

August 22, 2011

Dear students, parents, and guardians,

Welcome to the Clear Lake High School Choir! You have chosen to be a part of the finest family at Clear Lake, and we are happy you are here! This year looks to be yet another exciting one as we continue to strive for excellence:

- Individual work for the TMEA All-State process
- Voice lessons offered during and after school
- Five concerts throughout the year
- Soundwaves Show and Pop Show in the spring
- Spring trip to Austin, TX
- Choirs participation in the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Competition
- Clinic with a college professor in preparation for UIL Concert and Sight Reading Competition

Being a member of this organization is an honor and a privilege. Congratulations for choosing to be a part of this program. We look forward to continuing the tradition of excellence.

This packet contains information that is important to students and to parents. Please take the time to carefully review all information, complete all necessary forms, and return the forms with your fee payment **no later than Friday, September 9. All students must pay a \$20 fee in order to participate.** If this fee may place your family in a financial burden, please speak with Ms. Roesner or Ms. Neva.

Included in these two packets are the following:

- Choir Program Information, Policies, and Procedures
- 2011-2012 Calendar
- Choir Membership Contract (signatures required)
- CCISD Code of Conduct Acknowledgment Form (signatures required)
- Parent Consent Form (signatures required)
- Emergency Information Form (signatures required)
- Data information (information required)

All choir parents are EXPECTED TO ATTEND our first parents' meeting of the year, which will be held Thursday, September 22, at 6:30 PM. We have much to share with you and hope you can attend. We will have a potluck dinner and have our Choir Preview performance.

Finally, we strongly encourage parents, guardians, family and friends to make every effort to attend your student's concerts this year. In spite of what they tell you, your son or daughter really wants you to attend our concerts if at all possible. I hope to see you in our auditorium often this year!

If you have any questions, please call or email us anytime. We hope you enjoy our music!

Sincerely,

Jenny Roesner and Courtney Neva, Directors

Class Facts and Contact Info

All choirs are directed by Ms. Jenny Roesner and Ms. Neva and meet in the choir room.

- Ms. Roesner
 - Phone: 281-284-2078
 - Email: jroesner@ccisd.net
- Ms. Neva
 - Phone: 281-284-2079
 - Email: courtneyneva@ccisd.net
- Important information
 - <http://www2.ccisd.net/ForHighSchoolParentsCCISD4Me.aspx>
 - <https://e4.ccisd.net/>
 - www.clearlakechoir.org

Parents are welcome and encouraged to communicate with either director by phone, email, or conference; please schedule a conference ahead of time. Each class has a primary teacher; please contact that teacher as needed.

The choir's daily rehearsal schedule is as follows:

Period	Choir	Primary Teacher
1 st Period	Fine Arts Choir	Ms. Roesner
2 nd Period	Men's Choir	Ms. Roesner
3 rd Period	Treble Choir	Ms. Neva
4 th Period	Advance A Cappella Women	Mr. Neva
5 th Period	Soundwaves (with "C" lunch)	Ms. Roesner
6 th Period	Symphonic	Ms. Roesner
7 th Period	Conference	

Course Description

All choirs at Clear Lake High School are performing ensembles; a critical portion of each student's grades is based on performing in scheduled concerts outside the regular school day. Everyone in every choir will perform, as each member is vital to the success of that ensemble. Students not wishing to participate in the scheduled performances should seek other methods of fulfilling their fine arts requirement to graduate. The curriculum includes the study of sight-singing skills and vocal technique. Students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of choral music as performer, critic, and consumer, through the following outcomes (from the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):

- The student will describe and analyze musical sound and demonstrate musical artistry.
- The student will sing, individually and in groups, performing a variety of music.
- The student will read and write music notation.
- The student will create and arrange music, within specific parameters.
- The student will learn to relate music to history, society, and to culture.
- The student will respond to and evaluate music and musical performance.

Calendar

A calendar is included with this syllabus; please read the calendar carefully. Additional concerts and/or rehearsals may be scheduled by the directors; participation in the rehearsals outside of class time will be reflected in the student's participation grade. NOTE: students will be notified of any additional curricular

activities (i.e. concerts and after-school rehearsals not already on the calendar) no fewer than two weeks in advance.

Students can succeed in choir by attending only the curricular concerts and rehearsals. However, there are several additional opportunities available to allow further musical growth and development. All choir students are strongly encouraged to:

- participate in the TMEA All-State audition process (district, region, pre-area, and all-state choirs);
- attend a performance by Houston Grand Opera, Broadway Across America, or TUTS;
- compete at UIL Solo and Ensemble;
- take private voice lessons through the CCISD Music Enrichment Program;
- audition for Pop Show;
- participate in the annual choir trip; and
- attend the annual end-of-year choir banquet.

Conflicts with the Calendar

Many choir students are also involved in other school-related activities, such as color guard, dance, or athletics. This is a good thing; choir members are expected to be involved in campus life! Conflicts will inevitably happen; students should resolve any scheduling conflicts well ahead of time. What you should do if you have a conflict:

- try to resolve the conflict on your own
- determine whether it is excused or not (ask your director if unsure)
- communicate conflict ahead of time to both sponsors/coaches involved
- most of the time, we can resolve the conflict with a compromise if discussed well in advance

While Clear Lake directors, sponsors, and coaches will be fair and reasonable, they will be less flexible and willing to compromise if the student waits to the last minute to resolve conflicts. NEVER say you cannot attend a concert or rehearsal without first speaking to BOTH the choir director AND the coach or sponsor of the conflicting activity! Students are expected to be mature and to handle all conflicts in a timely manner.

According to the CCISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct, "Absences or tardies to CCISD extracurricular activities due to schedule conflicts with activities sponsored by outside organizations will be unexcused."

Private Voice Lessons

Voice lessons are offered as a supplement to regular choral instruction. These lessons are weekly, 30 minute sessions in which a professional singer works one-on-one with the student to further improve vocal technique and to prepare additional literature for activities such as region auditions, solo and ensemble, musical, and pop show. Lessons are completely optional; if you are interested, please request a "Private Instruction Program Parent Information Booklet" and enrollment form. At Clear Lake, three wonderful teachers will be providing lessons at the school:

- Abigail Dueppen
- David Smith
- Jennifer Whalen

Also available and highly recommended for lessons:

- Janice Robbins

Assessment

Each student's nine weeks grade will be based on the following:

- **Participation**
 - The student will receive a grade for all rehearsals after and during school.
 - The student will be on time, on task and focused during all rehearsals.
 - The student will have music, sharpened pencil, and folder for all rehearsals.
 - The student will mark music and take notes as needed. Written homework may be assigned as needed to complete all marks in music.
- **Skills**
 - The student will be expected to improve individual music skills, including singing, sight-reading, and music theory.
 - An evaluation of this improvement may include recorded music and sight-singing tests, individual singing tests, and written tests.
 - The student will be evaluated on improvement of his or her ensemble skills during daily rehearsals.
- **Fundamentals**
 - The student will be expected to improve his or her performance fundamentals.
 - An evaluation of this improvement will include daily observation of students during rehearsals and sectionals.
 - Student posture, air production, and articulation will be constantly monitored during rehearsals for improvement.
- **Performance**
 - The student will receive a major grade for each curricular performance during a grading period.
 - Performances include periodic recorded performances of music.
 - The number of performances will be determined by the director.

All grades will be weighed as follows:

- **55% Participation, Homework, Skills Sheets, etc.**
- **40% Major Grades: Performances and Tests (written and sung)**
- **5% Reading and Writing:** All high school credit courses will administer one or more reading/writing assignments to account for 5% of the nine-week average.

Classroom Management Policies

HONOR OUR TIME: You must be in the room when the bell rings. If you are not, you are tardy, and all campus policies will be strictly adhered to. No stories, no hurt feelings, no exceptions—you will be admitted with an appropriate pass.

This is more than a tardy policy, however. Ms. Roesner and Ms. Neva will always respect students' and parents' time: concerts and rehearsals will begin on time, and rehearsals will end on time. Students and parents, therefore, must respect the ensemble's time as well. Students should be on time for all rehearsals and performances, and parents should be on time to pick his or her student up. If it is impossible for a parent to pick a student up at the end of a rehearsal or concert, alternative plans should be made ahead of time. Transportation to an event is never an excused absence.

BE PREPARED: Have your folder, music, and sharpened pencil, every day. Students must have their materials and be in their places for the first warm-up or announcement or face disciplinary measures. Turn in permission slips, forms, money, assignments, etc. on time. Any late work will be graded per district policy.

BE RESPECTFUL: Clear Lake choir students have a reputation of being well-behaved, nicely mannered students. Please do your part at school and in the community to keep our reputation! When another person is speaking, please listen to them without interrupting. When an adult (teacher, director, chaperone) asks you to

do something, please do it right away and with a great attitude. You have the privilege of representing Clear Lake High School, its choir, and its directors many times outside the school walls. Please do not abuse that privilege; show your pride in the Clear Lake choir in your actions and words. Please treat all our parent volunteers and chaperones as if they were your directors.

Respect our beautiful facilities as well: students are not allowed in the auditorium, any practice room, or ensemble room without permission from a director. Please come visit your director in the choir office, but always knock or wait to be acknowledged before you enter. No student should ever be in the office without a director. We have LOTS of trash cans; please deposit water bottles, gum, and other waste in these trash cans, or risk being invited to a choir room beautification event. Do NOT use a cell phone for any reason unless given permission; the campus's cell phone policy will be strictly enforced. Finally, unless expressly invited to by a director, the grand piano is strictly off-limits.

BE MATURE: Students will have fun in choir, as long as that fun is a byproduct of the basic goals of choir—to learn about music and to learn to perform music. Students are expected to know when it is appropriate to make comments, tell jokes, move around, talk to your neighbors, etc. Inappropriate comments or activity will result in disciplinary action, and choir will then NOT be fun. Distracting the choir director or those around you during instructional time will result in disciplinary action.

BE EXCITED: You have chosen to take part in an incredible experience. You have the opportunity to develop a world class choral program from the ground up. The choir's success rests on the shoulders of its members, and the members' attitude towards each other. Choose your attitude: come into the choir room with an anticipation of the great things we will do together!

BATHROOM POLICY: Please take care of your business before school, between classes, or during lunch. You are expected by your teachers and administrators to remain in class from bell to bell. (Please inform your director of any special needs; compensations will be made for any student with doctor-documented issues.)

SICK POLICY: All students must stand and participate in class every day, even if they cannot sing. There may be occasional days that a student is unable to participate vocally. Singing, however, is part of the class and a signed parent's note is required for each subsequent day a student is unable to sing due to illness. Persistent inability to sing may result in written assignments outside of class time to make up for missed participation.

FOOD AND DRINK POLICY: No food, drink (except bottled water), or gum is allowed in the music wing or in the auditorium. A teacher's detention will be assigned to anyone in violation of this rule. Students are encouraged to bring bottled water to class. Please attend to needs before class.

Disciplinary Action

First Offense: verbal warning

Second Offense: 30 minute teacher detention

Third Offense: phone call home and 30 minute teacher detention

Fourth Offense and beyond: office referral

Severe Offense: immediate office referral

CCISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct

Please read the district policy at the district's Blackboard site (e4.ccisd.net) or request a hard copy from either director. All students and parents must sign the Parent Acknowledgement Form included in this packet.

Choir Program Logistics

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE:

MEN

- Black tuxedo (provided by the school)
- Tuxedo white dress shirt
- Bowtie
- Black socks
- Dress black shoes
- Hair nicely kept

WOMEN

- Black dress (provided by the school)
- Natural (nude) hose
- Black dress flats or pumps with a heel of no more than 2 inches
- Hair may be down, but out of the face

Students will be responsible for any damage to the uniform while it is checked out in your name. Be very kind to it! Absolutely no bracelets, watches, necklaces, or colored hairpieces are allowed on stage; uniformity is very important. This point is NOT open to discussion! Also, please refrain from cologne or perfume on stage. Many people have allergies to them.

MUSIC AND FOLDERS: Students will be assigned music and a folder slot in which to put the music. Students will be charged for any lost music. Please punch the music and place it in your binder. Students **MUST** always have a sharpened pencil with them at every rehearsal.

TURNING IN MONEY: All checks (unless otherwise indicated) should be made to "CLHS Choir".

All checks written to CLHS Choir must have:

- Street address
- Valid phone number
- TDL number

Cash must be in the exact amount and turned in in an envelope, with the student's name, class period, and amount enclosed. No change will be accepted. "Bank days" are scheduled based on deadlines set on the choir; therefore, if money is not turned in on time, there is a very good chance the activity being paid for will be canceled.

There is a \$20 participation fee required from every choir student. This fee must be paid no later than Friday, September 9.

ELIGIBILITY: Choir is an activity that is governed by and subject to the regulations of the University Interscholastic League (UIL). The "No Pass, No Play" rule stipulates that students who fail a course at certain times of year are ineligible to participate in any choir activity that is competitive or charges admission.

In CCISD, pre-AP and AP classes are NOT exempt from the "No Pass, No Play" rules, with the following exception: A student who takes certain AP classes is given one waiver that may be used to exempt one failing grade on a report card. This waiver may be used only one time the entire year, regardless of how many AP classes the student takes.

Once a student is ineligible, they must regain eligibility by passing ALL of their classes by the next grading period. It is the student's responsibility to both understand UIL eligibility and keep track of their own grades.

Ineligibility has the power of destroying the work an ensemble has put into a performance. Students who become ineligible will be required to attend tutorials until all grades are above 70. Each student must accept the responsibility they have to him or herself AND to the other members of the ensemble. Take this very seriously: pass all your classes!

TRANSPORTATION: Students must use district-provided transportation to all choir events. Any exceptions require a parent-signed Alternative Travel Form turned in no later than one day prior to the event. Students are not allowed to ride with other students. Students are allowed to ride with other parents provided the paperwork is completed.

A NOTE ABOUT RELIGIOUS MUSIC: Some of the music performed in our concerts is sacred in nature. Sacred music comprises much of the choral literature produced in western civilization. It should and does have an important place in the history of music and in music education. This music is always taught from a historical and cultural perspective in Clear Creek schools.

MEMBERSHIP CONTRACT

I understand the following:

1. I have read the CLHS Choir Syllabus, Policies, and Procedures and realize that my child will be held to its standards of excellence.
2. My child is enrolling in choir at CLHS. This will require commitment and dedication in class, as well as some activities before school, after school and in the evening. Since students can be graded on attendance and participation, I understand that there will be penalties in grading and in next year's audition procedure if my child is not present. Choir may also require a commitment to practice their singing, at home, for an average of 2-3 hours per week, each week.
3. Choir is an activity that requires both ability and effort. Every student who gives effort will be given a place in a choral group. However, the specific group to which each student is assigned is based on ability, which is determined by audition. A student's number of years of experience or seniority has no impact on determining their placement. This is no different from any other arts or sports group at CLHS.
4. Students are required to attend all concerts throughout the school year. Work, a vacation, dance recitals, college visits, driving lessons, lack of transportation, etc. will not be seen as an excused absence. Out-of-school choir events are part of the choir grade. My child will know at least two weeks in advance about all out-of-school commitments.
5. Students who miss rehearsals or performances, fail to practice their music, or are habitually ineligible, may be removed from choir, at the director's discretion. Students may also be removed for disciplinary reasons. If a student is removed from the CLHS choirs, there will be no monetary reimbursements. This includes, but is not restricted to trip payments, activity fees, etc.

Questions or concerns about this document should be directed to Ms. Roesner or Ms. Neva.

WE AGREE TO FOLLOW THE RULES AND POLICIES FOR THE CLEAR LAKE HIGH SCHOOL CHOIRS DURING THE 2011- 2012 SCHOOL YEAR.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (printed)

Student Signature

Date

Student Name (printed)