Mayde Creek High School

Choral Department Handbook

2026-2027

Directors: Jessica Shine & Ruben Perez

Dear Choir Member and Parent/Guardian,

The Mayde Creek Choral Department is expecting an exciting and fun-filled year. The potential for success is very promising so it is up to everyone to work to make this year great. It is our sincere hope that you find many long-lasting friendships, learn to respect those around you, and feel a strong sense of pride in a job well done. To achieve the goals and standards required of this organization, each member needs to be active, dependable, and consistent in their contributions to the efforts of the choir.

In order to facilitate the best possible experience for your child, the MCHS Choral Department is divided into five (5) separate classes and seven (7) different choirs.

- Chorale Treble Training, Competitive, Sub non-varsity
- Concert Tenor/Bass Competitive, Non-varsity
- Chamber Treble Competitive, Non-varsity (audition only)
- Kantori Competitive, Varsity* (audition only)
- Taking Notes A Cappella Pop Group/Show Choir

Kantori splits into Varsity Treble & Varsity Tenor-Bass Choirs

We trust that your student will continue to be a part of the MCHS Choir family throughout their high school career.

Please know that we have set very high standards and expectations for our choirs. We have a proud tradition to uphold and will hopefully work together to achieve a continued high degree of success.

Please support us in our endeavor to make the MCHS Choir Department successful!

Thank you,

Jessica Shine and Ruben Perez

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Expectations Page 2-3

Rules/Consequences/Grading Page 4

Communication/Discipline/All-State/Solo & Ensemble Page 5

Booster Club Page 6

Costs Page 7

KATY ISD CHOIR EXPECTATIONS

The mission of the Katy Independent School District Fine Arts Department is to prepare students to be successful in a diverse and ever-changing society through experiences in the fine arts, by designing and supporting the delivery of an aligned, articulated, assessed and progressive performance-based curriculum that encourages all students to reach their academic, creative and expressive potential by fostering a life-long involvement in the arts.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

All students are expected to arrive at all rehearsals and performances *on time*. *On time* means present, appropriately dressed, and in the assigned place with required materials BEFORE the posted time. Each absence will be reviewed on an individual basis. **One (1) unexcused absence** from a performance will result in a conference with the director to discuss the advisability of the student remaining in the choir program and their grade will be affected. **Two (2) unexcused absences** from rehearsals will be viewed as a sign that the student is not able or willing to participate in accordance with these expectations and will count the same as an unexcused absence.

The responsibility for communicating with the director concerning absences, tardies, etc. lies solely with the student. The calendar of events is scheduled A YEAR in advance. Please mark these items down NOW so that you can plan your schedule around them. Be sure to share these dates with any organization you join after school starts such as fine arts organizations, fall or spring sports, or other Katy ISD and non-Katy ISD organizations. Every effort should be made to avoid conflicts with choir events; they are considered curricular and are required. *Non-school events including, but not limited, to driver education, club sports, and comedy sports, etc. will not be given an excused absence or make-up option when they are in conflict with items on the choir calendar such as concerts and mandatory rehearsals.* If you will take responsibility for your time and be considerate of ours, we will help you to find a solution that works for you **and for the choir program** IF you have demonstrated appropriate effort to do so in your planning/scheduling.

Every student must remain academically eligible! UIL "No Pass/No Play" rules apply to any competition, event for which we charge an admission, or that causes missed instructional time during the school day. This does not apply to UIL Concert and Sight Reading. Students that are members of a competitive choir who become ineligible will be placed on probation until the end of the grading period. If a student is academically ineligible for two consecutive grading periods, they may be moved to another ensemble. The golden rule is: **COME TO AND PASS EVERY CLASS, EVERY DAY.**

Student participation in all ensembles and performances are subject to the director's discretion. Students may be removed from any performance or class based upon part checks, sight-reading, behavior referrals, vocal technique, eligibility, or any other reason determined by the director.

IN-PERSON EXPECTATIONS

The success of a choir depends on how it rehearses. How a choir rehearses depends on the conduct and cooperation of the students. Rehearsals are the place to correct mistakes. The fewer the mistakes and the less individual distractions, the greater one's contribution is to the choir. *When the director has to discipline and control rather than direct, the rehearsal, and eventually the choirs are headed for failure.* Good behavior, a good attitude, and good self-discipline are essential to producing a GREAT CHOIR. If **you** personally choose to do all of these things, the **choir** will be successful.

1. Be ON TIME to all rehearsals (school or extra) and performances. ON TIME is defined as: You are to be in your place with your Music and all visiting stopped BY THE TIME THE BELL RINGS.
   Anything other than this is **NOT** ON TIME and you WILL be counted tardy.
2. Remove headphones and power off personal electronics **prior** to ENTERING the classroom or concert venue. The director may need to give you instructions and your classmates may want to talk with you! Use the time before class to be social so that you can focus during rehearsal time.
3. **Always** have your MUSIC, CHOIR FOLDER, and PENCIL.
4. No gum. Ever. Period.
5. Be conscious of and practice GOOD POSTURE at all times while singing.
6. Keep your EYES on the conductor during rehearsal.
7. LISTEN to the conductor at all times. Talking while the conductor is rehearsing or giving instructions is **NEVER** appropriate. When the director gives the starting pitch or is speaking, you should be silent.
8. **The use of cell phones, personal electronics, and headphones is not allowed at rehearsals or concerts. Violation of this policy will follow the KISD discipline guidelines. Video or audio recording of the director or other students without their express consent is STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**
9. Rehearsals are not over until the director dismisses the choir. Don't begin to put your music away until instructed to do so.
10. Rehearsals are not for personal grooming, catching up on the latest gossip, or doing homework. Take care of personal business BEFORE rehearsal begins. You will not be allowed to miss a choir rehearsal to do work for another class.
11. Keep the room orderly and clean. CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF. If you are not taking your music home, make sure you return it to the correct shelf. If you do, BRING IT BACK TO CLASS the following day. NEVER take another student's music/folder. Accept responsibility/consequence if you lose yours.
12. Approach rehearsals and performances with OPTIMISM, ENTHUSIASM, DETERMINATION, AND YOUR WHOLE-HEARTED ATTENTION.
13. The success of the Choir is your *individual responsibility*. Ask yourself "If everybody did it (or didn't do it) would it work?"
14. Do not bring food, candy, or drinks in the Choir Room unless given permission by the director.
15. If you are sick, it is your responsibility to inform the director PRIOR to the beginning of the rehearsal.

STAGE RULES

1. Do not talk or do anything to draw attention to yourself while walking on or off stage, sitting in the audience, or on stage performing.
2. Keep your hands down at your sides during the entire performance, whether you are singing or not. Do not straighten your hair, dress, jacket, or tie.
3. Keep your eyes on the conductor at all times
4. NO CELLPHONES OR GUM ON STAGE (OR IN THE AUDIENCE)!

CONSEQUENCES

This is an elective course. Participation is a privilege, not a right. Student conduct should indicate that they WANT TO BE HERE. Excellence is not our goal, it is our expectation.

1. One (1) verbal notice should fix a problem and will be documented on discipline long form. A student could experience loss of privileges upon a director's verbal notice.
2. Conduct grades will be deducted, incident documented on discipline long form, and a parent is contacted.
3. Discipline long form will be completed, after the third infraction, discipline short form will also be completed and the student is sent to their assistant principal.
4. Placement to another ensemble or removal from the program.

Note: Steps one and two may be skipped at any time!

- ***Students involved in severe misbehavior will be sent to the office immediately. No questions asked.***

- ***As a member of the Mayde Creek High School Choral Department all choir students are expected to exhibit exemplary behavior at all times, whether in choir class or other classes. Students who continue to violate school rules may jeopardize their membership in choir.***

GRADING

Major Grades- 50%

Performances participation [No Make-ups for unexcused performances absence.]

Tests (singing, sight-reading, and written)

Daily classroom engagement (performance-based curriculum)

Minor Grades- 35%

Quizzes (written, oral, and/or

aural) Sectionals/ Rehearsals

Other Grades- 15%

Preparation: materials, music, pencil, etc.

Theory work/Homework

TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Ms. Shine and Mr. Perez will send email reminders home periodically to share important information. Please be sure your email address is current and correct on your student's enrollment card. We will answer emails between 7:00 am and 3:00 pm Monday – Friday and will respond within 24 hours of receipt. In addition to email, parents and students should sign up for "Remind101" text notifications. Text the message below which corresponds to your student's class to:

- Kantori (3rd period choir) -- @kantori
- Chamber Treble (4th period choir) -- @mchschamb
- Concert Tenor/Bass (5th period choir) -- @menwhosing
- Chorale Treble (6th period choir) -- @mchschoral

KATY ISD DISCIPLINE DIRECTIVE

Any student member of an extracurricular organization or campus club (e.g. band/choir/dance team/cheerleader/athlete/student council, etc.) representing themselves or their organization in an unfavorable, questionable, or illegal manner through electronic media (i.e. websites, personal home pages, blogs, text messages, chat rooms or similar website/files accessible through a server or internet) or using electronic communication devices in such a way as to discredit, dishonor, or disgrace their 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 appropriate school officials and/or organization sponsors/directors/coaches, including probation or dismissal from the organization.

ALL-STATE COMPETITION

Taking Notes will be required to audition for the All-State auditions. Varsity choir (Kantori) students are highly encouraged to audition for All-State auditions. This competition has four rounds of auditions with pre-selected music. Students can purchase the music from KD Music, JW Pepper, or AMC Music and rehearsal CDs can be obtained from the director. Students may also set-up rehearsal time with the director after school. There are some other fees associated with the audition process, the first being a district audition fee of $20.00. Other fees may be incurred if the student advances further.

UIL SOLO AND ENSEMBLE CONTEST

All choir members are encouraged to participate in the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest on February 5th at Mayde Creek High School. Music will be selected in late December, so the students will have ample time to prepare. The fee is $12 per student which is due at registration in December. Students will receive the literature and any rehearsal materials he/she may need. The accompanist fee ($35) will include two rehearsals and the performance. The payment is due by the first rehearsal. All students earning a 1st Division on a Class 1 Solo or Small Ensembles will qualify to compete at the Katy Young Artist Competition. Success at Solo/Ensemble contests are a great way to earn Letter Jacket points!

Join the Choir Booster Club!

WHAT DOES THE BOOSTER CLUB DO?

The Booster Club fills in all the gaps that the director and/or KISD funding cannot provide for. It exists to enrich the experience for ALL of the choirs and benefits ALL of the students. Producing outstanding performance events require an enormous amount of time, effort, and money. Behind the scenes tasks such as uniform fittings and distribution, ticket sales, and event promotion (advertising) are also necessary for successful performance events. In addition, UIL/TMEA competitions, the musical, Follies, Concerts, field trips, and the Awards Banquet are all events that the students look forward to and are executed with the help of the Booster Club. One of the main roles of the Booster Club is organizing and executing fundraisers needed to support your student's involvement in these events. The Booster Club will benefit ALL students in ALL choirs by providing support to them and the director as he makes the decisions and preparations for outstanding learning opportunities.

HOW CAN I BE A MEMBER OF THE BOOSTER CLUB?

Anyone! Whether you are a parent, grandparent, guardian, school faculty member, or just a choir supporter, you can become a member! There is room for everyone. There will be regular meetings to plan for upcoming events and to discuss how you can help support the choir. The executive board will be elected by the members at the end of each year to serve during the upcoming school year. Reach out to our **President, Guadalupe Garcia** at this email address if you are interested in joining our Booster Club.

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO TO HELP?

There is a job that everyone can do. You can make telephone calls from home in the evenings or weekends, or you can build, paint, sew, pick-up/deliver, sell tickets during school, help the students with fundraising, organize, hand out programs, or just give a few dollars to be a member, there is a place for you. If you can only help in the Fall or only help in the Spring, or only help during the day, there is a place for you!

Your child **does not** have to be in the Varsity Choir in order for you to help. Your student might say he/she would be embarrassed for parents/guardians to be around, but he/she truly does appreciate your interest and support of the activities he/she enjoys.

With the assistance of dedicated and dependable boosters, we will ensure that **EVERY** student's experience will be a successful one in MCHS Choir.

Reach out to our **President, Guadalupe Garcia** at this email address if you are interested in joining our Booster Club:

MCHSChoirBoosterClub@gmail.com

FEES LIST

There will be one Program Fee and one Activity Cost assessed annually (2 separate payments). The program fee (course fee) of $50 will be paid to Katy ISD through Pay 'N Go. The program fee will cover a choir t-shirt, formal uniform rental and cleaning, binder, music and other program expenses. Program fees for choir are not eligible for fee waivers, per KISD. Uniforms will not be assigned to you until your program fee is paid.

The Choir Activity Cost is $35 and will be paid through the choir website (maydetosing.org). This covers the fitting of your formal choir uniform, accompanists and collaborative musicians for each of our concerts, student meals, your family's membership in the Mayde Creek Choir Booster Club, and other choir expenses.

Program (course) Fee*	$50	due Aug 28th
Activity Cost*	$35	due Aug 28th
Kemah Choir Days (Kantori students only)	$45	due Sept 25th
Taking Notes Show Choir Fee (Taking Notes only)	$125	due Aug 28th
Choir Banquet	$TBA	
TMEA		
District Audition Fee	$20	due Aug 28th
UIL Solo and Ensemble		
Solo and Ensemble Entry Fee	$12	due Dec 11th
Accompanist Fee for Solo and Ensemble	$35	due Dec 11th
Katy Young Artists Solo and Ensemble Competition		
Accompanist Fee for Solo and Ensemble	$35	due TBA

* Mandatory for all choir students