

THE WOODLANDS COLLEGE PARK HIGH SCHOOL CAVALIER CHOIR HANDBOOK

Welcome! We are glad to have you as a member of our organization and looking forward to a great year of making music together. We are proud of the fine tradition of quality music established at The Woodlands College Park High School. In order to maintain this high level of achievement, we must realize that membership in such an organization brings both hard work and responsibility. We invite you to take that responsibility seriously so that together we can create a successful department. Our choir offers multiple extra events & opportunities for musical enrichment. We encourage you to take advantage of these. Be sure that you are working and making a positive contribution to your group. We are looking forward to a great year of working together in a positive environment to create lasting musical memories.

Sincerely,

Taylor Young and Ben Horton

GENERAL INFORMATION

Description

The Woodlands College Park High School choir department offers courses with the goal of helping the student become a creator of music both through performance and active classroom participation. All grade levels are eligible for membership through auditions and/or with the approval of the director.

The choir department takes great pride in the academic achievements of our members. We support and encourage all students to maintain their grades. You will find a cross-section of the school in the choir department. Our members represent all athletic groups, cheerleaders, instrumental music students, student council, and various clubs. We encourage our students to be involved in many activities and to maintain regular, proactive communication with all sponsors & directors.

Choir Mission

Our mission is to develop a musical community. Before we can attain harmony, balance, and blend within our music, we must establish it with one another. To build and strengthen our musical performances, we have to build and strengthen our personal relationships within the group. We strive for a safe environment that encourages risk, vulnerability, growth, persistence, and a focus on excellence. The development of this skill set will empower students to participate in music at any level for their entire lives and teach them skills that are applicable in all facets of their futures.

Purpose

- To serve the school and community through quality concert performances.
- To encourage an appreciation for music as an art form.
- To promote and encourage school spirit and pride.
- To encourage and develop leadership qualities.
- To assist students in gaining an appreciation of all forms and styles of music.
- To help students gain a respect for great performers and performances and discover the demands that quality music performance places on the individual student.
- To cultivate interpersonal skills and help to build self-esteem and confidence.

Choir Department Goals

- To provide musical opportunities that challenge individuals through solos and auditions.
- To develop ensemble skills including blend, balance, group intonation, rhythmic precision, and vocal technique.
- To teach students healthy and safe singing habits at an age appropriate level.
- To discover and develop the talents of students in vocal music.
- To develop knowledge and skills in listening.
- To teach a high degree of music literacy
- To experience a wide variety of vocal literature.
- To develop the ability to comprehend and foster higher-level thinking skills.
- To learn the art of teamwork and cooperation.
- To develop individual responsibility, group and individual respect, and a commitment to our musical family.

COURSE OFFERINGS

Curricular Ensembles

Cantabile and Vox Fortis

These classes are a continuation of skills learned in previous choirs on the junior high and or senior high level. An audition and teacher recommendation is required for this class.

Cantare

These classes are a continuation of skills learned in previous choirs on the junior high and or senior high level. An audition and teacher recommendation is required for this class. A student must perform a solo at Solo and Ensemble or participate in the All-State Process as an expectation for this course.

Chorale

Experience on the high school level and advanced sight-reading skills are necessary for membership in this class. An audition and teacher recommendation are required for this class. A student must perform a solo at Solo and Ensemble or participate in the All-State Process in the previous school year as a prerequisite for enrollment in this class. Students are also expected to participate in Solo & Ensemble or the All-State Process for the current school year.

Chamber

This is an advanced level performance and sight reading class. An audition and a teacher recommendation is required. After school rehearsals will be required for this group. A student must perform a solo at Solo and Ensemble or participate in the All-State Process in the previous school year as a prerequisite for enrollment in this class. Students are also expected to participate in Solo & Ensemble or the All-State Process for the current school year. Participation and travel to Madrigal Festival and Competition are expectations of this class.

SYLLABUS

Students in a choral music course are expected to show a certain level of improvement from the beginning of the semester to the end of the semester. The course content is listed below and is taught according to the level of the course.

Tone Production/Intonation

- Proper breath support and control
- Scales: major, minor, chromatic
- Tonal memory/Ear training
- Healthy and age appropriate vocal technique

Sight Reading

- Intervallic relationships
- Rhythmic accuracy
- Accurate kinesthetic movement to display pitch
- Part independence

Musical Interpretation

- Style
- Dynamics
- Phrasing

Ensemble Awareness

- Musical
- Social
- Responsibilities
- Time management (turning in assignments and memory checks)
- Reliability
- Respect

Performance Skills

- Singing
- Choreography
- Microphone technique
- Stage Presence

Materials

All students will be provided a shared pencil bag for class every day containing a pencil and a set of highlighters (pink, blue, yellow, orange, green). If a student loses or misplaces any of the provided materials they will be expected to provide their own. The folder, pencil bag with supplies, and music will be provided by the program.

Standards of Conduct

Choir members are expected to treat others with respect during class and outside. Students gathered at choir functions at any time are bound by The Woodlands College Park High School general rules.

The quality of performance is determined by the quality of rehearsal. Regular daily rehearsals as well as additional outside of class rehearsals are very important in achieving continuous quality performances. The following guidelines must be adhered to at all times. Failure to do so could result in disciplinary action and your daily participation grade lowered.

- Get your pencil bag from the caddy as you enter the room
- Place all books or backpack in your assigned cubby. You should have nothing but your assigned folder and pencil bag at your seat.
- Get your choir folder and go to your spot on the risers. Your folder is considered your textbook; bring it to class every day. It is ok to take folders home – just make sure they get back to school for daily rehearsals.
- Check the board and TV's for dates and announcements.
- If for some reason you cannot participate in rehearsal, communicate with the director before class. You must participate in any activity that is not physically harmful. Actively observe, mark your music, and learn.
- If a student needs to turn in forms or any other documents, they must do so before or after school. If the form or document is time sensitive, they may turn it in before or after class during the passing period.
- Give total concentration to the music being rehearsed.
- Daily voice lessons begin promptly after the tardy bell rings. These lessons are an integral part of the rehearsal and all singers should participate fully.
- Replace folders and pencil bags in the proper slots and pick up trash at the end of the rehearsal.

CHOIR ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Additional Rehearsals and 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 choir program. Every effort will be made to minimize the amount of out-of-class time required. Therefore, unexcused absences from these activities will have a negative impact on the student's grade. Work is **NOT** an excused absence.

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

Sectional Rehearsals

Sectionals will be scheduled as needed and in advance. Failure to attend will impact the student's grade. Absences can only be excused when notice is given in writing (use the form in CANVAS) and when in advance or immediately upon returning to school in the case of an emergency. Make-up assignments can take the place of the missing grade when the absence is excused.

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 for cases of medical emergency or death in the family, or director discretion. **Prior notification via the conflict form on Canvas** 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. Students may be asked to attend a concert for the program even if the student is not performing to earn credit.

PROBATION AND REMOVAL POLICIES

Conroe ISD and College Park High School recognize the importance of student participation in Co- and Extracurricular activities, including the fine arts, in the total development of the student. We support Co-Curricular activities, which provide a unique experience where students can develop:

❖ Good Character ❖ Self-Discipline ❖ Teamwork ❖ Goal Setting ❖ Social Skills

The District also supports the idea that student participation in Co-Curricular activities is a privilege, not a right. The privilege is earned by being a good student and a good citizen. It is an honor which carries responsibilities. When a student accepts the privilege, he/she must live up to a code of conduct beyond that of the general student body, both on and off school property, both during the season and off-season. This includes the responsibility to adhere to both the Student Code of Conduct as well as the Code of Conduct set forth in the organization handbook. Since Co-Curricular activities are optional, those who choose to participate in them will be held to a higher standard in terms of their behavior and their performance in the classroom. When students neglect these responsibilities or violate the policies set forth in the student handbook these are the resulting consequences:

Category 1: Warning

Category 1 is a warning that takes effect when a student has a minor infraction of the policies and procedures set forth in the student code of conduct or choir handbook. This program will include but is not limited to: - Notification to the student and parent. - Intervention by the counselor. - Encouragement to make restitution or improve behavior. - Encouragement to take advantage of extra help opportunities

Category 2: Probation

Category 2 is instated when a student has failed to improve the behavior, has repeated the behavior, or committed a major infraction of the policies and procedures. This student will be on participation probation. The director will determine the amount of time and activities required for the probationary period and communicate it to the student. If the student at the end of the probationary period has corrected the behavior the student can be reinstated to full participation in the program. Students on probation are still expected to participate fully in all classroom activities and outside rehearsals. Students will be given the opportunity to make-up any graded performance missed because of the probation.

Category 3: Removal

Category 3 is instated when a student has failed to improve the behavior or has violated the terms of the probation. A student will be removed from any opportunity to perform with any ensemble

that is part of the organization and is to return the uniform immediately. When possible, a student will be removed from the class period and placed into an available elective. The counselor will decide when this is possible and into what class the student will be placed. If a class change is not possible, the student will complete the TEKS on an individual basis from materials provided by the teacher in a practice room during the class period and will be graded on individual demonstrations of the knowledge and skills.

MUSIC LIBRARY POLICIES

- Music is assigned to you by number and you are responsible for it. Lost or damaged music must be paid for.
- Folders may be taken home but must be present at school the next day. Your music folder is your textbook.
- No one is allowed in the music library without a librarian present.
- All business matters having to deal with fees for damaged/lost music, paying for rehearsal CDs, etc., will only be dealt with before or after school or during advisory.

GRADING POLICIES

Students are graded on a point system. The student's nine-week grade will be averaged as follows: Formative Grades 40% (Active participation [15%] and Assessment Grades [25%]) and Summative Major Grades 60%

1. Active Participation Grades - Formative (Daily Grades) (15%)

The participation grade is determined by the level of participation during class each week including:

- active participation
- safety – no gum, and appropriate use of risers and materials
- having a pencil
- having all music
- skills being developed

2. Assessment Grades - Formative (Quiz Grades) (25%)

The assessment grade is determined by assessments given during class time including:

- music theory assessments
- aural dictation
- written assignments

3. Performance Grades - Summative (Major Grades 60%)

Participation in rehearsals and performances outside normal school hours is a necessary part of choir courses per our state mandated TEKS. *Performances serve as a unit exam therefore attendance is required for the entirety of all performances and pre-scheduled rehearsals.* Performances are listed on the choir calendar. Rehearsals after school will be minimal and scheduled with at least two weeks of advanced notice.

An excused absence from a choir rehearsal or concert will require the same criteria as an excused absence from school and is up to the discretion of the choir directors. Examples of excused absences could be the following: personal illness where the student has been absent for the entirety of the school day, a death in the family, or family emergency. **The parent or student should communicate with the director PRIOR to the event and submit a written excuse upon return.** The form, called “Conflict Form” to excuse an absence, is in CANVAS under the “Forms” Module.

3. Assignments & Tests – Formative and Summative

Special emphasis will be placed on monitoring individual vocal skills and sight-reading through singing tests and written evaluations.

4. Make-up Work and Assignments

Students who are absent from a concert, submit their conflict form **on time (before the day of the concert or performance) and receive notification that the absence is excused** will be given an assignment through Canvas in which they can earn full credit for the missed performance. Students who are absent from a concert and **do not submit their conflict form on time (after the day of the performance) and/or receive notification that their absence is unexcused** will be given an assignment through Canvas in which they can earn up to 80% of the full credit of the missed performance.

UNIFORM POLICIES

The idea of a uniform is that we appear as a unified group. We want to take pride in our organization, school, and community as a whole. Our appearance is one way to show a performer's attitude.

- Uniforms will be issued by the Booster Club and parent volunteers. Students must report at their assigned time (we try to have students fitted during class time).
- A uniform maintenance/rental fee is included in the Booster Club membership.
- If a uniform is damaged beyond repair, damages must be paid for, so students are encouraged to take care of his/her uniform. The Booster Club will fix small holes.
- Tuxedos: students must furnish their own black dress shoes and black socks along with a white t-shirt under the tuxedo shirt.
- Dresses: students must furnish their own black closed-toe dress shoes.
- Jewelry will be permitted if it follows the following guidelines: 1 watch, 1 ring, earrings smaller than a dime
- Hair should be well groomed and out of your eyes during performances.
- Uniforms must be neat and clean.
- **DO NOT** use a sewing machine on these garments.
- Cleaning should follow the instructions given by the Booster Club. Careful cleaning is encouraged and appreciated.
- Uniforms will be turned in after the final performance of the year. Please note that the Booster Club will pay for the final cleaning of the year for families in good standing.

Choir Polo

Students are required to purchase the CPHS Choir Polo. This shirt will be worn with khaki slacks or jeans (depending on the event) for special occasions and activities when we want to look uniform but not formal. If we are performing in this attire, you must wear long khaki pants (or jeans) and tennis shoes or other closed-toe shoes (no sandals, Crocs or flip-flops).

Other CPHS choir merchandise will be made available for purchase, however the shirt is the only **required** item and is available through the Cavalier Choir Booster Club.

- If there are financial barriers that impede this purchase please see directors for available assistance.

RECEIVING A VARSITY CHOIR LETTER

The College Park High School Choir Department is a co-curricular activity. The grade reflects what you do in class but hours spent outside of the classroom are awarded with a Varsity Choir Letter. The qualifications are set by a category system. To receive a letter, you must complete **ONE** of the following tracks:

- Category **A** plus 3 items from category **B**
- Category **A** plus 1 item from category **B** and 2 items from category **C**
- Category **A** plus 6 items from category **C**
- Category **A** plus category **D**

Category A

- No unexcused absences from choir performances or extra rehearsals
- Participated in fundraising or donation to the program
 - If there are financial barriers that impede participation please see directors for available assistance
- Taking voice lessons is NOT mandatory. However, dropping voice lessons once study has begun will make a student ineligible for a letter

Category B

- Selection as a member of the Region 9 Choir or Honor Choir
- Advancement to the area audition
- Selection as a member of the TMEA All-State Choir
- Receiving a superior rating at UIL Solo competition

Category C

- Attending a Summer All-State Camp
- Participation in the district audition (not applicable if a member of region choir)
- Participation in the region audition (not applicable if a member of region choir)
- Receiving an excellent rating at UIL Solo competition
- Participation in the Choir Spring Trip
- 2 semesters of consistent private vocal instruction by CISD approved teacher
- Attending a Region Audition workshop
- Active participation in 85% of our Social Activities
- Selection as a soloist for the Star-Spangled Banner (5+ performances at CPHS)
- Attendance at 12 + outside music ensemble performances (documentation necessary)
- Selection and participation in the Military Salute or Pop Show
- Accumulation of 20+ service hours to CPHS Choir documented on the website
- 3 consecutive years in choir -- This applies only to rising seniors

Category D

- Seniors who participated for four years of choir in good standing will receive a letter jacket/ letter in the spring of the Senior Year if it is the first time to letter in choir (no bars)

Note: The accumulation of 4 items from **Category E** will change the requirements for lettering. An additional item from **Category B** or 2 additional items from **Category C** will be necessary to obtain a varsity choir letter.

Category E

- Improper care of music
- Unfulfilled officer duties
- Late music return
- Tardy/Attendance issues
- Inappropriate behavior while representing CPHS (i.e., disrespect to adults, profanity, breaking school rules, etc.)

CHOIR CALENDAR

Dates and times will sometimes need to be updated upon receipt of more specific information from UIL/TMEA; always check the choir website for the most up-to-date information: You can use the sportsYou app, CANVAS, or the website.

THE WOODLANDS COLLEGE PARK HIGH SCHOOL CAVALIER CHOIR WEBSITE:

www.cavalierchoir.com

Acknowledgment Form

I have received the Choir Handbook and understand the policies set forth in the handbook. To maintain membership in the program I will abide by the policies and procedures included.

Student Name: _____ **Class Period:** _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

SUPPLIES REQUESTED BY CHOIR CLASS

2nd, 3rd, and 4th period – a box of Kleenex

1st and 5th period – small package of AA batteries or Kleenex

6th period – Colored paper (pink, green, salmon, purple, yellow or blue) or Kleenex

If you cannot provide your listed supply, please bring a package of pencils