

# HEBRON HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL DEPARTMENT

## GRADING SYSTEM, RULES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

### Introduction

The Choir Handbook is designed to foster the success of the Hebron High Choir, inform the students and their parents, and address questions and concerns that may arise throughout the school year. Answers to most questions concerning procedures in our department can be found here. We welcome you as part of our choir family and look forward to your involvement in our program.

### Membership

Membership in the HHS Choral program is open to every student enrolled at Hebron High School and the Hebron Ninth Grade Center regardless of musical experience. All students are encouraged to audition so we can place them in an appropriate choral ensemble for their level of musicianship. Students who choose not to audition are automatically assigned to Concert Choir. As a member of a team, students are expected to put the group before themselves and maintain the HHS Choir Code of Conduct discussed later in this handbook. Participation in a music ensemble should be considered a privilege not a right. Students who participate in extracurricular and/or co-curricular activities are held to a higher standard and required to sign the LISD Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct confirming their commitment to not drink alcoholic beverages, use tobacco illegally, take illegal drugs or be in possession of drug paraphernalia, or attend or remain at an activity where alcohol or drugs are being consumed illegally. Consequences for breaking the pledge include suspension and/or removal from the choral program. In addition, in order to maintain the integrity of the department and provide a positive learning environment for all students, consistent in-class discipline problems, multiple placements of in-school suspension, discipline referrals for fighting and/or other aggressive acts will result in a loss of privileges in the choral program including movement into a different ensemble, loss of traveling privileges, suspension from performances, or removal from the choral program at the director's discretion.

### Participation

As a member of the organization you will be expected to attend and perform in class, in concerts, and at extra rehearsals and programs as scheduled by the directors. Students are given ample notice of scheduled events so that conflicts are minimal. As students continue their quest to be responsible adults and perfect the art of balancing and organizing activities and calendars, it is their responsibility to inform parents, employers, coaches, sponsors, and other teachers of choir activities. Routine doctor appointments and/or a student's job schedule will not serve as excused absences from activities. Outside rehearsals and concerts are part of the curriculum of the department and are REQUIRED as part of the grade for the course. With prior permission from the director, a student may be excused for special school activities. When a conflict between choir and another school sponsored event occurs it is the student's responsibility to notify the sponsors of both activities in order to reach a resolution. In the event of an emergency on the day of the concert please notify the directors either by email or phone. Only excused absences are eligible for grade makeups. Excused absences are granted in the case of a pre-approved school event with at least two weeks of written notice or verified emergency. A student with excessive absences for rehearsals (excused or unexcused, in class or out of class) or an absence from a dress rehearsal may be removed from performance.

### Resolving School Related Conflicts

We recognize that it is beneficial for a student to be involved in multiple activities during their time in high school and encourage and support student engagement in activities at HHS. When scheduling choir activities every effort is made to coordinate with other school events; however, with over 230 students in the program involved in every imaginable activity it is nearly impossible to avoid all conflicts. Communication is essential between students and faculty members. Please use the general guidelines below when dealing with school related conflicts and remember, we are here to help - communicate!

- Major Events are scheduled via a district wide calendar meeting in May of each year. Reservations for facilities are done at this time. It is nearly impossible to accommodate changes that result in last minute additions or alterations in other programs on campus. As professionals we are expected to plan ahead and reduce conflict in advance. Should a conflict result because of a change in schedule or poorly communicated schedule it is expected that students give priority to previously scheduled commitments.
- When a student sees that there is a school related conflict with a choir event, the initial responsibility is that the **student meet face to face with the choir director** and other director/coach/sponsor to make them aware of the conflict. This must be done immediately when comparing the two group's activity calendars or at least two weeks before the event that poses this school related conflict. Parent emails, student emails will not be returned until this initial step is taken.
- There is a limit to how many activities a student can be in. Plan your activities accordingly. While we can accommodate most activities, if a student signs up for two activities that require a time commitment consistently at the same time the student will be forced to choose an activity.
- Concerts are cumulative; curriculum based events and should be given priority over a practice or other optional event. For example - We would not expect you to miss a district sports game to attend an after-school rehearsal just as we would not expect you to miss a concert to attend a sports practice or non-district tournament game. We often have a single performance that represents the culmination of weeks of work; we do not have the luxury of multiple performances or games.
- We make a marked effort to not monopolize student time and operate efficiently. Typically we will not schedule more than one rehearsal per week outside of school. If a student is expected to be at 5 weekly practices / rehearsals for one activity we expect it reasonable that they be allowed one 60-90 minute rehearsal with the choir.
- We will always support our students in their academic efforts and encourage attendance at tutorials as needed. When possible, please attempt to schedule tutoring that does not interfere with a one time rehearsal of the choral department (Example - If Math tutoring is offered 4 days a week and we have choir rehearsal 1 day per week, schedule your Math tutoring on one of the other 3 days)

## Classroom Performance (Daily Participation)

Choral music is a performance-based course and ongoing assessment of a student's engagement in daily performance is part of the grade in the course as noted below. Activities, which involve the student not being engaged in the task at hand, will adversely affect the grade including but not limited to:

- Unauthorized use of cell phone / other electronic device during instruction & performance
- Failure to participate in classroom activities
- Failure to have music and other needed supplies (supplied by the school)
- Failure to demonstrate basic elements of choral singing as requested (Hand Signs, Posture, etc)
- Tardiness in turning in requested forms which need parental signature, online forms, and online music assignments

## Outside of Class Performances and Rehearsals (Exam Grade)

Outside of class performances are a required element of the State curriculum and cannot be duplicated through alternative written work. In the case of a pre-approved school conflict or verified emergency the student will be given the opportunity to recover points on the student grade through one of the assignments listed below. **In order to preserve the safety of all students and integrity of the performance, students may not be able to perform in concerts due to absences from rehearsals / dress rehearsals regardless of excused or unexcused absence status.** Students will always be given ample advance notice of required performances; therefore, the following activities are examples of what will **not** be considered an excused absence from Choral Department events: Student's Work Schedule, Regular Doctor / Dental Appointments, Lack of Transportation, Babysitting Obligations, Church Activities, Non-School Related Sports Events.

## Grading System:

Because choral learning is achieved through oral methods, much of the choral grade earned will be evaluated through singing and participation whether in rehearsal or performance.

Approximately two grades will be taken each week for a total of 18 grades per nine weeks.

The choir student's grade will be an average of the following items:

**70%** of the nine weeks grade will be earned through **daily participation** (student expectation -listed later in the syllabus, t-shirt on concert days), **daily class attendance, classroom performance assessments** (sight-singing quizzes, oral or recorded singing tests, and various choral worksheets or online music theory assignments) and any **sectional rehearsals** required by the choir. Student mastery is the goal of every assignment in the choral department. In most cases, singing tests may be retaken for credit.

One cumulative "Daily Participation" grade will be taken each week based on attendance, meeting classroom expectations, participation, etc. For each day a student misses from the week, the student will automatically lose 10 points from that grade. Please see the section on "**Absences**" for possible make-up work. Students will receive a grade of 95 if present and participating the full week.

**30%** of the nine weeks grade will be earned through technical rehearsals and performances. Because the work in daily rehearsal to prepare for concerts, we consider our tech rehearsals and concerts/performances very important in the final preparation to exhibit our vocal accomplishments made during the nine weeks and will be graded as such. Tech Rehearsals are considered major grades and performances will be counted as **exam** grades. The semester exam grade for the 1<sup>st</sup> 9 weeks will be the Fall concert. The 2<sup>nd</sup> 9 weeks semester exam grade will be the Holiday concert. The 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks semester exam grade will be an Ensemble Performance or Pre-UIL (depending on the calendar dates). The 4<sup>th</sup> 9 weeks semester exam grade will be the Spring concert. **THESE GRADES WILL OCCUR OUTSIDE OF CLASS TIME AT SCHEDULED CHORAL DEPARTMENT EVENTS.**

## Absences:

Since choir membership is similar to being a member of a sports team, it is crucial that every choir member is in attendance for **both tech rehearsals and performances** as well as before and after school sectionals. If an emergency absence (student illness the day of the event) occurs, a **PARENT** call to the choir office (469) 948-3025 or a **PARENT** email to [foresterr@lisd.net](mailto:foresterr@lisd.net) or [ratliffn@lisd.net](mailto:ratliffn@lisd.net) is needed **before** the beginning of the concert or rehearsal. In this call or email we need to know your student's name and the specific reason for his/her absence to deem excused/unexcused by the director. If absence occurs because of death in the family, parent notification is requested as soon as travel plans are made. If the absence from the concert/rehearsal is deemed unexcused by the director, a grade of 0 will be recorded for the particular grade and make-up work will not be offered.

### Make-up work:

- For "Daily Participation" grades, if the absence is deemed excused, the student may submit a 45 minute audio recording to Google Classroom no later than one week after the absence occurs to make up 1 day (10 points) of the "Daily Participation" grade. You will need to print, fill out and submit an Individual Rehearsal Report (found in Charms - Folder "Handouts and Files" - then Forms)
- For TMEA region sectional grades, make-up work will consist of the student making a 30 minute rehearsal audio recording submitted to Google Classroom no later than two days after the missed sectional date. You will need to print, fill out and submit an Individual Rehearsal Report (found in Charms - Folder "Handouts and Files" - then Forms)
- Make-up work for excused absences from concerts or major grade rehearsals will be a singing/written project that will be assigned as needed. The quality of make-up work will be graded and is left solely up to the directors' discretion.

**The following list of skills based on the TEKS for High School Fine Arts and the educational philosophy of the Choral Department summarizes the outcome of a student engaged in the Hebron HS Choral program for four years.**

1. **Vocal Technique**
  - a. The student can demonstrate good singing posture and proper breath technique
  - b. The student has a basic knowledge of the biology associated with the vocal instrument.
  - c. The student can sing with consistent tone throughout his/her vocal range
  - d. The student has a basic knowledge of the registers of the voice and can navigate appropriately through all vocal registers.
  - e. The student can sing accurately and expressively at different tempi and with a full range of dynamics.
  - f. The student has a basic knowledge of singing diction including the use of the International Phonetic Alphabet in English, Latin, Italian, German, French and other languages as encountered in the repertoire.
  - g. The student can evaluate vocal and choral performances and identify strengths and weaknesses.

2. **Musicianship**
  - a. The student can accurately sight-sing melodies in major and minor keys using chromatic tones within the Functional harmony using sol-feg and hand signs.
  - b. The student can accurately read standard rhythms in a variety of simple and compound meters.
  - c. The student can accurately sight-read a single part in a four-part choral texture
  - d. The student understands basic musical terminology and can evaluate the expressive and technical markings in a choral score and respond appropriately.
  - e. The student can evaluate structural qualities (form) of a piece of music regarding repetition and formal properties.
  - f. The student understands basic conducting gestures and their connection to the choral performance.
3. **Ensemble Skills**
  - a. The student demonstrates proper ensemble etiquette through consistent performance in rehearsals
  - b. The student demonstrates the ability to perform choral music for an audience.
  - c. The student can sing his/her choral part accurately and expressively either alone or as a member of an ensemble with attention to tone, blend, intonation and balance.
  - d. The student can identify the historical and cultural background of the literature being performed.
4. **Life Skills**
  - a. The student will develop a life-long appreciation for choral music and other arts.
  - b. The student will obtain skills needed to engage in music as a performer, patron and/or consumer throughout his/her life.
  - c. The student will develop cultural awareness and tolerance learning to cooperate with an eclectic group of people to reach a common goal.
  - d. The student will develop communication and time management skills needed for success in higher education.
  - e. The student will develop self-discipline and the ability to focus on difficult tasks in order to achieve goals.
  - f. The student will demonstrate the core values of the Choral Department (Responsibility, Integrity, Professionalism, Dignity and Compassion) in all of his/her daily endeavors.

## Student Expectations

Certain standards are necessary for the integrity and reputation of any organization. Every choir member will be expected to display manners, follow school rules, meet deadlines, and always represent HHS and the choir with pride and dignity. Choir members are expected to have and maintain a character above reproach. Not following school rules both in and out of choir may result in loss of membership and all of the privileges of the group. Members of the Hebron HS Choir are expected to demonstrate the following:

**Professionalism** by displaying self-discipline, working well with others, having an attitude of respect for the director and other school staff, and displaying the qualities of a professional musician.

**Responsibility** through punctuality, following through with commitments, bringing supplies to rehearsal, communicating with the staff, delivering information to parents, and making a marked effort to improve musical skills and learn repertoire.

**Integrity** through honesty with the director, oneself, and other students, and regular attendance at school and out of school rehearsals and events.

**Dignity** by adhering to the campus dress code, using appropriate language and etiquette, displaying self-motivation in rehearsal, presenting oneself in a well groomed manner, and presenting a positive image for the organization.

**Empathy** through sensitivity and acceptance of diversity, displaying kindness and encouragement to peers, and showing sympathy for others.

### Rehearsal Etiquette

The single most important factor of the success of any choir is the work it accomplishes in its rehearsals. How you rehearse is how you will perform.

Students are expected to abide by the following classroom rules:

- Strive daily to demonstrate Hawk P.R.I.D.E as outlined in the HHS Choir Student Expectations.
- Participate in all daily rehearsal activities
- Respond to instructions and requests of the director the first time given

### Classroom Discipline Plan

- Verbal Warning
- 2nd Verbal Warning
- Rehearsal Time Out and Parent Contact
- Parent Phone Call & Student Conference
- Office Referral

Any physical/verbal violence, major infraction of HHS and/or LISD Policy, or student refusal to cooperate in discipline procedures will result in an immediate office referral.

### Daily Rehearsal Procedure

Enter the room in a calm and dignified manner

Place all personal belongings in designated place at the side of room. If we are using technology during class, you will have your iPad with you on the risers but will not use until director instruction

Be in your seat with your folder and your pencil when the bell rings.

Be ready to focus on our main priority of making music. This requires absolute attention, positive attitude and willingness to make a mistake.

Plan on working every day - the entire class period from August until June. We do not have free time or free days in choir. Do not plan on having time to leave the room for restroom, locker, etc. Students will only be allowed to leave in the event of an emergency.

### Use of Technology in the Classroom

In our effort to teach students to be responsible users of appropriate technology we embrace the use of technology as an instructional device through the LISD technology initiative. There will be times when students are invited to use technology as part of the learning process during choral rehearsals. Unless

specifically asked to use technology during rehearsal, the use of student technology devices during choir class is considered a classroom disruption and will be treated according to the classroom discipline plan. Students using cell phones during class will have the phones taken up and held by the directors for the remainder of class. After this initial warning, any future abuse of technology will result in the device being taken during class and turned into the appropriate assistant principal. As this is a performance-based course, a student's performance grade will be reduced as a result of non-engagement in daily performance activities including unauthorized use of technology.

### Digital Citizenship

Digital citizenship is a term that describes how a person should act while using digital technology and has also been defined as "the ability to participate in society online". Teaching appropriate digital citizenship to our students is integrated into our use of technology in LISD. With the continued increase of communication via electronic media it is extremely important to understand the implications of texts, Facebook posts, tweets, etc. Nothing we do electronically can be considered temporary or private. **Any student who represents themselves, peers, or their organization in an unfavorable, questionable, or illegal manner through electronic media will have parents immediately notified and be subject to disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by school officials and directors, including but not limited to dismissal from the organization.**

## General Information:

The Hebron Choirs will perform fall, holiday and spring concerts and participate in three Hebron cluster concerts. Members can also participate in the All-State audition process, the LISD Solo and Ensemble Contest, a spring choir trip and the all-school musical. The choirs will perform in the Pre-UIL Concert and Sight-reading Festival, the adjudicated UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest and UIL Home Concert in the spring. HHS choir members will perform at various school and community events during the school year.

Qualified degreed vocal instructors will again offer voice lessons during the school day. The students have the opportunity to study in a one-on-one situation with these teachers during the student's choir class period. The cost of the lessons will be **\$20.00** for a 30-minute weekly lesson. *If a student begins voice lessons he/she is then responsible for continuing the training at least for the semester.* Payments are due TO THE VOICE TEACHER on the first lesson of every month. Full semester payment for lessons is encouraged! Lessons will not be given during student holidays. Voice scholarships are available. Forms are available to pick up from your choir director and due back on September 1, 2017.

## Uniforms

The Hebron High School choirs will be issued formal black dresses and black tuxedos, blue vests and ties. The uniforms are purchased by the district and must be kept in excellent condition by the choir member.

Your signature on the syllabus acknowledgement also serves as a contract for uniform/garment bag rental with the following policies. We are unable to issue a uniform/garment bag until this form is returned and a choir fee is paid or we receive a payment contract. Failure to turn in required paperwork will result in students not receiving a uniform and being unable to perform on required concerts.

- Students / Parents are financially responsible for all uniform pieces issued to them by the school
- Students are expected to come to a choir uniform fitting to find size and length needs for the seamstress to prepare the uniform for each individual student.
- Uniforms are required for all choir performances
- Students will be issued a clean uniform. Maintenance during the school year will be the responsibility of the student. Dresses are washable inside out on delicate cycle and hung to dry. The dress's beading will melt in a dryer so failure to clean the dress properly may result in the need for the student to pay the dress replacement fee. Tuxedo pants, jacket, ties and vests are Dry Clean Only. Failure to clean the uniform regularly resulting in unusual wear, staining, or odors will be charged as damage to the uniform.
- Uniform shoes are not provided. Girls will wear black character shoes with 1 1/2" heel. There will be a bulk order made in September, which will allow you to pay a reduced price for the shoe wear. Men should wear formal solid black dress shoes. Men will also need to purchase their own white wing tipped, pleated front tux shirt with regular cuff (not french cuff).
- Calf length Black socks for men are a required uniform item
- Failure to wear the proper uniform items and undergarments, or failure to arrive in a properly maintained uniform (hemmed, pressed, and clean) will result in a lower grade earned for the activity and in extreme cases, students being removed from performance and suffering standard penalties for missed performances.
- Uniforms must be returned as requested at the completion of the concert season. Failure to return the uniform will result in a fine equal to the replacement cost of the uniform. Students will not be able to participate in graduation commencement, homecoming dance, prom or be issued school textbooks until uniforms are returned or the fee paid.
- As part of the formal choir uniform students are expected to present themselves in a well-groomed, formal manner. Anything that draws personal attention to a single student rather than the group is not acceptable in performance. Jewelry other than small stud earrings is not acceptable. Hair should be groomed, a natural color, and styled away from the face. If you are using anything to hold your hair back (head band, clips, etc) it should be black. A choral concert is a staged performance and ladies should be prepared to wear appropriate makeup that brings out features and is not a distraction. Stage makeup should include non-neutral lipstick (red or dark pink), blush, and eye makeup. Girls nail color will need to be neutral (light pinks, white).
- In addition to the formal uniform students will receive a choir shirt worn for informal occasions, usually with blue jeans. When wearing the informal uniform students should choose blue jeans that are plain, without rips and designs, and fit appropriately

## Choir Activity Fee:

An **\$80 choir fee** for students in choir full year or **\$40 choir fee** for students in choir for just a semester will be collected from each student before the uniforms will be issued. The fee will pay for the Hebron choir shirt (used in informal concert settings), a black choir folder, will help cover dress/pant hems, cleaning and repair of the formal choir uniforms, fund choir clinics and other vocal activities and pay for the composite picture sitting fee. The fee will also help purchase rehearsal CDs and snacks for choir socials and meals before concerts on the days that tech rehearsal falls on the same day. After a student is issued a uniform and choir garment bag, he/she will take the uniform home and is responsible for its upkeep and return at the end of the school term. Spring Choir Trip attendance is optional but fees and pay schedules will be announced at a later date and are NOT a part of the Choir Activity Fee.

## Other Anticipated Expenses:

The following is an anticipated list of choir expenditures that will occur throughout the year. They are listed to help you plan your budget. Please note that in some cases, fees are approximate. Required expenditures are so indicated.

All-state/All-Region Entry Fee	\$20
9/10 Grade Region Entry Fee	\$10
Voice Lessons	\$80/month (approximate)
Solo/Ensemble Contest Solo entry and Accompanist fee	\$25
Choir Trip	Varies yearly - South Padre Island April 2018 approx \$500
Uniform shoes	varies
Costume for spring show	varies

Other optional expenses might include Choir Letter Jacket and patches (LISD policy applies), section shirts, other HHS Choir spirit wear, professional performances and social outings

*Finances should never be a barrier to a student's participation in the department; however, if no communication is made, no assistance can be offered. Special payment arrangements can be made by emailing the director(s).*

## Turning in Money

- All money is processed through the Hebron HS Choir Booster Club. In order to assure the security and proper accounting of funds money will always be handled by the officers/representatives of the Hebron HS Choir Booster Club
- We can accept payments by turning in payments via a sealed envelope (provided and located on the choir office windowsill) for **cash** and/or a **check** made out to HHSCBC with student name and activity for payment marked in the memo line. Students will then drop the payment in the black box located just inside the choir officer. The Booster Club treasurer(s) check and process these payments on a regular basis.
- We can accept credit cards through our online CHARMS system, or in person at Choir/Booster Events.

## Refund Policy

Most fees charged to the student involve advance payment for a service or item. In such cases (i.e. accompanist fees, trip fees, etc.), the choral department has a deadline for receiving reimbursement from the supplier. Because of this, the following policy is strictly followed: **There will be no refunds in any case where a student has paid for an activity or supply but is no longer able to participate.** This policy applies no matter what the reason is for withdrawal and specifically includes but is not limited to the situations of ineligibility, illness, unexpected family travel, or withdrawal from the CHHS Choir.

## Use of the CHHS Music Facility

- Be respectful of our room and equipment so that we may enjoy it for years to come. You should not bring food or drink other than bottled water into rehearsals.
- Please come and visit us in the choir office at anytime; however, knock and/or wait to be acknowledged before you enter.
- Practice rooms may be used for voice lessons, practicing choir music, and/or completing singing tests. Practice rooms are always locked. At no time should a practice room be used to "hang out," talk, eat lunch, etc. Couples will never be permitted access to the practice rooms.
- DO NOT PLAY THE CLASSROOM PIANOS. They are expensive musical instruments, not a toy. If you are in need of a piano for practice please ask a director to use the practice room.
- Do not write on the boards – if you need to make an announcement to the choir check with the director.
- Director's computers / technology are not for student use.

## Choir Website and Weekly e-mails:

To keep our choir members and parents better informed of what is going on within our program, we have invested in a couple of very convenient websites for you. Please add <http://www.charmsoffice.com> and <http://www.hebronchoir.com> to your bookmarks and check them often for calendar updates, recordings, and general announcements. These websites are only good if you use them, so if you have questions, please check the websites first. One of our favorite features is the calendar that is updated frequently to keep you on track with your child's busy schedule, check it out! Your student will bring home instructions to input your information for Charms usage. **This is due by September 1, 2017.** The school code is HebronHSChoir and the password is your student's HHS ID number or previous password. You will be prompted to change the password after your first login with the student ID number. Choose a new password that is easy to remember and share it with your parents so they can login also. Directors do not have access to your password if you forget, but we can reset it back to the ID number.

Also, for your benefit, we send out **weekly e-mails** with reminders about upcoming events and changes to the schedule. These e-mails are meant to be helpful as they contain information not included in the syllabus or calendar. Please take a few minutes to read the e-mails thoroughly before deleting or replying. We will be using Remind to contact students with emergency choir info and reminders through the year. You will receive sign up instructions.

## Earning a Choir Letter Jacket:

The Performing Arts Supervisor has put in place the requirements for any LISD HS student to receive a performing arts jacket. A student may only earn one jacket during his/her high school career. A choir student must earn 10 points during a single school year to earn a jacket. Points are awarded for the following: Region Choir – 4 points, Area Choir – 3 points, All-State – 2 points, Superior Rating for Solo and Ensemble (class one) – 3 points each and Superior Rating for Solo and Ensemble (class two) – 2 points each, member in good standing/UIL participation – 2 points (these points DO carry over). When a student earns a letter jacket the directors will send out information for sizing and prices from Texas Chenille. Due to budget issues in LISD, only the letter H will be purchased by LISD. Families whose students earned the letter jacket will pay the discounted fee for the jacket- \$42 and any add-ons desired by student/parents. The measuring date for students who earned jackets will be held in the spring that the jacket is earned. The measuring day for 2018 will be in May.

## Student Awards

**Letter Jackets** can be earned through participation and achievement in the choral program.

**Outstanding Choral Student Awards** are presented at the Hebron Choir banquet to students from each choir who have demonstrated exemplary leadership and character by being models of the virtues of the HHS Choir.

**Texas Music Scholar** awards are presented by the Texas Music Educator's Association and designate students in high school music programs who exemplify attributes of meritorious performance in the areas of scholarship, musicianship, and citizenship. Students designated as a Texas Music Scholar will receive pink honor cords for graduation. To qualify for this award a student must meet the following criteria set forth by the Texas Music Educator's Association.

The Student:

- Is a viable member of the school's parent musical organization for the entire school year.
- Maintains in all coursework an overall "A" average in all cumulative coursework as defined by the local school district for the current school year.
- Maintains academic eligibility for the entire school year.
- Participates in all scheduled events of the parent organization.
- Attends, as an audience member, two director-approved concert events of high school, collegiate or professional level during a school year.
- Has auditioned, been selected, and participated as required in a TMEA or ATSSB organization (band, orchestra, or choir).
- Performs a UIL Prescribed Music List Class 1 solo for a competition or public performance.
- Consistently exhibits behavior which brings honor to the parent organization, school and community.

**The Texas All-State Choir** is the premiere All-State Choral organization in the United States. Each year over 15,000 students compete for placement in this organization. As part of the audition process, students have the opportunity to be recognized as members of the Region 2 Honor Choirs. The audition process begins in September of each year and culminates with the Texas All-State Choir performance each February in San Antonio.

### Scholarships

Universities offer substantial merit based scholarships to students who choose to pursue a degree in music. Auditions for admission and scholarship begin in December of a student's senior year and typically conclude in early March. College Music School admission is a separate process that must occur concurrently with a student's general school application and admission. The Hebron Choir Booster Club is happy to offer several scholarships to our graduating seniors. Information regarding application for these awards will be available during the spring semester.

## Auditions for Choirs 2018-2019:

Auditions for the current year's choirs have already commenced. The only additions to those choirs will be made at the discretion of the directors (and usually pertains only to students who have recently moved to HHS). Auditions for the 2018-2019 A Cappella Choir and Belle Chanson will be held on *April 26, 2018* in the HHS choir room. Auditions for Harmony will commence June 4-5 in the HHS Choir Room. Students must be enrolled for next year in both fall and spring semesters to be chosen for these auditioned groups. Students may be involved in choir without auditioning by simply signing up for Concert Choir membership.

### ***Each day is an audition for future choir placement - make every day count!***

All students are auditioned for placement; however, it should be noted that the HHS Choir offers a variety of performing organizations to meet the educational needs of all students interested in singing. We have many courses each catering to varied individual needs in order to provide the most complete and effective music education to each student. Auditions for choir placement are an ongoing process that culminates at the end of the year with an individual audition. In addition to choir placement there will be periodic auditions for solos, small ensembles, and other opportunities throughout the year. In each of these instances we make every effort to provide a fair and objective evaluation of the students ability to be successful in the event they are auditioning for. All auditions are judged by the choir directors and occasionally other outside professionals. We make every effort to be fair and provide opportunities for as many students as possible in our program; however, with over 240 students in choir there will always be competition at auditions. We spend many hours and use our best professional judgment when making decisions following auditions. Inevitably there will be disappointment with the results of any audition. Part of our role as arts educators is to help educate students on how to handle the high pressure of auditions, how to handle both bad and good news, how to ask for feedback in a constructive and professional way, and how to act with compassion to their classmates in the same situation. **Once posted, all audition results are final and not open to debate;** however, we would be happy to discuss areas of improvement with you for future auditions. Please give us at least 48 hours after results are made public before contacting us about the auditions.

In our quest to educate students to professionally handle the audition process and advocate for themselves, we respectfully ask that the student contact us via email to so that we can provide constructive written feedback. If the information provided via email needs further explanation we are happy to schedule a conference with the student and/or parent to discuss areas for improvement. Our goal as educators is to teach every student to be highly successful and at times we must make very difficult decisions that, as professionals we know are best for the student.

**Do not allow one audition performance to define your success as a musician.**

## LISD Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct:

All LISD secondary students involved in extra-curricular activities (any clubs, athletic, fine art group, etc) must turn in a student/parent signed Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct form. Parents are strongly encouraged to read through this document with their students. LISD has taken a zero tolerance approach to inappropriate student behavior – especially students who are representing our schools out in the community. Students will NOT be allowed to participate in concerts or choral activities until the choral director receives the signed document. If a student is involved in more than one extra-curricular group, he/she must give a signed copy to each sponsor. Students must submit a newly signed form each school year.

***Read and sign the Choir Contract, the Media Consent form and LISD Code of Conduct.***

***Forms are due September 1, 2017***

***Fees can be paid at the time of form submission but must be paid by September 8, 2017***

***\$80 choir fee (full year) or \$40 (semester only) and an additional \$20 if participating in the Texas All-State auditions.***

# Hebron High School Choir Contract

Parent/guardian must initial each statement below to verify understanding:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. I have read the HHS Choir Syllabus and realize that my child will be held to its standards.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. My child is enrolling in choir at HHS. This will require commitment and dedication in class, as well as some before school, after-school and evening time. Since students can be graded on attendance and participation, I **understand that there will be penalties in grading and procedure if my child is not present.** Choir also requires 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 age, 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 HHS.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Students are **required** to attend **all** concerts throughout the school year. Work, a vacation, dance recitals, college visits, 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. **There are no excused absences from UIL contest, for any reason, in the HHS Choirs. Members must attend.** I understand that make-up work will only be offered for excused absences as determined by the directors.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. I understand that the upkeep and care of the LISD issued choir uniform is my responsibility. I further understand if the uniform is lost or damaged I am responsible to pay for the replacement.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. I understand that if my student has a school related conflict with a mandatory choir activity or concert, the first step is that the student meets the director face to face to explain the conflict. The choir directors and coaches/sponsors/directors will then work to find a compromise for the situation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. 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 HHS Choirs, there will be no monetary reimbursements.** This includes, but is not restricted to: trips, activity fees, etc.

This form is due back to class by **Friday, September 1, 2017.** A contract is required from every student.

Siblings must have separate contracts.

Questions or concerns can be directed to Ms. Forester or Mr. Ratliff via email at [foresterr@lisd.net](mailto:foresterr@lisd.net) or [ratliffn@lisd.net](mailto:ratliffn@lisd.net) or at (469) 948-3025.

**WE AGREE TO FOLLOW THE EXPECTATIONS AND GUIDELINES  
FOR THE H.H.S. CHOIRS DURING THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/guardian signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed Parent/guardian name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Work phone)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed Student name)