encouraged to enter the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest. Singers are required to attend rehearsals on Monday evenings from 6pm to 8:00pm throughout the school year. Chorale members sing the national anthem at **all** home football games.
- ***Sensations*** is a small ensemble of men and women that specialize in pop and jazz literature with choreography. This group also performs select chamber music. Members of this group participate in the Fall Sensations Show and also compete in the Madrigal and Chamber Choir Competition in San Antonio, TX. Sensations is active throughout the year with many performances both at school and in the community. To participate in this ensemble, a student must be enrolled in two choir classes: Chorale and Sensations.

# ATTENDANCE POLICIES

- *Class Attendance* –All choir students are expected to be present and on time to all choir related activities, including both in school and out of school activities.
- *Additional Rehearsals/Activities* – Students will be given adequate notice of all additional rehearsals and activities outside of the regular class period. These rehearsals and activities are course requirements and are vital to the success of the choral program. Every effort will be made to minimize the amount of out-of-class time required. Therefore, unexcused absences from these activities will be treated in the same manner as an unexcused absence from class, and will affect the student’s grade. **Work is not considered an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to manage their schedules and request the appropriate dates off of work.**

*In the event of a conflict with another scheduled school activity, it is the responsibility of the **student** to notify the sponsors for the activities. The sponsors will then determine the student’s obligation.*

- *Concert Attendance* – Concerts are the ultimate evaluation of many weeks of preparation and class work. Choir members are expected to be present for the entire time of each required concert. An unexcused absence from a concert will lower the student’s grade dramatically. Absences and tardies will be excused only for cases of medical emergency or death in the family. **Prior notification** of any conflict with a required concert or rehearsal is required. Students are held responsible for keeping up with the dates and times of scheduled activities.
- *Excused Absences* - Anyone receiving an excused absence from a concert or after school rehearsal will be required to submit a recording singing their portion of the music performed/rehearsed. The director will determine the amount of music sung. An excused absence consists of personal illness or unforeseen family emergency. **Any excused absence must be approved 7 calendar days prior to the performance.**
- *Unexcused Absences* - An unexcused absence from a concert or after school rehearsal will result in an automatic zero for a grade. There will be no option for a make-up grade. Any student in a competition choir who consistently misses concerts and/or rehearsals may be removed and placed an entry level choir.

# TARDIES

- Choir students are considered tardy if they are not in the choir room when the bell rings.
- 4-7 tardies in choir = N in conduct thus loss of exemption for choir final exam.
- 8 tardies or more in choir = U in conduct meaning a loss of exemptions for ALL classes.

# CHOIR CODE OF CONDUCT

- **Your individual actions shape the way that the general public views SLHS choir.** Whenever you dress in a choir uniform or wear other choir identification (letter jacket, choir shirt, etc.), you must act as a representative for the choral program. When you represent this program, always conduct yourself with pride, treat others with respect and demonstrate attributes of an outstanding member of society.
- *Selected Performances* – If, as a member of the Seven Lakes Choir, you have earned a position in an honor group (Region Choir, All-State Choir, etc.), all Seven Lakes Choir rules, regulations and guidelines will apply to that function.
- *Classroom Conduct* – Self-discipline is critical to the success of the SLHS Choir Department. Choir students are expected to follow these guidelines:
  - Respect everyone and everything: keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
  - Be ready for class when the tardy bell rings: be on the risers in your assigned spot with folder, music, and pencil.
  - Raise your hand for permission to speak: talking will not be tolerated during rehearsal.
  - Listen to & follow directions the first time given.
  - No objects in your mouth at any time: food, drinks, candy, gum, pen caps, etc.
    - Water is allowed, but bottles must be clear and must have a closable top.
  - Choir room equipment is not to be touched unless given permission by the directors.
  - Students who come to school ill are expected to follow along and participate with others for the entire rehearsal. (Always try your best)
- *Electronic Media* – Any member of this organization representing themselves, or the group, in an unfavorable, questionable or illegal manner through electronic media (i.e. websites, personal home pages, blogs, Facebook, text messages, chat rooms or similar websites/files accessible through a server or internet) or using telecommunication devices in such a way as to bring discredit, dishonor, or disgrace on their 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 appropriate school officials and/or the directors, including probation or dismissal from the organization.
- *Cell Phones*- Cell phones and other devices are to be on silent/vibrate mode upon entering the classroom. **The usage of all devices is prohibited during class time unless approved or requested by the teacher.** If a student is found using their device without proper permission then the item will be taken up by the teacher and will be returned at the end of the day. A discipline referral may also be issued. Cell phones **should never be used during a concert** by performers or audience members.

## PERFORMANCE APPEARANCE

- Each student will be issued a performance uniform. Students are responsible for returning the complete uniform intact at the end of the year. All students will pay a usage fee at the beginning of the year when the uniform is assigned. This fee is included in your child's choir fee. Hemming and alterations will be performed ***only by our in-house seamstress*** to ensure uniformity across all groups. When possible, the same uniform will be issued each year, so alterations may only be needed one time.
- During the year, students are expected to maintain the uniform on their own. **ALL UNIFORMS MUST BE DRY-CLEANED.**  
Do Not Attempt To Iron the Choir Dress or Top.
- Students who lose or damage the uniform will pay the replacement cost of the uniform. Dress uniforms are the property of KISD. They are considered equipment and are only to be worn in performances.

## FORMAL UNIFORM

- The formal choir uniform consists of several parts, some issued by the choir and others that must be provided by choir members. It is important that all parts be standardized or "uniform" within the choir. The condition of your uniform must reflect pride and respect for SLHS Choir.
- **You** are responsible for your uniform and its appearance at all times. If you lose or damage any part of it, you must notify the directors and pay to have it replaced or repaired.
- Uniforms must be kept neat and clean while in student's possession.
- When not in use, the uniform is to be **kept neatly hanging**.
- When wearing the uniform, female students may wear small stud earrings. No necklaces, watches or bracelets will be permitted.
- Hair shall be clean, well groomed, and out of the eyes. Hair must be put half way back or in an up-do for females. No bows or ornaments shall be worn in hair during performances.
  - **Singers may not perform on concerts with un-natural hair colors (ie. purple, green, orange, etc.)**
- Students may not wear cologne or perfume of any kind. Hair spray, nail polish, etc., should not be applied around other people. This is a courtesy to the many people who have allergies.

- Violations of the above standards of grooming will result in a deduction of points for performance and may result in loss of performance privileges or removal from a competition choir.

#### UNIFORM PARTS PROVIDED BY FEMALE STUDENTS

- Black Character Shoes
- Flesh colored hose or knee-highs

*(NOTE: Bel Canto members may choose not to purchase character shoes and may instead wear black closed-toed dress shoes with a sensible heel.)*

#### UNIFORM PARTS PROVIDED BY MALE STUDENTS

- White tux shirt
- Black dress socks
- Black dress shoes

While there may be many locations to purchase character shoes, here is one popular local option:

#### **Costumes and Dancewear**

*515 S Mason Rd, Katy, TX 77450*

*(281) 398-1990*

## INFORMAL CHOIR UNIFORM

- Choir T-Shirt
- Dark Blue Jeans (without holes)
- Closed toed shoes

## VOICE LESSONS

- The voice is an instrument and as such it is important that each individual be given the opportunity to learn how to use their instrument. While each Choir class will devote time to vocal development, it is highly recommended that singers study privately either through the KISD Private Lesson Program or with other teachers in Katy or Houston.
- All voice teachers who teach on campus are contracted by KISD. Students pay the teacher directly. The fee for KISD voice lessons varies, depending on the distinction level of the individual teacher. Depending on your teacher, the charge for voices lessons will be between \$18.50-\$24.50 per half hour. Each teacher will provide a studio policy detailing the preferred method of payment and attendance guidelines. The KISD voice teachers will teach in the Choir Practice Rooms.
- The object of the voice lesson is for students to learn good vocal technique and how their individual voice functions. Students will build a repertoire that includes art songs, arias, and some musical theater or vocal jazz. Students will also study the All-State Choir repertoire, prepare for UIL Solo & Ensemble, and explore various composers and styles appropriate for the individual. In order for the student to be successful, it is crucial that he or she practice between lessons.
- Students desiring private lessons instruction must complete a student application, available from the choir director, and return it to the choir director. A deposit of \$70.00 will be required which shall be given to **the private lesson teacher** before the first lesson is given.
- It is important that the student/parent obtain all contact information from the instructor (phone, email, etc.) in the event a lesson must be missed. Unexcused absences from voices lessons will be charged the full lesson price.