

Cinco Ranch High School Choir Handbook 2011-2012



CRHS Choir Vision Statement

Together we will soar to new heights in choir through discipline, dedication, and determination in order to provide a unique experience for all members and audiences while making music that has an impact.

CRHS Choir Council and Directors

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Why sing?

"A bird doesn't sing because it has the answer. It sings because it has a song." Maya Angelou

"Body, mind, spirit, voice! It takes the whole person to sing and rejoice!" Helen Kemp, Music Educator

"Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything." Plato

"Music has the power of producing a certain effect on the moral character of the soul, and if it has the power to do this, it is clear that the young must be directed to music and must be educated in it."

Aristotle, Politics

"A performing group is a microcosm of society. In addition to well documented, skills related to music reading, self-expression, self-discipline and concentration, performers become independent. There is no more important skill required in a democratic society than that of sharing common goals with others and working together to achieve them." Sally Schott, Past TMEA President, Texas Music Educator, 1984

GREETINGS and WELCOME to the Cinco Ranch High School Choral Department!

The Cinco High School Choral Department is built on a philosophy and commitment to tradition, musical excellence and pride in all that we do. This depends on the cooperation of ALL choral students, parents and friends. The success of each choir demands that EACH member claim personal responsibility and *ownership!* Membership in the Cinco Ranch High School Choir will provide many opportunities for growth as an individual and as a team member.

The Cinco Ranch High School Choir program has established a strong tradition of excellence both on our campus, in the local community, and across the state. We welcome you as part of our choir family and look forward to getting to know you. With your support and commitment, this will be year of successful music making! Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns that may arise throughout the year.

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Cinco Ranch High School Choir Teacher Weblink:

<http://kisdwebs.katyisd.org/campuses/CRHS/teacherweb/choir/Pages/Welcome.aspx>

KATY ISD FINE ARTS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Katy Independent School District Fine Arts Department is to prepare students to be successful in a diverse and ever-changing society through experiences in the Fine Arts by designing and supporting the delivery of an aligned, articulate, assessed and progressive performance-based curriculum that encourages all students to reach their academic, creative and expressive potential by fostering a life-long involvement in the arts.

CINCO RANCH HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

The Cinco Ranch High School Choir is devoted to the cultivation of the art of choral and vocal music in the lives of its students and in the broader community: to teach techniques of musical expression by providing a sequential developmental music curriculum which allows each student an opportunity to build musical skills and understanding through a wide variety of musical experiences. Through choral/vocal music, we affirm the mission of Katy Independent School District, to graduate individuals prepared to function with integrity in a rapidly changing world.

CHOIR MEMBERSHIP

The Cinco Ranch High School Choral Department offers a variety of performing organizations to meet the needs of all students interested in singing. Choir placement is based on sight-reading ability, tonal memory, tone quality, attitude and academic eligibility. All groups are designed to teach self-discipline and commitment while working together toward a common goal of excellence and fostering an appreciation of choir music.

All CRHS Choir students are required to participate in and attend ALL CRHS Choir concerts, extra rehearsals and functions. Students may opt to participate in UIL Solo and Ensemble. Students in all choirs are expected to participate with 100% cooperation, concern, and respect for the directors and each other. Through maximum participation the student will:

- Develop the ability to read music at sight
- Develop a strong, mature tone quality
- Develop self-confidence on stage
- Develop team skills
- Master diverse choral literature
- Develop an aesthetic appreciation of music

Men's Choir - A non-varsity Men's Choir. The choir will compete in a contest and may participate in a festival event both in the Spring. Students may participate in the Texas All-State Choir Audition Process.

Bel Canto (*beautiful singing*) - A non-varsity women's choir. The choir competes at UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest and may participate in a festival event both in the Spring. Students may participate in the Texas All-State Choir Audition Process.

Cantiamo (*to sing*) - This upper level auditioned women's choir performs varsity and non-varsity repertoire. The choir will compete at UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest and will travel to a festival event each spring. Students are required to travel to the festival contest unless permission is granted by a director for another academic event or emergency. The festival contest will cost an additional fee to be determined during the first semester. Students may participate in the Texas All-State Choir Audition Process.

Chorale - The varsity mixed choir is an auditioned ensemble for advanced musicians who have strong mature voices. Students **MUST** remain academically eligible. The choir competes at UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest and in a festival contest. Students are required to travel to the festival contest unless permission is granted by a director for another academic event or emergency. The festival contest will cost an additional fee to be announced at the beginning of the year. Students are required to participate in the Texas All-State Choir Audition Process and may elect to participate in UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest. Choristers are required to attend rehearsal on Monday evenings from 6pm-8pm throughout the school year. Chorale members are expected to sing the national anthem at all home football games. The Chorale may receive invitations to perform in concert at venues outside Katy and are expected to participate. Students may be asked to pay additional money for such a trip.

Bravo - This is medium mixed ensemble whose singers have demonstrated advanced musicianship and performance skills. All members of this ensemble must be in Chorale. The group maintains an intense rehearsal schedule when in production for a show. Members **MUST** work repertoire independently. Group members are required to sing at a variety of community service events. Students purchase a uniform and dance shoes. Membership is by audition in the spring prior to the school year. Students must be in choir for one year in order to audition for the ensemble.

STUDENT CONDUCT

CRHS Choir students have a high profile on campus and in the community. CRHS choir students must reflect an image of positive leadership, character, responsibility, and great competitive spirit. It is imperative that the conduct and appearance of all choir students be above reproach. We represent the CRHS Choir Department, Cinco Ranch High School, and Katy ISD.

KATY ISD RANDOM DRUG TEST POLICY

Choir students are required to agree to the Katy Independent School District Random Drug Testing Policy. A student or parent who refuses to sign the agreement will be removed from the CRHS Choir program. A student who refuses to take the drug test will be removed from the CRHS Choir program. A student who fails the drug test will be ineligible according to the guidelines of the Random Drug Testing Program.

KATY ISD ONLINE CONDUCT POLICY

Any student member of an extracurricular organization or campus club (e.g. band/dance team/cheerleader/athlete/student council, etc.) representing themselves, or their organization, in an unfavorable, questionable or illegal manner through electric media (i.e. websites, personal home pages, blogs, text messages, chat rooms or similar websites/files accessible through a server or internet) or using electronic communication devices in such a way as to bring discredit, dishonor, or disgrace on their organization or members of any other school organization including themselves (i.e. camera phones, digital photos, electronic descriptions) will be subject to the disciplinary actions determined by appropriate school officials and/or organization sponsors/directors/coaches, including probation or dismissal from the organization.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

Choir students are expected to follow these rules:

- Be in your assigned place with choir folder, pencil ready to rehearse when the bell rings.
- Wait for permission to speak.
- Follow instructions the first time.
- No gum, food or drinks allowed during rehearsal. Students may bring a bottle for water.
- Be respectful to everyone. Use appropriate language and demonstrate good manners at all times. (No expletives, fighting, inappropriate language, or verbal slurs)
- All rules of Katy ISD and Cinco Ranch High School are in effect at all times.

CONSEQUENCES

With the exception of tardies, penalties shall be assigned as follows:

1. Warning: student teacher conference; loss of participation points
2. Contact parents: loss of participation points and possible alternative assignment
3. Parent/Teacher/Student Conference, loss of participation points and possible "N" in conduct
4. Refer to administrator; possible exclusion from CRHS Choir events, and performances;
 - a. Loss of participation(and performance) points.
 - b. Possible removal from current choir or the CRHS Choir program.
 - c. Possible "U" in conduct.
5. Severe issues: Automatic referral to grade level administrator. Possible removal from current choir or choir program.

ISS AND SUSPENSIONS

Per Katy ISD policy, students assigned to ISS or suspended from school the day of performance will not perform in the performance. The individual will be assigned an alternative assignment and upon return to class will sing his/her part for a grade. Students should make every effort to re-schedule the ISS time around the concert. A student who is suspended from school will not be allowed to participate in any choir activities during the time of suspension. Alternative assignments will be given. A student who is assigned to ISS more than three times and/or is suspended is subject to removal from their performing ensemble or from the CRHS Choir Department.

TARDIES

Choir students are considered tardy if they are not on the risers, with choir folder and pencil when the bell rings. Students lose participation points if they are not on the risers when rehearsal begins. The tardy is marked in Zangle and students may receive detentions accumulate.

ELIGIBILITY

Senate Bill 1 mandate that students who participate in extracurricular activities, such as contests, events that charge a fee, and field trips, must receive a grade of no less than 70 in each of their classes. Grades will be checked at the end of each six weeks. At that time, any student who fails a class will not participate in any contest, field trip, ticketed event for the next three school week period. Grades for these students will be checked after three school weeks from the last day of the previous six weeks. If the students are passing ALL classes at that time, they will become eligible at 3PM seven days after the grades are checked.

There is a seven day grace period at the beginning of each six weeks. Therefore, seven days are added at the end of the three school week period. The three school week period does not necessarily coincide with the Katy ISD Progress Report.

Non-ticketed choir concerts held at CRHS fall under the category of co-curricular (part of the course requirement). With the exception of the Pre-UIL Concert, all students can participate in these events. The following are examples of extracurricular activities where eligibility becomes an issue: Bravo Shows, CRHS Choir Coffee Houses, Cougar Revue, Talent Show, national anthem at football games, All-State Choir Auditions and Region Week-End, Spring Trip, UIL Solo and Ensemble, UIL Concert and Sight Reading, field trips within the community.

Repeated ineligibility may be grounds for removal from a varsity ensemble based on the directors discretion.

GRADE POINT CALCULATION

All choir credits are calculated on a 4.0 scale. No GT or AP credit will be awarded. However, if students remain in choir for all four years in high school, their third and fourth years may be taken as pass/fail credit in regards to GPA calculation.

Students interested in taking choir for Pass/Fail must discuss this with your counselor before the 10th day of class. The CRHS Counselors can provide the necessary form for Pass/Fail. The form requires signature of parents, teacher, and student.

GRADING SYSTEM

Major Grades– 50% of the six weeks average

The following activities are examples of criteria which may be assessed as major grades by choir directors:

- Performances
- Tests (performing large sections of music, All-Region/State music, sight singing melodies, OR written tests/projects)
- After school engagement/attendance/participation

Minor Grades– 35% of the six weeks average

The following activities are examples of criteria which may be assessed as minor grades by choir directors:

- Quizzes (Sight reading, concert preparation and music theory)
- Sectionals/Rehearsals

**Tests are understood to be assessments of an extended length and for which students have received notice well in advance of the assessment. Quizzes are understood to be assessments of shorter length for which 0 – 24 hours notice has been given.*

Other Grades– 15% of the six weeks average

The following activities are examples of criteria which may be assessed in a category other than major or minor grades:

- Daily skills (correct posture, use of hand signs, audiation, etc...)
- Preparation – materials, music, etc.
- Written homework

Performances

Performance is a primary objective for choir students. **All concerts held at CRHS and not involving the sale of tickets are co-curricular and participation is mandatory.** Students who participate appropriately will receive a grade of 100. A student who has an unexcused absence from a concert will receive a zero. Any absence must be approved prior to the performance. An e-mail or hand written note should be sent to the director in advance. In the event of an emergency a phone message may be left for Dorothy Wilson @ 281-237-5204 or David Lee @ 281-237-5203. An excused absence consists of personal illness, court subpoena, religious belief conflict, or unforeseen family emergency. Work is NOT an acceptable absence. Anyone receiving an excused absence from a concert will sing all or a portion of the music for the director for a grade.

Directors will reserve the full discretion whether or not to excuse an absence.

Schedule Changes

In the event that a change is made in a scheduled performance or rehearsal, students are encouraged to make every effort to adapt to that change. If ample notice of the change (2 weeks) is not possible, the policy on absence will be adjusted accordingly at the director's discretion.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Choir uniforms create a professional look for concerts. We are fortunate that Katy ISD provides major uniform pieces for all high school choir students. Each student will be issued a clean choir uniform at the beginning of the school year.

UNIFORM MAINTENANCE

During the year, students are expected to maintain their own uniform. The uniform must be hung properly on a hanger.

CLEANING OF UNIFORM

All uniforms must be dry cleaned during the school year. The ONLY cleaner that you may use is 2000 Dry Clean or Ritz Cleaners. They have cleaned our uniforms for years and know how we like our uniforms to be pressed. Other establishments have ruined our uniforms.

UNIFORM LOSS OR DAMAGE

Students who lose or damage the uniform will pay the replacement cost of the uniform. Uniforms are the property of Katy ISD; they are considered equipment and are only to be worn for performances. Inappropriate use of CRHS Choir uniforms may result in disciplinary action and removal from the program.

PERFORMANCE DRESS CODE

Uniformity is crucial to the success of the choir. Failure to comply with the following standards will result in removal from performance, lowered grade, and/or expulsion from current choir.

1. Students must supply:
 - a. Ladies:
 - i. nude color hose or knee highs
 - ii. Chorale/Cantiamo Women – black character shoed
 - iii. Bel Canto – black close-toed shoes with heels no higher than 1".
No “mules” or “clunky” shoes
 - b. Men:
 - i. white tux shirt purchased through the CRHS Choir
 - ii. black dress shoes and black socks. NO half socks.
2. CRHS Choir provides:
 - a. Ladies: Black Choir Formal
 - b. Men: Black tux pants, Black tux jacket, vest and black tie
3. Jewelry: only the tiniest of plain stud earrings may be worn. One ring may be worn. NO necklaces, bracelets, watches may be worn.
4. Hair: Hair shall be clean, well groomed and away from the face. Students may not wear bows or hair ornaments during performances. Students may use clips and bobby pins that are the same color as their hair.
5. Perfume/Cologne: Students may NOT wear cologne or perfume of any kind. Hair spray should not be applied around other people. This is a courtesy to people who suffer allergies.
6. Accessories: The directors have the final say on acceptable accessories.

VIOLATION OF THE ABOVE STANDARDS OF GROOMING MAY PREVENT A STUDENT FROM PARTICIPATING, RESULTING IN LOWERED GRADES AND POSSIBLE EXPULSION FROM CHOIR.

CHOIR EVENTS

The CRHS Choir Department keeps a very busy schedule of events. All choirs will participate in five choir concerts: a Fall Concert, Cougar Revue, Winter Concert, Pre- UIL Concert and Spring Pop Concert.

Optional Events

The Choir Department puts on several optional events throughout the year showcasing the talents of our students singing pop music. Students who wish to participate as a solo or small group should prepare an audition, which typically happen 2-4 weeks before an event. We highly recommend students seek out a karaoke accompaniment or a live accompanist (another student, director or self accompanied- on any appropriate instrument). All auditions need to be performance ready (memorized, practiced with accompaniment, and with any staging/choreography/costuming).

The following is a list of optional events students may participate in:

- Coffeehouse / open mic nights
- Singing Valentines
- Special music for the Spring Pop Concert (attendance is still mandatory for large ensemble performances)

Students must be academically eligible to participate in any optional events.

CONCERT ETTIQUETTE

Concerts play a vital role in each student's success. In today's world, students participate in many types of activities and each has specific behavior expectations. Here are some of the guidelines of appropriate etiquette for formal music concerts.

A good audience member:

1. Arrives on time for the performance.
2. Remains quiet, attentive and seated during the entire performance. Talking, texting or gesturing disturbs fellow audience members.
3. Uses a flash camera at appropriate times: before or after a performance- never during.
4. Shows appreciation by courteously applauding at the end of a performance, never during.
5. Let's performers know after the concert what he or she did well and expresses appreciation for their effort.

TRIP CONDUCT

All students must have a current Katy ISD Travel Permission and Permission to Treat Form on file. These forms are to be completed within the first 10 days of school and it is the parents responsibility to insure that information is current. Parents will ALWAYS be notified via the Katy ISD Field Trip Form that students will be on a Choir Field Trip.

When we travel we represent the CRHS Choir program, CRHS and KISD. Our dress and etiquette must maintain a high standard. All rules for the CRHS Choir program and KISD are enforced. The penalties for violating these rules are meted out according to the policies in this handbook and the KISD Student Handbook. In addition, students may lose field trip privileges for the remainder of the calendar year or be removed from the CRHS Choir program. A student who breaks the law while on a field trip will be subject to arrest by the law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction where the offense is committed.

Travel Reminders

1. Be on time or be left behind.
2. Students must travel on KISD transportation to and from choir events. In the event that there is a valid reason for the student to travel with his or her own parent, a request via the Katy ISD Parent-Student Provided Transportation Form MUST be submitted in advance for prior approval. If students need to leave an event early, they may only be released to their own parent or guardian. Parents and/or guardians must come in to the contest site, show picture identification, and sign their child out of the event. Parents should use the Katy ISD Post Activity Release Form and send this form in advance of the event.
3. Students are NEVER to get in any vehicle other than KISD designated transportation.
4. Students must remain in groups no smaller than 3 when on trips.
5. Students must not leave the assigned area.
6. Students will obey the chaperone's instructions.
7. Students will abide by all rules stated in the KISD Student Handbook, and in the CRHS Choir Handbook.
8. Students may NOT carry any medication. A detailed overview of medication procedures will be explained to students before traveling on any trip.

OVERNIGHT TRAVEL

Students and parents will sign off on a Behavior Contract before any overnight travel occurs. Each overnight trip will require a separate contract. Example: Madrigal Festival, Festival Trip.

To insure that the CRHS Choir program has correct contact information and current medical information, parents will be asked to update medical forms and parent information sheets before each overnight trip.

Each student is responsible for raising his/her fair share cost of the spring trip. The Choir Booster Club may sponsor a variety of fundraisers to assist students in raising a fair share of the trip. Students who travel are required to participate in all fundraising activities designed to support the entire group participating in the CRHS Choir Spring Trip. Example: Car Washes.

Please contact Mrs. Wilson if you need help with paying fees for activities.

It is possible to set up a payment schedule.

Do not let the fee prevent your child from participating in an activity.

KISD PRIVATE VOICE LESSON PROGRAM

The voice is an instrument. As students enter high school it becomes more important that each student learn how to use his or her individual instrument. While each choir rehearsal will devote time to vocal development, it is highly recommended that singers study privately either through the KISD Private Lesson Program or with other teachers in Katy or Houston. Private lessons are for the self-motivated student who has the self-discipline to practice every day.

All CRHS Voice Instructors are contracted through KISD. Students pay the teacher directly and at least one month in advance. The fee is \$17 per half hour or \$68 per month. Each teacher will provide a studio policy detailing the preferred method of payment and attendance/practice guidelines.

Through regular attendance at lessons and daily practice, individuals learn good technique, build a large repertoire of songs, and learn techniques of interpretation and presentation. Individuals may study the All-State Choir repertoire and will prepare to participate in UIL Solo and Ensemble.

Enrollment forms for the KISD Private Lesson Program are available in the Choir Room. Students must complete a new enrollment form each year.

TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS

CHARMS

Charms is a website that we use in the choir department to keep track of uniforms, music, individual student finances and email communications. Parents are able to view the information pertaining to their student through the parent login to Charms and we encourage you to keep your contact information current so that we are best able to update you on the latest choir news.

Here are the steps to access your Charms account:

- Go to www.charmsoffice.com
- In the "Parent / Student Login" box, type our program code (ChoirCincoRanchHS) and click "Enter"
- Type your students ID to enter their individual site. This is set to default as his or her Katy ISD student ID number. If you have changed the Charms ID and do not remember, email Mr. Lee for the correct ID.
- Please make sure to update your contact information!!!
-

CHOIR WEBSITE

This year, we will be using the CRHS Teacher Web as the main choir website. You may locate it by taking the following steps:

Click on the CRHS Website
Click on "Teacher Web" on the left side panel
Click on "Fine Arts", then on "Choir."

OR

By typing in the address:

<http://kisdwebs.katyisd.org/campuses/CRHS/teacherweb/choir/Pages/Welcome.aspx>

This is a great source of information regarding the program and includes permission forms, assignments, the calendar, and messages from the directors. We will be updating the Choir website on a regular basis.

KISD CHOIR LETTER JACKET CRITERIA

Choir students have the opportunity to earn a Choir Letter Jacket. A student must earn 15 points to receive a letter jacket. All points are cumulative within a year and carry over from year to year. A music student moving into KISD from another Texas public school will have points assigned based on the KISD point system after verification by the previous director.

Any choir student that quits choir during the four year period is ineligible to receive a letter jacket based on participation in the event they return to choir.

MEASURING AND ORDERING: Students earning jackets will be measured in early September and March. Point totals will be calculated prior to each date. Participation points are added at the end of the year.

Choir Award Jacket Point Sheet

<u>Honor Organization Participation:</u>	Points	Earned/Year
<i>(Points will add on as positions are earned.)</i>		
HS TMEA District	2	___ / ___
HS TMEA Region Treble Choir	2	___ / ___
HS TMEA Region Mixed Choir	3	___ / ___
HS TMEA Area Candidates (top 5)	4	___ / ___
HS TMEA All-State Choir	6	___ / ___
<u>Individual Music Competitions:</u>		
UIL Regional Solo and Ensemble		
Division I: Class I Solo	4	___ / ___
Class II Solo	3	___ / ___
Class III Solo	2	___ / ___
Division I: Class I Small Ensemble	3	___ / ___
Class II Small Ensemble	2	___ / ___
Class III Small Ensemble	1	___ / ___
Division I: Medium Ensemble	1	___ / ___
<u>UIL State Solo and Ensemble</u>		
Division I: Solo	5	___ / ___
Small Ensemble	3	___ / ___
Division II: Solo	3	___ / ___

Participation:

To receive participation points, students must have successfully completed one year, enrolled in the choir program, fulfilling all responsibilities as defined by the campus choir director and printed in the campus choir handbook.

Ninth (9th) grade year	2	___ / ___
Tenth (10th) grade year	2	___ / ___
Eleventh (11th) grade year	2	___ / ___
Twelfth (12th) grade year	6	___ / ___
12th grade (w/ 3 previous yrs. successful completion)	9	___ / ___

Total points earned: _____

(A total of 15 points is required to qualify for an Awards Jacket.)

My signature verifies that all above information is true and accurate.

Signature of student

Classification/year ___ / ___

Printed name of student

Signature of Choir Director

CRHS CHOIR BOOSTER CLUB

Membership dues for the CRHS Choir Booster Club (CBC) are the primary source of funding for the CRHS Choir program. The CBC helps supplement our budget from KISD by paying for music, supplies, bus transportation, uniform purchasing and dry cleaning, accompanists, clinicians and many other necessities.

The Choir program would not be able to achieve the standards of excellence we are renowned for were it not for the help of the CBC. Please consider joining the CBC by making a tax deductible donation at the highest level possible for your family.

Equally important, the CBC assists the choir in many non financial aspects including:

- providing chaperones
- uniform assignment and repair
- organizing concessions for events and parties
- organization of fundraising events for students
- Singing Valentines
- assist the directors with organization and co-ordination of activities for students

The CRHS CBC also awards scholarships to worthy seniors. Scholarship recipients are selected by an independent committee who reviews the blind applications. **Parents must be members of the CBC by October 1 in order for their child to be eligible for this scholarship.**

