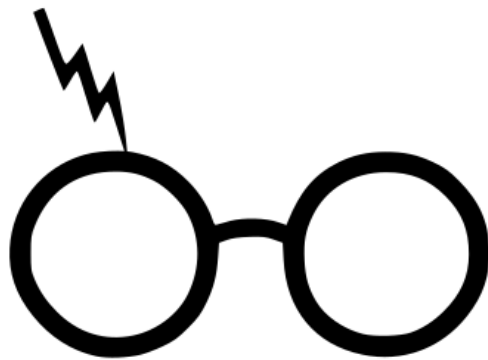


Blocker Middle School
Singing Stings Choir
2020-2021



Rachel Smith, Director
409-916-0717
rasmith@tcisd.org

GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS- Virtual Learning

- Students are expected to complete their Canvas and Music First work daily.
- Most of the students' work will not be done live, but we will schedule some online rehearsals and students are expected to attend.
- Remember that even online, this is still our classroom. Please abide by appropriate behavior expectations.
- Students are expected to follow all rules and expectations outlined in the Blocker student handbook.

GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS- On Campus Learning

- When students enter the room, they should go straight to their seats and pull out their materials.
- Cell phones are not allowed out during class time. This expectation continues at after-school events at the discretion of the director.
- Gum is not permitted in the Choir Room or on the Blocker Campus. There is to be no eating or drinking in the choir room (except during lunch time). The only exception is bottled water. There are no water fountains available on campus this year.
- No fragrances (perfume, cologne, scented lotion or hand sanitizer, etc) are allowed in the choir room at any time due to allergies.
- Masks will be required at all times in the classroom and face shields will also be required when we are singing.
- Students are expected to follow all rules and expectations outlined in the Blocker student handbook.

CONSEQUENCES

If a choir member decides not to follow the guidelines and expectations of the choral program, consequences will align with the Blocker Code of Conduct. The director reserves the right to refer students directly to the campus administration for severe inappropriate behavior, resulting in consequences up to and including removal from the choir program.

PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

Once large gatherings are permitted by the district, Performance Dates will be published on an updated Choir Calendar. This is subject to change and the most current version will always be available on the choir website.

All performance dates are mandatory and count as a major test grade. Students and parents are responsible for making transportation arrangements and must be on time for each performance. Concert grades will be calculated using the following components: Attendance (30%), Punctuality (20%), Behavior (30%) and Correct Uniform (20%). Failure to attend a concert will be considered an unexcused absence. Excused absences will be granted with a doctor's note only. Any absences must be excused within one week of the absence, or it will automatically become unexcused. All students who are absent from the concert will complete a makeup assignment (either a written assignment or performing the concert material; the format will be at the director's discretion). Students who have absences will be able to earn a maximum grade of 70 on the makeup assignment.

The calendar will also include morning rehearsals before each major concert. These are mandatory and for a grade.

GRADING POLICY

Grading during both Distance Learning and when we return to the classroom will be based on the TCISD grading guidelines located in the TCISD student handbook. Grades will be divided into two categories, Major and Minor Grades.

Major Grades

Performances (Count as 2 Grades)

Morning Rehearsals

Tests and Quizzes

Minor Grades

Weekly Participation Grades (Count as 2 Grades)

Music Fundamentals and Daily Grades

TRAVEL

TCISD has published rules and regulations for conduct on a school sponsored trip. We will follow the district guidelines as stated in the transportation regulations and the TCISD Handbook. Permission slips will be required for such events and must be turned in to your choir teacher by the due date. All chaperones are required to have a background check before attending any field trips.

REQUIRED MATERIALS, EXPENSES, AND FEES

All students participating in Choir are required to pay a TCISD activity participation fee of \$25.00. This a fee required by TCISD. The money for this fee is due on Friday, September 25.

All Choir students will also be required to purchase a Blocker Choir shirt to be worn with jeans and closed-toe shoes for upcoming performances. The cost of each shirt is \$10. The money for this fee is due on Friday, September 25.

Each student will be provided with a black 3-ring binder and a face shield for use in class daily. They are expected to bring a pencil and any other necessary materials to class daily.

Concert uniforms (dresses for girls and tuxedos for boys) will be provided for the students. These uniforms will remain at the school when not in use and should not be taken home for any reason. Girls' shoes worn with the uniform should be black, closed-toe shoes with a 1-inch heel or less. Girls should also have appropriate undergarments for the dresses. Boys should wear black mid-calf or knee-high socks with black dress shoes.

For the spring show we will wear a themed shirt, jeans and athletic shoes. Students will be required to purchase the themed shirt to participate in the spring concert (usually \$15)

Hair **MUST** be neatly groomed and be out of face. No unnatural hair colors will be permitted on stage at Blocker or at Contests.

PERFORMANCE ELIGIBILITY

The Blocker Middle School Choir departments will enforce all UIL and TEA eligibility rules and regulations. Students must be passing ALL courses with a 70 or higher in order to be eligible for some performances and all competitions. Students who are ineligible will continue to rehearse during their choir class and participate in all curricular performances (those that happen at BMS, do not have a ticket price, and are for a grade) to earn their choir grade. Ineligible students may not travel with the choir or participate in extracurricular activities (contests, concerts off site, social events off campus, etc.).

SPRING TRIP QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be in good standing in the choir program.
- Must be eligible in all classes with a 70 or above on the 3rd 9 Weeks Report Card
- Student conduct grades must be an E or S in all classes on all report cards throughout the year.
- Must not have any outstanding fees or fundraiser money
- No assignments to ISS, OSS or ALC the 2019-2020 school year.
- Must attend and perform in all mandatory Blocker Concerts
- Must attend UIL Concert and Sight Reading

SOCIAL MEDIA AND DIGITAL PHOTOS

Any choir member representing themselves or their organization in an unfavorable, questionable, or illegal manner through electronic media (including but not limited to: personal homepages, blogs, text messages, Facebook, Twitter or websites) or using electronic communication devices in such a way as to bring discredit, dishonor, or disgrace on the 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 the directors and/or appropriate school officials, including but not limited to probation or dismissal from the choral program.

STAY UP TO DATE

Remind is a free service for educators, parents, and students. It allows Mrs. Smith and to send reminders and updates via text. Phone numbers are stored by Remind and will not be shared with Mrs. Smith. To subscribe to this free service, text the code below to 81010.

Bella Voce Students text @bmscbella

Canta Carina Students text @bmscantac

Nova Canto Students text @bmsnovac

Show Choir Students text @bmsshowch

You can also go to <https://www.remind.com/join> and enter the code for your class.

 Blocker Middle School Choir

 bmschoir

****Changes to this handbook may be made throughout the year and will be posted on the Blocker Choir website. A written copy of changes will also be provided.****

Handbook Acknowledgement (All Choir Students)

I, _____, the student, have read this handbook and understand the expectations and requirements set forth for the students in the Blocker Middle School Choirs. By signing, I agree to comply with these expectations and requirements.

Student Signature

Date

I, _____, the parent, have read this handbook and have discussed with my child the expectations and requirements set forth for the students in the Blocker Middle School Choirs. I agree to encourage my child's participation, support his/her dedication to the Choir program, and help him/her to comply with the expectations and requirements for the organization.

Parent Signature

Date

Please confirm your t-shirt size (circle one):

YM YL AS AM AL AXL AXXL AXXXL

Please complete the photo release form on the back of this page.

Soundwaves Handbook Acknowledgement (Show Choir Students Only)

I, _____, the student, have read this handbook and understand the expectations and requirements set forth for the students in the Soundwaves Show Choir. By signing, I agree to comply with these expectations and requirements.

Student Signature

Date

I, _____, the parent, have read this handbook and have discussed with my child the expectations and requirements set forth for the students in the Sound. I agree to encourage my child's participation, support his/her dedication to the Choir program, and help him/her to comply with the expectations and requirements for the organization.

Parent Signature

Date



TEXAS CITY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Performing and Visual Arts

1700 9th Avenue North Texas City, Texas 77590 Telephone: (409) 916-0152 Fax: (409) 942-2655

2020-2021

**PARENT PERMISSION FOR RELEASE OF STUDENT
INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL-SPONSORED PURPOSES**

The District often requires the use of student information for the following school-sponsored purposes: student directory, yearbook, co-curricular and extra-curricular programs, photographs, television, school and community publications, and the webpage.

For these specific school-sponsored purposes, the District would like to use the student's name and/or photograph, to promote honors and awards received in our program.

_____ **YES, I DO GIVE** the Texas City ISD Performing and Visual Arts permission to release the information as listed in the above notice.

_____ **NO, I DO NOT GIVE** the Texas City ISD Performing and Visual Arts permission to release the information as listed in the above notice.

Student Name _____
(Please Print)

ID# _____ Grade _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____