



## 2023-2024 Handbook

**Amy Harrington**

Director

[aharrington@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:aharrington@mckinneyisd.net)

469.302.3518

**Jeremy Brown**

Associate Director

[jerbrown@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:jerbrown@mckinneyisd.net)

469.302.3517

[www.boydchoir.com](http://www.boydchoir.com)

## **PHILOSOPHY OF CHORAL MUSIC**

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Through participation in choral music, students learn musical skills such as literacy, history, culture, vocabulary, improvisation, technology, and much more. Our students develop many non-musical skills that they can use throughout their lives. Social skills, patience, teamwork, responsibility, accountability, risk-taking, leadership, pride, and self-respect are just a few of these valued traits.

Through selection, rehearsal, and performance of diverse repertoire, the choral music experience at MBHS promotes diversity both inside and outside of the schools. This provides students with an unbiased look into languages, religions, and cultures, while honoring personal beliefs and opinions. We are all consumers of music; the evidence is seen daily.

It is the philosophy of the Boyd choral department to provide students with an outlet of expression through singing and performance. The musical skills honed in the classroom are important; however, when those musical skills are combined with non-musical skills, the learning experience becomes holistic and helps to create an enhanced and more knowledgeable child and society.

## **FEES & EXPENSES**

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Most costs of participating in choir are covered by the MBHS Choral Department's budget; however, participation in choir does require some financial commitment. To help offset these costs, a \$75 choir fee is due by August 31st and can be paid online at [boydchoir.com](http://boydchoir.com) or via cash or check payable to "Boyd Choir". All payments must be placed in a labeled deposit envelope and deposited in the locked money box inside the choir room. *Envelopes are located on top of the money box.* Never hand money to a director or leave it somewhere in the room!

The choir fee includes the annual choir t-shirt, Spring Sing t-shirt, uniform rental, choir binder, music, dry cleaning at the end of the year, and also helps to subsidize costs for trips, activities, and social events. A payment plan is available. Other costs associated with the MBHS Choirs are optional and are dependent on the student's participation in optional events.

Note: Finances should never affect a student's participation, progress, or potential in choir. In the event that finances become a concern, please contact the directors—arrangements can often be made in these situations.

## **CLASSROOM PROCEDURES**

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**PARTICIPATE FULLY IN EACH REHEARSAL:** The elements of good classroom participation include: Sing 100% of the time, eye contact, respectful attention to the director and to each other, quick and quiet transitions, thoughtful and intelligent music making, careful and constant attention to score, posture, proper vocal technique, all of your materials (folder, pencil, ALL music, SR), on risers when the bell rings. Please note that the directors have the right to remove from any rehearsal/contest/performance, any student who shows any of the following: consistent lack of effort, disruptive behavior, poor attitude, excessive absences.

**BE ON TIME:** Every student is expected to be in his or her seat with their choral folder, pencil, and any items to be used in class WHEN THE BELL RINGS. Failure to do so will result in points being subtracted from a student's daily average. In addition to our choir policies we will follow all school policies on tardies as outlined in your MBHS student handbook.

**YOU ARE NEEDED IN CLASS:** Please do not ask to go to the rest room or water fountain. Bring a water bottle to class if you need water during rehearsal and use the bathroom during the passing period. School policy prohibits students from leaving class during the first ten or last ten minutes of class. If you are feeling ill, tell Mrs. Harrington or Mr. Brown before class. Do not ask to leave class to make up work in another class. We will not give out hall passes except in extreme health emergencies. You are valuable to us and needed in class.

**DINING IN THE CHOIR ROOM:** No food, gum, candy or beverage in the choir room. Only water is allowed during rehearsal. These rules apply to both before and after school as well. Chewing gum during rehearsal will automatically subtract points from a student's daily grade. Nobody is allowed to eat lunch in the choir hall or attached rooms.

**CELL PHONES:** In alignment with school policy, phone use is not permitted in the choir room. Your phone should be on silent and left in your bag at the back of the room. If you keep your phone with you please make sure it stays off and out of sight.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

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Rehearsals: Unlike other academic classes, it is impossible to make up activities that occur during a choral rehearsal, thus attendance is imperative at all rehearsals, concerts, and extra-curricular activities.

Concerts: Attendance at any choral concert is required. Absences will only be excused in special situations, such as a medical/family emergency or religious holiday. An *Absence Request Form* must be completed and submitted no less than two weeks prior to the absence for excuse to be considered. In an emergency situation we ask that you email us as soon as possible and let us know of your conflict. Lack of transportation or work do not constitute as an excuse for missing a concert.

Note: Non-school-sponsored events do not constitute an excused absence for any required choral event and will not be allowed a makeup.

Extra-Curricular Activities: Students will be given sufficient notice of any activities outside of the school day, including rehearsals, sectionals, and concerts. These activities are essential to the development of the choral program. As with concerts, an unexcused absence at an extra-curricular activity will lower the student's grade. The directors will make every effort to limit the time spent outside of the school day. Any conflicts, including appointments, athletics, other student organizations, etc. should be brought to the directors as soon as possible.

Please review the new MISD Fine Arts Unexcused Absence Policy:

Students with unexcused absences from scheduled Co-Curricular/Extra-Curricular fine arts events held outside of the regular school day and for which a grade is given are required to do graded makeup work for each event missed in order to receive a grade. Makeup work will be provided by the teacher/director and grading of assignments will follow the district "Retesting Guidelines" as listed in the Grading and Reporting section of the current High School Academic Planning Guide. This includes 1) the completion of assigned makeup work in a reasonable amount of time and 2) receiving a maximum possible grade of 70 in Level III & IV courses, 75 in Level II courses and 80 in Level I courses. Students choosing not to do makeup assignments, or not completing makeup assignments in the prescribed reasonable amount of time will receive a grade of "0" for the event in question. Additional opportunities to complete makeup work will not be provided after the student's first attempt. Determining whether or not an absence will be counted as excused or unexcused is at the discretion of each director. Some examples of excused absences are: medical/dental emergencies or illness, death in the immediate family, religious holiday, or circumstances that may justify an excused absence for reasons other than those listed above in accordance with McKinney ISD Policy.

## **GRADING POLICY**

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**DAILY GRADE:** The student's daily grade consists of work done during the choral rehearsal. Each day is worth 20 points, making each week worth 100 points. Assignments such as sight-reading tests, memory checks, music analyses, and web-based assignments will be given at the discretion of the directors. Doing so allows assessment of the student at an individual level, rather than as a group.

A student's talent has no influence on their grade in choir. Assessment is based upon effort and following procedures. Failing to follow procedure, violating rules, or not having required materials will negatively impact a student's daily grade.

## **UNIFORMS**

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Uniforms will be issued at the beginning of the school year.  
*(\*Asterisked items will need to be provided by student)*

Treble Voices:

Choir Dress

\* Black dress shoes (closed toe flats)

Tenor & Bass Voices:

Choir Tuxedo (pants, jacket, vest, & necktie)

\* Black dress shoes and black socks

\* Black dress shirt

Jewelry:

Large jewelry is not acceptable. Studs may be worn in ears; no dangling earrings, necklaces, hair bows, watches, or bracelets are allowed.

Hair:

Hair must be out of the face.

Hair buns, braids, and ponytails are acceptable.

## **UNIFORM CARE**

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Dresses, jackets, and pants should be hung up after every performance. These items can only be dry-cleaned and will be cleaned by the choral department at the end of the year.

If you have outgrown your dress, jacket or pants, please let a director know as soon as possible. Dresses should touch the top of your black flat dress shoes. Pants should hang to your ankles. If the waist is too tight, try to adjust the pants with the silver tab on the side before contacting a director.

NOTE ON HEMMING: If you have to hem your dress or pants, take them to a dry cleaner that does alterations. DO NOT cut the pants, or you will have to replace them.

## **REQUIRED FORMS**

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All students must complete the forms on Rank One, as well as our Membership Agreement, by August 26th to remain a member of the MBHS Choral Program:

1. MISD Drug Policy and Contract
2. MISD Student Co-Curricular/Extra Curricular Contract
3. MISD Medical Form

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

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As a member of the Boyd Choir program you are expected to first uphold the rules and guidelines of McKinney ISD and McKinney Boyd High School but we also expect you to go above and beyond to be some of the best members of our school community. Our program has a zero tolerance policy for use of illegal substances such as tobacco, drugs, & alcohol, illegal activity, or hazing of any kind. Any students participating in these acts will be disciplined in accordance with MISD policy which can include, but is not limited to removal from the Boyd Choir program.