

# Bandera I.S.D. Choir Program Charter 2011-2012

Catherine Holmes is the Bandera High School Choir director and sponsor, as well as assistant to Bandera Middle School Choirs. Marc Laine is the Bandera Middle School Choir director and sponsor as well as assistant to Bandera High School Choirs.

## Structure of Program

### Bandera Middle School

The Bandera I.S.D. Choir Program begins in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade choir. This group's purpose is to introduce beginning singers to the fundamentals of music reading, learn sight reading skills, and the techniques of singing and singing performance. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade choir will participate in at least two formal concerts and one music festival each year, as well as participate in the music festival in the spring.

After this introductory year, students will advance to the upper level choirs at Bandera Middle School. Middle School girls will advance to the Women's Choir, and boys will advance to the Men's Choir. These groups will continue to learn music fundamentals as well as improve their singing technique, and advance their sight reading skills. These choirs will compete at the music festival in the spring as well as participate in two formal concerts each year. BMS Choirs will compete each year in the spring at UIL Contest and Sight Reading. There are also opportunities for members of the BMS Choirs to audition for the Region 11 Middle School All Region Choir.

\*\*Students must be eligible according to the Texas UIL Rules and must be in good standing with the Bandera I.S.D. student code of conduct in order to participate in any contest, competition, or festival. Any Bandera Middle School choir student who violates the Bandera I.S.D. student code of conduct may be disciplined by the Bandera Middle School Administrators.

### Bandera High School

At the high school level there are four choirs. All choirs learn music fundamentals, music theory, develop sight reading skills, and study and practice proper singing technique. All choirs are responsible for performing in at least two concerts per year. All choir members are also able to compete in the UIL Solo and Ensemble competition, Region 11 All Region Choir Auditions, Region 11 Treble Region Auditions, and go on the annual spring trip as long as they meet UIL grade eligibility requirements.

**Chorale:** This is an advanced women's choir. Members of this choir are auditioned. This choir competes at UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest at the Varsity level.

**Tenor Choir:** This is a men's choir. This is a beginner to advanced level choir. They learn songs specifically written for male ensembles. This choir may compete at UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest.

**Treble Choir:** This is an entry level choir for female students who have never been in choir or need more training and experience with singing. This choir may compete at UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest.

**Jazz Choir:** This is an auditioned advanced level small ensemble choir. This choir studies and performs different styles of jazz music written for small vocal jazz ensembles. This group also performs with the Bandera High School Jazz Band on several occasions throughout the school year. This choir may compete at UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest.

\*\*Students must be eligible according to the State of Texas UIL Rules and must be in good standing with the Bandera I.S.D. student code of conduct in order to participate in any contest, competition, or festival. Any Bandera High School choir student who violates the Bandera I.S.D. student code of conduct may be disciplined by the Bandera High School Administrators, and if

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a student is a member of an auditioned choir ensemble, the BHS Choir Director will decide whether the student will be allowed to remain a member of the auditioned choir ensemble.

**\*\*Any Bandera High School student who is a member of an auditioned choir ensemble whose behavior distracts the class consistently in a negative and unproductive manner, or if a student has failing grades for two six weeks grading periods within one semester, may lose their membership with the auditioned choir ensemble. This decision will be made by the BHS Choir Director.**

### **Student Leadership**

Both middle school choirs and high school choirs elect officers for their organizations. Offices included are: President, Vice President, and Secretary. Other offices may be added if the need arises. Elections for these offices take place at the beginning of the school year, and the officers elected will take office the following school year. Officers representing the choirs hold office throughout the school year as long as they are in good standing in the organization, pass all their classes every six weeks, and follow the Student Code of Conduct.

### **Student Activity Fund Structure**

The activity fund for the Bandera I.S.D. choir students is set up in an individual account format, i.e. each student earns money through fundraising or donations for their account. The choral director is responsible for keeping a spreadsheet and recording the student's individual account activity. Primarily, these funds are used for the spring festival trips and pay for the cost of each student's participation in the festival (and hotel room for high school students). Registration fees for the festivals are not taken from these accounts. However, the amount may include money for other contingencies such as, a nurse, an accompanist, a special needs teacher, ect.. Students are informed of the amount they will need to participate in the spring festival and that they may participate in the fundraising opportunities offered to them or donate cash to their account.

If any student raises an amount over what is needed for that year's participation or is unable to participate, their money is held in their account for their use the following year. When a middle school choir student is promoted to high school, any left over funds from their middle school account is transferred to their high school account. In like fashion, any remaining money left in a student's high school account at the end of a given year will be rolled over for use the next year. In this way, students have an opportunity to do long –term fundraising for the high school festivals which range anywhere from approximately \$100.00 per person for an in-state festival to as much as \$400.00 per person for an out-of-state festival.

When a student exits the choir program, any funds that have been raised through fundraising activities will remain in the choir's activity account. **If requested**, funds that were **donated** to the student's account may be refunded to the student's parent(s) or guardian. Upon written request, students may have their remaining funds transferred to another student's account. For instance, a graduated senior may request that any money they have remaining in their account be transferred to a younger sibling's account.

The high school choir activity account is also used for the purchase of choir shirts and for the paying of uniform cleaning fees. Students deposit this money at the beginning of the year, and the money is dispersed as needed during the year.

Outside these normal account activities, dispersal of funds from the activity account must have written permission of the organization officers. This written permission will accompany the requisition for the funds requested.