



## **Choir Handbook 2018-2019**

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**FHS Choir Website: <http://www.friscochoir.com>**

## Goals of the FHS Choirs

1. To promote, provide, and encourage interest and participation in choral music.
2. To develop individual vocal technique and an understanding of its relation to the choral ensemble.
3. To increase confidence in creative self-expression.
4. To promote the value of effort, cooperation, teamwork, dedication, and self-discipline.
5. To promote a sense of pride in the school and choir program.

## Student Expectations/Consequences

### **Classroom Expectations:**

1. When the director is talking you are silent and listening.
2. Respect your peers at all times.
3. Exhibit a strong work ethic and a positive attitude at all times.
4. No food (including gum!) or drinks (other than water) are allowed in class unless given permission.
5. The use of cell phones during class time is prohibited unless special permission has been granted.
6. Observe all school rules and policies as stated in the FHS student code of conduct.

### **Classroom Consequences:**

If a student fails to follow one or more classroom rules, the director is assuming they have **temporarily forgotten** what the rules are. The director is more than willing to remind students of what they have forgotten. After several reminders, however, it becomes apparent to the director that a student's "I forgot" is really an "I don't care."

Be aware that repeated reminders will be viewed by the director as an "I don't care" and could result in temporary removal from the choir room, parent conferences, detention, disciplinary referrals, removal from choir trips and activities, and permanent removal from the choir program at the discretion of the director and principal.

## Grading Policy

1. **20 % - Weekly Skills Demonstration Grade (one per week)**
2. **30 %- Assignments/Tests**
3. **50 % - Performances and Rehearsals**

The student will receive a Major Grade for each performance during a grading period. If no public performance occurs during a grading period, the performance grade will be based upon classroom

performances determined by the director. ***Students are expected to arrive on time to all rehearsals and performances. Students will lose 10 points for every 10 minutes they are late.***

### **Excused Absences:**

An excused absence is one that has been approved by the director, preferably ahead of time, and is accompanied by a phone call, a written note, or e-mail from a parent. Please inform me of school conflicts ahead of time, so that I may talk to the sponsor to work out a compromise.

**Examples of some excused absences:** Illness; Family Emergency/Death in the family; Weddings/Religious events; Other extenuating circumstances (determined by the director)

### **Unexcused Absences:**

If a student does not provide proper documentation for their absence, it is automatically unexcused.

**Examples of some unexcused absences:** Lack of transportation (except in extenuating circumstances); Forgot; Homework; Doctor's Appointment; Work conflict (please ask off ahead of time)

### **Make-Up Work:**

If a student misses a rehearsal or concert and it is excused (unless school related), they will need to complete a make-up assignment. For the make-up assignment, students need to make an appointment with Mrs. Bradstreet to watch the video of the concert and write a critique. Students will be graded on how thorough their critique is.

## **Uniforms and Fees**

When we have a performance, you are expected to be in full uniform from the time you arrive until the time you leave the performance site. We want to take pride in our organization, and our appearance is one way to show a classy attitude.

### **Formal Choir Uniforms**

#### **Ladies:**

- Black formal dress (issued by school)
- Off-Black sheer hose (panty hose or knee high)
- Black **closed-toe** dress shoes

#### **Guys:**

- Black tuxedo (all parts issued by school)
- Black socks
- Black **dress** shoes

#### **Jewelry:**

- No guys may wear jewelry
- Ladies must wear school issued earrings and necklaces

**Cleaning Formal Uniforms:**

Students will be issued a clean uniform. All students are expected to keep their uniform in good and clean condition.

- Ladies: Dressed can be washed at home or dry-cleaned. If you are washing the dress at home, please either wash the dress by hand or use the delicate cycle of your washing machine. Dresses should be turned inside out before washing. Dresses can be put in the dryer on low heat for a short period of time to get the wrinkles out, but please be careful not to overheat them.
- Guys: Please either wash or dry-clean the white tuxedo shirts after every concert. Tuxes should be dry-cleaned throughout the year as needed.

**Hemming of Uniforms:**

- Ladies: Please hem the dress to where it falls one inch from the floor with dress shoes on. Do NOT cut the dress as it may need to be altered for the next person.
- Guys: Please make sure your pants hit the top of your shoes and are no longer or shorter. Please hem them without cutting the pants as they may need to be altered for the next person.

**Cost of Replacing Lost or Damaged Formal Uniforms:**

FORMAL DRESS	\$65.00
WOMEN'S JEWELRY	\$10.00
TUX PANTS	\$45.00
TUX SHIRT	\$20.00
TUX JACKET	\$55.00
BOW TIE	\$7.00
CUMMBERBUND	\$12.00

**Informal Choir Uniforms:**

- Choir t-shirt
- Jeans (no holes!)
- Tennis shoes

**Choir Uniform Fee**

**All choir members will be required to pay a uniform/supply fee of \$50.00.** This fee will cover the cost of the t-shirt, uniform rental and cleaning, and choir supplies. **This should to be paid in "My Payments Plus" no later than Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**Choir Payments through "My Payments Plus"**

Frisco ISD is now having us collect payments via an online program called **MyPaymentsPlus** ([www.MyPaymentsPlus.com](http://www.MyPaymentsPlus.com)). It is a state-of-the art online service that provides you the convenience and information you need to manage your student's fees & activities account. This system eliminates the need to send

checks to school or worry about lost or forgotten money, and ensures that your child's fees & activities are paid for. You have the ability to pay by checking, savings, or credit card at **NO FEE**.

We will be accepting all payments for the FHS Choir (non-Booster Club payments) through My Payments Plus so please make sure you have set-up an account. To sign up, simply visit: [www.MyPaymentsPlus.com](http://www.MyPaymentsPlus.com) and click on "Register a Free Account." You will need your student's ID number to complete registration. If you don't know your child's student ID, please contact your school to obtain this information. **Once you finish registration, you may log-in to begin managing your student's account instantly!**

Once you are logged on to My Payments Plus you will see a section below the Cafeteria Accounts Payments that is for Other Payments. You will need to click the plus sign (+) to expand and see all the fees that are available for payment.

## Eligibility

Certain activities are classified as eligibility activities. The FHS staff will enforce all eligibility policies. TEA has a specific list of activities that are eligibility activities which include competitions, activities that charge an admission fee, and pep rallies. For more information about eligibility see UIL-TEA side-by-side which can be viewed through the TEA website or the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) website ([www.tmea.org](http://www.tmea.org)). In order to be eligible, students must have a grade of 70 or above in all classes, including P.E., athletics, electives and academic classes on both their progress reports and report cards. Students who are ineligible will continue to rehearse during their choir class, before and after school, and participate in curricular performances to earn their choir grade. *Ineligible students may not travel with the choir or participate in extracurricular activities.*

### Choir Events that Require Students to be Eligible:

- Performance Fundraiser (early date this year means EVERYONE is automatically eligible! 😊)
- Region/All-State Auditions and Clinic and Concert
- Performance of National Anthem at Football Game
- Solo and Ensemble
- UIL Concert and Sightreading
- Spring Trip to Disney World

## Supplemental Activities

**All-Region/All-State Choir Competition:** Students will have the opportunity to audition for the All-Region Choir in October. Interested students will receive a practice CD and printed music of the selections they are required to learn. Students will then audition with a short "cut" of the music and sightread for judges. If a student is selected for the choir, they will participate in the All Region Clinic and Concert. Students that earn a high enough place in the choir will also have the opportunity to continue on to Pre-Area, Area, and possibly make the Texas All-State Choir! Selection to the Texas All-State Choir is one of the highest honors a choir student can achieve! **The cost to audition is \$20.00. Please turn this in by Friday, September 15<sup>TH</sup> so that we know how much music to order.**

**Solo/Ensemble Contest:** This is an opportunity for students to sing a solo or an ensemble in front of a single judge for a rating. Either their private voice teacher or I will help students to select solos or ensembles that will be appropriate for their voices.

**Private Voice Lessons:** Students will have the opportunity to take private voice lessons during their class time, before school, or after school. An information sheet about private voice lessons will be available near the beginning of the school year.

## Lettering in Choir

FHS choir students will be subject to a points system. Any student who is able to accumulate ***8 or more points*** will be eligible to purchase a FHS letter jacket. This policy is designed to reward commitment and high achievement. Excessive behavior problems can result in a student losing their lettering privileges. Please see Mrs. Bradstreet for a packet if you are ready to order one.

- **2 points:** completion of a full year in choir (at FHS or another school). Seniors will receive their final two points during the fall semester of their senior year.
- **2 points:** being selected for Harmony (additional choir class)
- **2 points:** auditioning for the All-Region Choir
- **2 points:** being selected to the advance to Pre-Area in Choir
- **2 points:** being selected to advance to Area in Choir
- **5 points:** being selected to the All-State Choir
- **2 points:** participating in UIL Solo/Ensemble Competition
- **2 points:** advancing to State Solo/Ensemble Competition
- **2 points-4 points:** earn 2 points per 10 approved services hours completed for the choir program (fill out required form under by going to "[Choir Service Forms](#)" under "Resource" tab of our website- [www.friscochoir.com](http://www.friscochoir.com))