

Bandera I.S.D. Choir Constitution 2018-2019

I. Structure of Choir Programs

Bandera Middle School

The choirs at the middle school include;

6th Grade Mixed Choir - This group consists of 6th grade young men and women. The purpose is to introduce beginning singers to the fundamentals of music reading, learn sight reading skills, music technology, and the techniques of singing and singing performance.

Women's and Men's Choir - These groups consists of 7th and 8th grade young men and women who may or may not have any musical experience. These students will learn fundamentals of music reading, singing technique, music technology, singing performance skills, and sight reading skills.

Advanced Women's Concert Choir- These groups consist of 7th and 8th grade young women who have had at least one year experience in the middle school choir program and/or have been approved by the choir director to participate in an advanced choir. These groups will continue to learn music fundamentals as well as improve their singing technique and performance skills, as well as advance their sight reading skills. A student is allowed into the Advanced Women's Concert Choir by audition only. The Advanced Women's Concert Choir may participate in the UIL concert and sight-reading contest during the spring semester as decided by the director.

All choir members are responsible to participate in the required choir concert performances which count as test grades, unless a student is excused by the director. If a students cannot participate in a required concert performance an alternative assignment may be provided. Members of the choir (with the exception of the 6th grade choir) will be highly encouraged to try out for the TMEA Region 29 All Region Choir. All choir students will be encouraged but not required to participate in the Spring Festival trip that takes place during the spring semester.

****Students must be eligible according to the current Texas UIL Rules and must be in good standing with the current 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, and if applicable, may not be allowed to participate in a contest, competition, or festival.**

****Any Bandera Middle School student who is a member of an advanced choir ensemble whose behavior distracts the class consistently in a negative and unproductive manner, or violates the code of conduct rules stated in the current BISD Student Handbook, or 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 BISD Choir Directors.

Bandera High School

At the high school level there are four choirs. All choirs continue to learn music fundamentals, music theory, develop sight reading skills, and practice proper singing technique, and learn to use music technology. All choir members are responsible for performing at all required concerts per year. All choir members are highly encouraged to compete in the UIL Solo and Ensemble competition, the Small School All Region Choir Auditions, the Treble Region Auditions, and the annual Spring Trip Festival as long as they meet UIL grade eligibility requirements and are in good standing with the current Bandera I.S.D. student code of conduct.

Varsity Chorale: This is an auditioned advanced level women's treble choir. This choir may compete at UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest at the Varsity level.

Tenor/Bass Choir: This is a choir for Tenor/Bass voices. This is a beginner to advanced level choir. This choir learn songs specifically written for tenor/bass ensembles. This choir may compete at UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest.

Junior Varsity Choir: This is an entry level/intermediate choir for female treble voice students who have never been in choir or would like 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 mixed voice (soprano/alto/tenor/bass) ensemble. This choir studies and performs a variety of styles of music, from Jazz music, pop music, to classical / traditional choral music written for mixed vocal jazz ensembles. This group may occasionally perform with the Bandera High School Jazz Band, as well as perform for different local events throughout the school year. This choir may compete at UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest.

****Students must be eligible according to the current State of Texas UIL Rules and must be in good standing with the current 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 current Bandera I.S.D. student code of conduct may be disciplined by the Bandera High School Administrators. If a student is a member of an auditioned choir ensemble, the BHS Choir Directors 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 violates the code of conduct rules stated in the current BISD Student Handbook, or 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 BISD Choir Directors.**

II. Student Leadership

Both middle school choirs and high school choirs elect officers for their organizations. Offices included are: President, Vice President, and Secretary at the Middle School and President, Vice President, Secretary, and Historian at the High School. Other offices may be added if the need arises. Elections for these offices take place at the end or beginning of the school year, and the officers elected will take office the following school year. Middle school officer descriptions are in the BMS Choir Handbook. High school officer descriptions are in the BHS Choir handbook. Officers representing the choirs may hold office throughout the school year as long as they are in good standing in the organization, are eligible every six weeks, and follow the current Student Code of Conduct. Student officers will preside over meetings with guidance by the BISD choir directors. Any Bandera High School choir student officer, who violates the current Bandera I.S.D. student code of conduct, does not remain in good standing in the organization, or becomes ineligible, may be removed from office by the BISD Choir Directors. Should a choir officer exit the choir program, or be removed from office, all other student offices will move up in rank, and the vacated office will be filled by a student who is voted in by the current choir members.

III. Bandera ISD Choir 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 choir student activity funds are used for:

- The spring festival trips and pay for the cost of each student's participation in the festival (and hotel room and transportation for overnight festival trips for high school students). Student's not participating in the fundraiser will be expected to use donations to pay for their part of the spring trip.
- Choir T-shirt
- Uniform cleaning/repair
- Field trips such as a school sponsored field trip to a concert or musical.
- Choir scholarships can be awarded to choir students who are not financially able to participate in a festival, not able to afford a choir t-shirt, or attend a choir camp/contest or musical event. The scholarship requirements will be determined on an individual basis by the choir director(s). A choir scholarship

recipient will be approved by the choir director(s).

- Additional items as approved by the choir officers and written approval will be required. This written permission will accompany the requisition for the funds requested.

**The high school choir students are required to pay a choir fee at the beginning of the school year. This choir fee can be a donation or come from money their individual student account which covers the cost of the t-shirt and any uniform cleaning/repairs. This money is dispersed as needed during the school year. There is no middle school choir fee.

Students are informed of the amounts they will need to participate in choir activities and that they may participate in the fundraising opportunities offered to them or donate cash to their account. Spring Festivals / Field Trips are not a required activity and their participation or nonparticipation will not affect a student's choir grade.

When a middle school choir student is promoted to high school choir, any leftover funds from their middle school choir account are transferred to their high school choir account. In like fashion, any remaining money left in a student's school choir 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 upcoming school choir activities.

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 choir student's account may be refunded to the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) upon written request within one month of the date the student exits the choir program. Students may have their remaining funds transferred to another student's account which must be submitted within one month of exiting the choir program upon written request. For instance, a graduating senior may request that any fundraising money they have remaining in their account may be transferred to a younger sibling's or friend's account. Any graduating senior choir member's funds not donated to another student's account will be considered funds that are available to benefit the remaining student members of the choir program.

Revised May 2018