

# Bandera Middle School Choir Department

PO Box 727 Bandera, Texas 78003 (830) 796-6311

Dear Parents and Students,

We are very excited and pleased that you have chosen to be a member of the BANDERA MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR DEPARTMENT. In order to maintain high standards and to continue to grow in a tradition of success, the following guidelines have been made available to you so that you know what will be expected of students. If you feel these guidelines cannot be met, please let us know so that we can discuss your transfer to a different ensemble or elective. **In order to be good, you must want to be good!** Please be sure to read the following information so that you will understand those expectations and the other policies such as grading, participation, attendance and preparation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the school office at 796-6270 to speak with me or email me at mlaine@banderaisd2.net.

## I. Grading Policy

Grades will be an average of performance and rehearsal attendance (if applicable), daily participation in class activities, music theory and related skills, rehearsal preparation and proper classroom materials and conduct. A student starts each day with a "100"

1. 50% will be derived from classroom and concert participation.

Concert grades will be earned on the following basis:

On time with proper concert attire. Points will be deducted if the student is tardy for the student's call time (-10 points) or improper attire for concert (-10 points). Any conflict that might require a student to be absent from a performance will need to be submitted to the Director **prior to the event**. An example of an excused absence would include a death in the family, personal illness (with doctor's excuse) or absence from school, other family or personal related emergencies. **Choir concerts are mandatory because they are a culmination of learning efforts in the classroom and therefore an unexcused absence from a concert will result in 3 ZEROS entered into the grade average.** The only way to make up this concert would be for the student to sing all of their music for the director within a week after the concert if it is an excused absence. The dates for known concerts are included in this handbook. If other dates are added, parents will be notified in a timely manner.

2. 50% will be derived from singing and sight reading tests, music worksheets, music quizzes and projects throughout the year.

## II. REHEARSALS

1. Extra choir rehearsals outside the regular classroom time and may occur at the discretion of the Director but will be given in advance so that plans for rides home may be arranged.

## III. MUSIC, EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, UNIFORMS

1. Students are expected to take their music home and practice on a regular basis. **THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO BE PRACTICED!**
2. **Students must have a pencil during class for use in class activities.** I will have pencils in the classroom, so there should be no excuse.
3. Some students will be required to provide their own formal uniforms. For the ladies this would include a white blouse and a black skirt going below the knees and appropriate shoes. **NO FLIP FLOPS!** For the gentlemen, white button down long sleeved shirts, dark pants (**NO JEANS**), dark socks and appropriate shoes (**NO TENNIS SHOES**). When we perform, we want to look as professional as possible, not "ragtag".

The Concert Choir has their own uniform, but will need to have a **pair of black closed toe dress shoes**. (again **NO FLIP FLOPS**) We will discuss this as we get closer to concerts.

4. Choir students will need to purchase the Bandera MS Choir Shirt for their informal uniform. More information will be sent to parents at a later date. The students may wear a nice pair of jeans with the choir shirt for an informal concert. The director will let the students know what uniform they need to wear for the concert.

#### **IV. CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS, BEHAVIOR and RULES**

1. **BE PREPARED AND READY TO LEARN** - have all of your materials for class, be on time, be at your assigned seat when it is time to begin class. Tardies will be recorded if a student is late without a written excuse after the Director calls the class to begin. Correct posture is required when seated. All other books and materials not associated with Choir will not be allowed in the rehearsal area
2. **BE ATTENTIVE** - listen and participate when asked, do not talk during rehearsal time, pay attention when the Director is working with another group. Students may talk only during an announced "free time". Classroom talk is not appropriate during rehearsal time. **When the Director is speaking, students will remain quiet and attentive!**
3. **ALLOW OTHERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN WITHOUT DISTRACTIONS**  
Horseplay, disruptive behavior, loud talking, boisterous behavior, rude and abusive gestures, running, fighting, are not allowed and could result in extreme consequences or dismissal from the music program. Please remember to raise your hand to get permission to talk. **\*\* YOU MAY DO NOTHING THAT INTERFERES WITH THE LEARNING OR THE TEACHING OF THE ENSEMBLE.**
4. **RESPECT OTHERS AND THEIR PROPERTY** – Do not mess with bags or articles that are not yours. Inappropriate language is NEVER TOLERATED!!
5. **GROOMING ARTICLES** - make-up, brushes, combs, mirrors and other articles will not be used in the Music Room at any time.
6. **CONSUME FOOD, CANDY, GUM AND DRINKS AT ANOTHER TIME** - these items are not allowed in the Music Room at any time. Water is the only drink allowed in the choir hall.
7. **EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOR IS EXPECTED OF ALL CHOIR STUDENTS AT ALL TIMES** - serious violations of BISD policies, excessive absences from rehearsals, excessive assignments to ISS, AEP and suspensions could result in dismissal/exclusion from the music program.
8. **NO STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED IN THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE OR OFFICE AREA WITHOUT PERMISSION.**
9. **PUT ALL MUSIC, AWAY NEATLY AND IN THEIR PROPER PLACE DAILY.**
10. **DO NOT LOITER IN THE MUSIC ROOM.**
11. **NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE MUSIC ROOM WHEN THE DIRECTORS ARE AWAY.**
12. **ONLY CHOIR/MUSIC STUDENTS, PARENTS AND TEACHERS WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE MUSIC ROOM.**
13. **ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE ALLOWED ONLY IF THE DIRECTOR SAYS THEY ARE.**  
The student will get one warning to put it away. If had to ask again, the director will take it away and give it to the front office.

## FOR STUDENTS (GUIDELINES FOR PRACTICING)

1. You should practice every day.
2. Warm-up properly. It is good to use those warm-up techniques as used in class.
3. Work on new material while you are fresh. You should have a variety of things to practice.
  - a) Sight-Reading: stress counting in one session, key awareness, count through each line before you attempt to perform it (rhythm is very important)
  - b) Review previously learned music
  - c) Include self-evaluation. Tape your practice session and review it.

## HELPING YOUR CHILD BE SUCCESSFUL IN MUSIC

1. Help your child find and keep a time (and a place) for practice.
2. Attend concerts and talk about music.
3. Positive comments about their practice and concerts are vital to ensure self-esteem Do not assume the child does not need to be reminded to practice.
4. Do not assume your child will always practice on their own, encourage them to do so.
5. ***Above all, never make your child practice as punishment.***

As always, the Bandera Middle School Choir Department is striving to do its best in competitions and performances. The biggest goal we have is to make music and become the best person and musician we can. We need to approach every rehearsal, practice session and class time with dedication and hard work.

Please sign and return the acknowledgement page below indicating receipt of this information. This page will be due back to the Director in one week.

Mr. Laine and Mrs. Holmes  
BMS Choir Directors  
[mlaine@banderaisd2.net](mailto:mlaine@banderaisd2.net)  
[cholmes@banderaisd2.net](mailto:cholmes@banderaisd2.net)

## Dates to remember for 2017-18 with BMS Choir

Middle School Region Choir Auditions (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders)

Taft HS San Antonio

**10/20 and 10/21 (Friday and Saturday)**

**Times TBA**

MS Region Choir Clinic and Concert (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who made Region choir)

Location TBA in San Antonio

**11/4/16 (Saturday) All Day**

**Holiday Concert for All Choirs**

Bandera HIGH School

**12/12/16 (Tuesday) 630pm** 600pm Call time for all choirs

**UIL Choir contest (Concert Choir + others?)**

Location TBA

**4/9/17 (Wednesday) Times TBA**

Spring Trip

San Antonio TX

Time and Date TBA

**Spring Concert for ALL choirs**

Bandera HIGH School

**5/24/17 630pm** 600pm call time for all choirs

Others performances will be added, but I will get them to you in a timely manner so that you know what will be happening.

# *The Choirs at Bandera Middle School*

## *6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir*

*This class is made up of 6<sup>th</sup> graders only and will concentrate on learning the aspects of music theory (the language of music), how to read and write music and development of their singing voice. These students are expected to sing at all announced concerts.*

## *Tenor/ Bass Choir*

*This choir is made up of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys. They will be learning to read and write music, aspects of music theory (the language of music) and continue to develop their singing voices. These students are expected to sing at all announced concerts and try out for TMEA region 29 honor choir in October. If the director feels they are prepared, they may participate at the spring UIL concert and sight-reading contest.*

## *Treble Choir*

*This choir is made up of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls. They will be learning to read and write music, aspects of music theory (the language of music) and continue to develop their singing voices. These students are expected to sing at all announced concerts, try out for TMEA region 29 honor choir in October. If the director feels they are prepared, they may participate at the spring UIL concert and sight-reading contest.*

## *Concert Choir*

*This auditioned choir is made up of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls. They will be learning to read and write music, aspects of music theory (the language of music) and continue to develop their singing voice. These students are expected to perform at all announced concerts, tryout for the TMEA region 29 middle school honor choir in October and perform at the spring UIL concert and sight-reading contest.*

# Expected Behaviors for Participation Grades!!

## A (90-100)

- The students always participates in classroom activities
- The student never talks out or intentionally disrupts class
- The student is always attentive and cooperative
- The student always applies his/her best effort to the music

## B (80-89)

- The student usually participates in classroom activities
- The student almost never talks out or intentionally disrupts class
- The student is usually attentive and cooperative
- The student usually applies his/her best effort to the music

## C (70-79)

- The student participates about half the time
- The student talks or disrupts the class about half the time
- The student is attentive and cooperates about half the time
- The student applies his/her best effort about half the time

## F (69 and below)

- The student virtually never participates in classroom activities
- The student is frequently noisy and disruptive
- The student is virtually never attentive or cooperative
- The student is making little or no effort to learn music.

**Student Data Sheet**

Name (first, middle, last)

Student ID Number

Address

City, St Zip

Home Phone

Cell Phone

E-mail

Grade

Gender

**Adult 1 Information**

Adult Name (first last)

Address

City, St Zip

Work Phone

Home Phone

Cell Phone

E-mail

E-mail 2

Relation

Occupation

**Adult 2 Information**

Adult Name (first last)

Address

City, St Zip

Work Phone

Home Phone

Cell Phone

E-mail

E-mail 2

Relation

Occupation

PLEASE FILL OUT WITH YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!! I USE EMAIL TO SEND OUT INFORMATION TO YOU!! IF YOU DON'T HAVE AN EMAIL, LET ME KNOW!!!  
**TEAR OFF THIS PART AND RETURN THIS PART TO MR. LAINE!**

## *AGREEMENT*

We, the undersigned, have read and understood, and we agree to abide by all requirements, policies, and expectations as described in the Bandera MS Choir Handbook 2016-17..

Student's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_  
(printed)

STUDENT Signature **X** \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Names \_\_\_\_\_  
(printed)

PARENT Signature **X** \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to help out with anything that the choir may need during the year? We are always looking for chaperones, parents to help during class, to help provide snacks occasionally, etc. I would really like some help with some hemming of dresses sometime in Sept. or Oct. Please list below what you would be willing to help with choir program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you very much!!!

Marc Laine  
Choir Director  
mlaine@banderaisd2.net