



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,

Erin Bodhaine and Kent Doerries

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. The diversity of our members makes this a special and unique group. 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 must create a safe atmosphere that encourages risk, 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

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 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

Bel Canto, Cantabile, Colla Voce, Cantare and Bravados

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.

Chorale

Experience on the high school level and advanced sight-reading skills are necessary for membership in this class. Students are required to either participate in the TMEA All-State Process or Solo and Ensemble. 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 a prerequisite for enrollment in this class.

Rhythm 'n' Blue

This is an advanced level performance class. Performance skills including singing, dancing, drama, and entertainment are taught. An audition and a teacher recommendation is required. After school rehearsals and performances are quite extensive for this group.

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

Music Reading

- Intervallic relationships
- Rhythmic accuracy

Musical Interpretation

- Style
- Dynamics
- Phrasing

Ensemble Awareness

- Musical
- Social
- Responsibilities
- Reliability

Performance Skills

- Singing
- Choreography
- Drama
- Microphone technique
- Entertaining skills

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 choir folder as you enter the room; be seated and make sure you have a pencil. Check the board for dates and announcements.
- Place all books out of the way in your assigned cubby. You should have nothing but your assigned folder at your seat. 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.
- 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.
- 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 in the proper slots, straighten the chairs and pick up trash at the end of the rehearsal.

CHOIR ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Class Attendance

Unlike individual activities such as an academic class, it is impossible to make-up activities that occur in a choir rehearsal. Unexcused absences will have a negative impact on the student's grade.

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 be treated in the same manner as an unexcused absence from class, and it will affect 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 and when in advance or immediately upon returning to school. Make-up assignments can take the place of the missing grade.

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. **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. Students may be asked to attend a concert for the program even if the student is not performing.

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.

GRADING POLICIES

Students are graded on a point system. The student's nine-week grade will be averaged as follows:

1. Formative/ Daily Grades (30%)

The daily grade is determined by the level of participation during class and by following the classroom rules. Commonly, deductions are the result of:

- participation
- gum
- having a pencil
- having all music
- skill being developed

2. Summative/ Major Grades (70%)

Participation in rehearsals and performances outside normal school hours is a necessary part of choir courses. ***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 plenty of advanced notice.

An excused absence from a choir rehearsal or concert will require the same criteria as an excused absence from school: 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 choir office number is 936-709-3125; you may also email the directors at ebodhaine@conroeisd.net or mmccravy@conroeisd.net.

AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM A PERFORMANCE WILL RESULT IN A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION OF THE NINE-WEEK GRADE.

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. Materials- Formative

All students will need to provide a pencil for class every day and a set of highlighters (pink, blue, yellow, orange, green). These can be kept in a pencil bag in your choir folder.

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 uniform committee. Students must report at their assigned time, as no class time will be used for issuance or measuring for uniforms.
- A uniform maintenance/rental fee is included in the Booster Club membership and must be paid (at least partially) before the uniform can be issued.
- Damages must be paid for, so students are encouraged to take care of his/her uniform.
- Male students must furnish their own black dress shoes and black socks along with a white t-shirt under the tuxedo shirt.
- Female 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!
- Tuxedos and dresses must be dry-cleaned only.
- 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.

Choir Shirts

Students are required to purchase the TWCPHS Choir Shirt. 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 or flip-flops).

Other TWCPHS 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.

RECEIVING A VARSITY LETTER

The Woodlands 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

- No unexcused absences from choir performances or extra rehearsals
- Met all outlines fundraising goals at 100% or comparable donation to the program
- 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 (class I or II selection)

Category C

- Attending a Summer All-State Camp
- Participation in the CISD District camp in August
- 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 a excellent rating at UIL Solo competition (Class I or II selection)
- Receiving a superior rating at UIL Solo competition (Class III selection)
- Participation in the Choir Spring Trip
- 2 semesters of consistent private vocal instruction by CISD approved teacher
- Attending a summer camp for All-State Music
- Attending the CISD or other additional local District workshop
- Active participation in the Siblings Program
- Selection as a soloist for the Star-Spangled Banner (5+ performances at TWCPHS)
- Attendance at 12 + outside performances (documentation necessary)
- Selection and participation in the Military Salute or Pop Show
- Accumulation of 20+ service hours to TWCPHS Choir documented on the website
- 3 consecutive years in choir -- This applies only to rising seniors

Seniors- 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 D** 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 D

- Improper care of music
- Unfulfilled officer duties
- Late music return
- Tardy to a performance
- Inappropriate behavior while representing TWCPHS (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: CavalierChoir.com.

**THE WOODLANDS COLLEGE PARK HIGH SCHOOL
CAVALIER CHOIR HANDBOOK
www.cavalierchoir.com**

Acknowledgment Form

I, the undersigned, acknowledge receipt and comprehension of this handbook and agree to abide and be bound by its policies, both written and implied:

_____	_____	_____
Student's Written Name	Student's Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Parent's Written Name	Parent's Signature	Date

Please email ebodhaine@conroeisd.net if you would like a hard copy of the handbook

Please sign and return this form along with the supply listed below to your choir director:

2nd period – a small package of pencils

4th period – a small package of CDs

3rd period – small package of AA batteries

5th and 6th period – Colored paper (pink, green, salmon, purple, yellow or blue)

If you cannot provide your listed supply, please bring something from another class