Barbers Hill Middle School- South

Choir



Member Handbook

2018-2019

Mrs. Gretchen Guseman, Director

Barbers Hill ISD Mission Statement

The mission of the Barbers Hill Independent School District is to:

* provide the highest level quality of instruction and learning opportunities that produce motivated and successful learners;
* promote excellence, teamwork and a commitment to continuous improvement;
* communicate traditions and demonstrate pride to enhance unity, relationships and cooperation among stakeholders.

Our ultimate goal is to help each other:

• Enjoy a positive and successful experience with choir team members;

• Create memories that will be cherished for a lifetime;

• Appreciate, learn, and perform music from a variety of genres;

• Develop musicianship skills that will last a lifetime;

• Learn to sing in a healthy, resonant, and pleasing manner;

• Set the standard of excellence in behavior and performance for all middle school choirs in the state of Texas;

• Follow the goals set forth by Barbers Hill ISD

Musical Curriculum Standards for Middle School Choir (interpreted from the Vocal Music TEKS)

All students are expected to:

• Learn to sing in a pleasing manner;

• Learn intervals and music notation;

• Learn how to tell the difference between voice types and instruments;

• Learn about the different types of vocal music;

• Memorize their music;

• Learn a variety of music from different time periods and cultures;

• Learn the basics of sight-reading;

• Learn to mark their music with the appropriate symbols;

• Create their own music;

• Learn about music history;

• Learn how to evaluate performers/performances;

• Learn about concert etiquette;

• Perform a variety of music in different settings.

A complete list of the Vocal Music TEKS can be found at the following link:

http://www.cedfa.org

Teacher Contact Information:

**School Address:** 9600 Eagle Drive Mont Belvieu, TX 77580

**School Phone**: 281-576-2221 x1232

\***E-mail: gguseman@bhisd.net**

\*In order to quickly and efficiently reach a large number of people, all information for the Barbers Hill Middle School South Choir will be sent via e-mail. Please add the above e-mail address to your approved e-mail list to ensure that it does not end up in your spam folder. It is also important to fill out the handbook signature form and permission to travel and turn in on or before Sept. 9th.

Follow me on Instagram: GUS\_CHOIR (This is not a personal account and will only be used for educational purposes.)

Google Classroom: 7th/8th graders: fcwwhd and 6th graders: dp3qkg

Get text message updates via “Remind”: See attached page with instructions!

Supply List:

All students will need the following:

**\*\*\*\*\*$20 SUPPLY FEE DUE THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL\*\*\*\*\***

It is up to the student to have a pencil EVERY DAY! Just leave it in your binder. ☺ Random pencil checks will be done throughout the year.

Your Informal Uniform:

All choir students will have an informal uniform. Informal uniforms consist of blue jeans and a choir t-shirt. Jeans may not be any color except for blue and may not be ripped or torn in any way. No shorts, please. The choir t-shirts will cost $15. Hoodies are optional and are $25.

Your Formal Uniform

**7th and 8th grade formal uniform:** We will try on dresses and vests during the first few weeks of school. Uniforms are not checked out to students, but remain at the school. Students will change into and out of uniforms before/after a concert or other performance. ☺

Men must wear black dress shoes and socks. Men must purchase their own white button up shirt, black dress pants, socks and black dress shoes. No tennis shoes, please. If in doubt, please see Mrs. Guseman for approval BEFORE the performance.



Women must wear black dress shoes. Women must also purchase their own black dress shoes. No tennis shoes or rubber flip flops (like from Old Navy). Hose or tights must be black and are not required.



No excessive jewelry, including large earrings, rings, necklaces, belt buckles, or other distracting clothing items--as determined by Mrs. Guseman. Ladies should not wear head bands, bows, or other possibly distracting hair ornamentations.

Choir Purchases and Fees

Choir T-Shirt (all grades)...................................................................................................................$15

If original copies of music are lost or damaged, students will be required to reimburse the choir for this music.

Trip fees………………........Pirate’s Bay will be $16-$18 and Astros game will be $25-$30

The following procedure should be used when paying for any items. This includes fundraiser money.

1. Checks are preferred, but cash is accepted.

2. If a payment is in cash it must be for the exact amount.

3. All checks must be made payable to BHMSS.

4. “Choir” should be written in the memo section of each check.

5. The checks must have a phone number printed or written on the front.

6. All cash turned in to Mrs. Guseman should be in an envelope with the student’s name written on the front.

6. All payments should be handed in during the specified collection times (before or after class). Please do not hand money to Mrs. Guseman during class, in the hall, in the cafeteria, etc.

\*\*\*\*\*Refunds are not handled through Mrs. Guseman. Please refer to the Barbers Hill ISD policies on refunds\*\*\*\*\*

Conduct Expectations:

Outstanding choirs are the result of self-disciplined students working together as a team to achieve a common goal of beautiful music during both rehearsal and performance. All Barbers Hill Middle School South Choir students are expected to uphold a certain standard of behavior.

• **Be an honest person**. Always tell the truth in a kind manner. Help other students make the right decisions.

• **Be a person of integrity**. Never compromise your values. Follow school and classroom rules.

• **Be a promise keeper**. Promise to work hard, practice your music, and follow all school and classroom rules. If you commit to something, see it through to the end.

• **Be a loyal person**. Each student is a member of our choir team. Be loyal by protecting and respecting each other.

• **Be a caring person**. Celebrate when others succeed and do not criticize those who earn recognition.

• **Be accountable for your actions**. Accept responsibility for your decisions and do not blame others for your mistakes. This includes, but is not limited to: not leaving the choir room without permission, passing all of your classes to retain eligibility, taking care of the choir room facility, turning in all forms on time, being on time to rehearsals and performances, and wearing the appropriate attire to performances.

• **Be a respectful person**. Be respectful of yourself, your choir teammates, and Mrs. Guseman. Respect Mrs. Guseman’s time by staying focused during every minute of rehearsal time. Respect personal space and keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself. Respect other student’s class time by not entering during their class time. Respectfully raise your hand before you speak in class.

**Cell phones are not allowed in class unless approved by Mrs. Guseman!!!!!**

Students should use the restroom and get water before or after class only.

**• Pursue excellence in every capacity.** Make every day a “striving toward excellence” day! Excellence can be achieved in a number of ways: Practice your music, sight-reading, and theory lessons. Be positive and you will find success. If you believe it, you will see it. Maintain the highest level of rehearsal intensity possible. Arrive on time and be ready to work for the whole class period. Keep a strong focus on our goals. You will achieve this by not bringing in any other work from another class. Homework should be done at home.

**• Be Tenacious!** Tenacity is defined as “the quality of being determined to do or achieve something; firmness of purpose”.

Consequences:

The severity of the consequences will be determined by Mrs. Guseman.

**NOTE: More severe consequences (an immediate referral) will be given for fighting, use of profanity, bullying, or theft.**

1. Verbal warning.

2. A conference with Mrs. Guseman and/or parental contact either via email or phone.

3. Teacher assigned consequences which may be one or more of the following:

• additional conference with Mrs. Guseman

• lowered conduct grade

• reassigned seating

• conference with parents

• trip or activity privileges revoked

4. Office referral

5. Removal from choir.

Concerts and Rehearsal Attendance:

In accordance with state law, concerts are **curricular** activities and are graded accordingly. Curricular activities may occur during the day, at night, or on a weekend. Performances and rehearsals are part of the *Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills* for choral music classes. Performances dates are included in the Barbers Hill Middle School Choir calendar. Performances may be added throughout the year, but students and parents will receive ample notice.

**All performances are mandatory and count as a large portion of a student’s grade.**

Concerts and some rehearsals are an extension of the choir classroom and students will be graded accordingly. If a student chooses not to participate in a required choral activity then that student will receive a “0” for a grade. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of any conflicts that may arise.

As soon as a student knows that there is a conflict they must submit it in writing to Mrs. Guseman. E-mail notification is acceptable and preferred.

Notice of absence must be given 24 hours before or \*24 hours after an event.

\*NOTE: Only in cases of extreme emergency will 24 hours after an event be acceptable.

Absences from required events are classified as “excused” or “unexcused”.

An “excused” absence is classified as one of the following:

• Severe illness (fever or vomiting).

• Absence from school on the day of the event due to severe illness (not a trip).

• Unforeseen and immediate family emergency (death in the family, sudden and unexpected hospitalization, or accident) NOTE: Family refers to immediate family: parents, step-parents, grandparents, siblings, or step-siblings.

• Other circumstances as decided by Mrs. Guseman

An “unexcused” absence is classified as one of the following:

• Lack of a ride.

• Non-school related activities.

• Family trips.

• Family activities.

• Other circumstances as decided by Mrs. Guseman.

Failure to participate in rehearsals, sectionals, or performances will negatively affect a Student’s grade. Failure to participate in required events will affect future placement in advanced choir.

Conflicts With Choir Activities:

When students are involved with many different activities, there will, from time to time, be scheduling conflicts. When these conflicts arise, please submit them in writing to Mrs. Guseman. (e-mail is preferred)

Below are guidelines to follow when there are conflicts:

• A UIL event takes precedence over any other non-UIL event.

**\*\*\*\*\*(If a student misses UIL for any reason, other than illness, they will be penalized with a “0” for a test grade and will not attend the reward trip. If they are in advanced choir, they will be removed from advanced choir.)\*\*\*\*\***

• A district-level event takes precedence over any non-district or lower level event.

• A practice for UIL or district level event takes precedence over a practice for a noncompetitive performance or game.

• When there are two activities of equal importance, a student must work out a compromise with all parties involved.

• A practice for a one-time event takes precedence over a routine, regularly scheduled practice.

• A school event always takes precedence over a non-school event even if the non-school event is a competition.

• Sometimes students will have to make a choice regarding activities that are of equal importance without fear of reprisal or forfeiture of status/position.

• Family events should be scheduled around all required school events.

Please check your calendar for conflicts as soon as possible!

Concert Eligibility

In accordance with state law, students must maintain passing grades in order to participate in any UIL sponsored events. Students do not have to maintain eligibility in order to participate in required evening concerts and performances.

Students that are serving in ISS may not attend concerts.

**If a day time concert or activity causes a student to miss a class, it is the student’s responsibility to notify their teacher ahead of time and to collect make up work for the missed class.**

Concert Etiquette:

Choir students will always exhibit proper conduct and etiquette at all performances (whether at our school or off campus). Use the following guidelines while attending or performing in any type of concert or performance:

1. Be silent on stage or while in the audience.

2. Stay in your seat for the entire performance. In the instance of an emergency, exit quickly and quietly during applause. When you return, wait at the door for the song to end. Listen for applause.

3. Food, drinks, or gum should be kept outside of the amphitheater.

4. Support your fellow choir members or other groups with polite applause. Calling out names, yelling, whistling, or cheering loudly should be kept to sporting events.

5. During serious music, clap after the director lowers his/her hands or baton.

Sometimes songs have multiple movements and it is only appropriate to applause after all movements have been performed.

6. While attending UIL Concert and Sight-Reading performances, it is only appropriate to applaud after the choir has completed their entire performance (after three songs).

7. In songs that are pop or jazz style, it is appropriate to applaud after a solo.

8. Set a good example for the audience. Know the correct concert etiquette and the other audience members will follow.

9. Cell phones or watches with alarms should be silenced during a performance.

10. Enjoy the music and the performance!

On the Day/Night of a Concert or Performance:

1. Be in your place ready for the concert at the designated time.

2. Wear the correct concert attire.

3. Watch and listen to Mrs. Guseman at all times.

4. Stay focused on the director instead of other choir members or the audience. Talking on stage or turning your head around is distracting and should be avoided.

5. It is understandable to be excited to see friends and family members in the audience. It is appropriate to smile at them, but inappropriate to wave or signal to them with your hands.

6. Remain calm and attentive while on stage. Fidgeting, scratching, or wiggling is inappropriate while on stage. Only move if directed by Mrs. Guseman.

7. Move from the stage to your designated seating area quickly and quietly and move from your designated seating area to the stage quickly and quietly.

8. Sit in your assigned seat and row.

Grading Policy:

40%- Daily work, daily class participation, rehearsals, quizzes, and assessments.

60%- Performances and singing/performance tests.

Student Home Practice Requirements:

Students are required to practice music at home when we are preparing for All-Region or Solo and Ensemble. Parents will be given ample notice of all at-home practice requirements.

Choir Trips:

Choir students will have several trips and outside of school activities this year. Students must follow certain guidelines in order to ensure a safe and productive trip.

1. Students must be passing all classes.

2. Students must have served three days or less of ISS.

3. Mrs. Guseman must have permission to travel forms before students are allowed to go on trips.

4. Any medication must be sent through the nurse.

5. Students are responsible for their actions on the bus and at the destination. School rules apply for all trips.

6. School dress code will be followed on trips.

7. If a parent or guardian checks a student out early from a trip or competition, they must sign a release form with Mrs. Guseman.

8. Students may not be signed out by anyone other that their legal guardian.

9. Each student is a representative of our school. Students will face the same disciplinary consequences as if they were attending school.

10. All students will treat all chaperones and adults with respect. This includes chaperones from other schools.

11. Chaperones will receive all information either via e-mail or in the form of a packet on the day of the trip.

12. Parents will be notified of the pick-up time prior to a trip. Students should be picked up no later than 10 minutes after a designated time pick up time. In the instance of a delay, parents will be notified as soon as possible. If a student is picked up more than 20 minutes late from any activity or rehearsal, that student will not be allowed to attend any trips or events for the remainder of the school year.

(Students who miss ANY required concert WILL NOT attend the reward trip- this includes UIL and Pre-UIL.)

Contests and Competitions:

Judging standard for UIL sponsored events:

I- Superior, II- Excellent, III- Average, IV- Below Average, V- Poor

All-Region Choir

The All-Region Choir is a group of singers selected by an anonymous panel of judges. Every student in the region learns the same three or four songs. Students then perform “cuts” or small sections of the songs for judges. A barrier of some type (a screen or sheet) is set up in the judging room and students are given numbers to remain anonymous. After the audition, the top 25-30 ranked students will become members of the All-Region Choir. It is a very high honor to make All-Region. If a student places in the All-Region Choir, then that student must commit to several additional rehearsals, a clinic (where a guest director comes in to rehearse the choir) and a performance. All-Region is a choir made up of many different students in our region. If you do not place in the All-region Choir, this does not mean that you are not a member of the BHMSS Choir. It simply means that you placed in the top 25-30 in your voice section in the region. The audition music does not have to be memorized, but must be very familiar to the student. All 7th and 8th grade students are required to learn the All-Region audition music. **BOTH Advanced Choirs are required to audition**. Everyone else may audition, but must perform their music for Mrs. Guseman before the student entry date deadline. All-Region auditions will be held in the fall semester. If a student signs up to audition and is unable to for any reason, they must reimburse the school the $8 entry fee.

Solo and Ensemble:

Solo and ensemble allows students to pick solos and ensembles to perform for a judge. The judges use the UIL standards for judging that are listed above. Medals are awarded to students who receive a rating of “I” on a solo or ensemble. Solos and ensembles must be selected from a certain list of music (*The Prescribed Music List)*. All students are required to pick out a solo. Ensembles are not required, but are highly encouraged. Mrs. Guseman will work with all students in order to place them in an ensemble that is suitable for their singing needs. Solo and ensemble music must be memorized. If a student performs their solo in front of a judge, then that student will receive an automatic “100” for a test grade, no matter what rating they receive. If a student chooses to not perform in front of a judge then they will still be required to perform their solo, for a test grade, for Mrs. Guseman.

UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest:

This contest takes place in the spring semester. This particular contest allows choirs to showcase their talent as a team. Each choir selects three songs to perform for three judges. This is the “concert” portion of the contest. Then, each choir is given a piece of music they have never seen before to read. This is the “sight-reading” portion of the contest. We will work together all year to master the skills needed for this particular contest. Students must be eligible to perform in this contest.

Students are required to have their music memorized. All students must sing off the UIL music for Mrs. Guseman. Students who have already placed in the ADVANCED CHOIRS will not have to sing off their music. It is ultimately up to Mrs. Guseman whether or not a student is allowed to perform at UIL. **\*\*\*\*\*Students who miss UIL for any reason will receive a “0” for a test grade.\*\*\*\*\* No excuses or exceptions\*\*\*\*\***

Handbook Signature Page

Complete and give to Mrs. Guseman on or before Friday, August 24th, 2018

I have read and understand this student handbook and will adhere to all rules & regulations in this handbook. I promise to uphold the high standards of the BHMS-S Choir. I will work hard to make BHMS-S Choir a success.

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the contents of this handbook. I have reviewed this handbook with my child & hold my child responsible for the contents of this handbook.

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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