

Grand Oaks High School Choir Information Handbook

2020 - 2021



J.R. Smith & Bryanna Robilotto, Directors
jasmith@conroeisd.net / brobilotto@conroeisd.net
Office Phone: (281) 939-0316

"If you're going to be a bear, be a grizzly." – Mahatma Gandhi

Grand Oaks Choir Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2020 – 2021 school year at Grand Oaks High School! We are excited to be on this journey with all of you as we embark on learning, connecting, and creating wonderful music. Read the handbook to familiarize yourself with the choir program and all that this year has to offer. To stay connected, sign up for Remind101, follow the choir website, Booster Club website, choir Instagram, Booster Facebook page, and Booster Twitter account.

The choir website: www.grandoakschoir.com

The choir Instagram: [@grandoakschoir](https://www.instagram.com/grandoakschoir)

The booster club website: www.gohschoirbc.com

Remind101: text the number 81010 and the code below in the message

All Choir Students: [@gochoir20](https://www.instagram.com/gochoir20)

The world of choir is vast and through this art, your student will immerse themselves in abundant forms of music but will also learn responsibility, commitment, dedication, teamwork, empathy, hard work, communication, and selflessness. We look forward to working with you as we educate them together through these high school days.

After reading the handbook, please visit the choir website/Canvas to initial the *Handbook Acknowledgement Form* by **Friday, Aug. 21, 2020**.

We are dedicated to making the Grand Oaks High School Choir a successful program in Conroe ISD!

Sincerely,

J.R. Smith & Bryanna Robilotto, Choir Directors

Choir Room Expectations

1. Food and Drinks not allowed in the room (Closed lid water bottles only)
2. Be in your assigned seat with folder and pencil when the bell rings
3. Students need to have a pencil at all rehearsals (and use it)
4. Phones will not be allowed during singing portions of rehearsals
5. Masks must be worn at all times
6. Ask permission to use the restroom
7. Equipment is off limits: pianos, sound equipment, computers, white boards, etc.



Virtual Learning Expectations

1. Log-in on time to Zooms or Canvas Conferences
2. Screen is on and mic is muted (unless directed otherwise)
3. You can be seen at all times during the live session
4. Backgrounds must be school appropriate
5. Appropriate attire is required during virtual instruction
6. Raise your hand or use the chat feature to ask a question or comment
7. Be respectful of others who are talking, singing, or presenting
8. Be actively engaged

Student Responsibilities and Expectations

Materials: Students are responsible for having supplies each day and caring for school owned materials. The student will replace lost, stolen, and damaged items. Choir folders will stay with each student this school year. ***FOLDER CABINETS WILL NOT BE USED***

Informal Uniform Expectations: sneakers and blue jeans (no holes, rips, designs, etc.)

****** Due to COVID 19, there will be no distribution of formal attire in the fall semester******

Formal Uniforms Expectations: Uniforms maintained in the best manner possible. The student will replace lost or damaged uniforms.

Boys will need black socks and black dress shoes.

Girls will need black closed toed dress shoes. If wearing heels, they should be 1-2 inches MAX

Communication: Students must balance their activities and organize their calendars accordingly. Students are responsible for informing parents, employers, coaches, sponsors, and other teachers of when a choir event is taking place. Students receive a choir calendar and ample notice about scheduled rehearsals, performances, and activities. Information is always available on the choir website and Canvas. Take advantage of Remind101.

Participation: As a member of this organization, students perform in class on a daily basis and sing in all scheduled concerts and programs. Some events will be eligibility based, which means passing all classes is required. It is your responsibility to study, attend tutoring, and maintain your grades in order to participate throughout the year.

Passing is required for all state, solo and ensemble, UIL, trips, and pop show

Deadlines: Students must meet scheduled deadlines involving money, music, forms, uniforms, etc. If there is ever a problem, please consult with the director in a timely manner.

Grading Policy

As per school policy, daily grades will be 40% and major grades will be 60%.

Daily Grades: participation in rehearsals (posture, hand signs, singing, listening), completed written assignments/quizzes, sight reading/rhythm assessments

Major Grades: attending required concerts, behavior at concerts, auditions for all-state, solo & ensemble, UIL, Theory Exams, Sight Reading/Rhythm Formal Assessments

*****Being late to call times drops the major grade 10 pts, for every 10 minutes late*****

Attendance Policy

The expectation for choir members is they will attend all scheduled after-school rehearsals and performances. Absences are unexcused unless approved by the director.

Excused absences from the following situations:

1. ALL DAY ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL – please notify the directors in the event that your student is absent all day or leaves from school due to illness
2. PRE-APPROVED CONFLICTS – please e-mail or send a note to the director **ONE-WEEK OR MORE** in advance of the rehearsal/performance.
3. EMERGENCY – Life happens and emergencies arise. Please contact the directors if such an event occurs. Documentation required for grading purposes.

Students who have excessive absences or excuses may be subject to removal from upcoming performances, events, or extra-curricular activities.

Tutoring is excused in other subject areas until 3:30pm or as determined by the director. The directors must be made aware of tutoring 24 hours prior to the rehearsal and upon returning the student must have a pass from said tutoring teacher.

Unexcused absences:

1. Work conflicts (please review our calendar of events and plan accordingly)
2. Doctors' appointments (unless related to absence that day/notification not given)
3. Out of town trips/events (family vacations or excursions do not excuse you)
4. Any other situations not specifically addressed under excused/unexcused absences not cleared by the director in advance.

An unexcused absence from an extra-curricular rehearsal will result in removal. Absence from a curricular rehearsal/performance will result in a zero. *Alternative assignments not offered.*

Skipping rehearsals or missing class will result in failing grades, removal from events, and removal from the choir program. It is your responsibility as a member of the choir program to communicate effectively and in a timely manner with the director.

Eligibility Policy

The Conroe Independent School District, by state law, must follow the “No Pass, No Play” policy of the Texas Education Agency. Any student with a failing grade at the end of any nine-week reporting period is ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities, performances, and games for three weeks following a one-week period. The one exception to this rule is that students must be passing all classes at the end of the first six weeks or lose eligibility. If a student is passing all classes by the following grading period, his/her eligibility is restored after a one-week period following the end of the three weeks. Otherwise, the student remains ineligible for three more weeks. Pre-AP and AP classes do have small exceptions with waivers. You are allowed one waiver per semester and the grade in question must be a 60 or above.

This law only affects participation in choir activities of certain instances:

Curricular – concerts, etc. with no admission charge. *This means anyone can participate and is required* to participate to receive a grade.

Extra-Curricular – auditions, contests, performances where admission is charged are not available to ineligible students. Ineligible students cannot audition for All State, compete at Solo & Ensemble, or perform in pop show.

“Incomplete” grades also render a student ineligible until changed to a passing grade.

The choir program requires all choir members to maintain eligibility. In the event that a student becomes ineligible during rehearsals for extra-curricular events, they are removed from the choir and complete written work to receive a grade in the class. Students in varsity level ensembles and choir officers will be removed for a second time of ineligibility. Eligibility is a factor at auditions for choir placements.

Letter Jacket Policy

Students receive points towards letter jackets for participation in the following activities:

1. TMEA Choir auditions: 1 point per audition (district, region, area)
2. TMEA All State Camps: 1 point for attending at least 1 camp
3. Solo & Ensemble: 1 point
4. UIL Concert & Sight Reading: 1 point
5. Fundraising: 1 point per fundraising effort
6. Audition for pop show: 1 point
7. Participation in voice lessons: 1 point
8. Participation in the school musical: 1 point
9. Choir Officer: 1 point

Jackets awarded for two consecutive years of choir with minimum 5 points earned per year.

You must be in choir to receive a jacket. No exceptions regarding the above policy.

Choir Fee

The choir fee is essential for running and maintaining a functioning choir program. The fee helps to consolidate purchases required of each student as well as expenditures made on behalf of the choir as a whole for funds not provided by CISD.

The following items are included with the choir fee:

Choir Shirt
Pop Show Shirt
Tuxedo/Dress Usage
Uniform cleaning
Copy Machine Usage
Sheet Music and Educational Literature
Music First License Fees
Off-Campus Transportation for Contests, Performances, and Extra-Curricular Activities
Competition Fees
Social Activities
Miscellaneous student expenses

The following items are NOT included in the fee:

Spring Trip
Choir Banquet Ticket
Private Voice Lessons
Tickets for extra events

The choir fee of \$45 is payable by cash, check, or online.

- Make checks out to GOHS Choir and add your child's name and ID in the memo line.
- You will also need your DOB and DL# at the top of the check.

Checks are not accepted without this information.

Refund Policy

Due to advanced payments for services or items from suppliers, there will be no refunds to students 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 the reason.* This includes activity withdrawal, illness, ineligibility, unexpected family travel, or withdrawal from Grand Oaks High School.

Auditions and Competitions

TMEA All State

Texas Music Educators Association begins the all-state process the beginning of each school year. Students prepare several pieces of literature to audition on to receive placement to the next levels of competition. All-State musicians will compete through THREE rounds of auditions and sing at convention in February. Students practice at home, in voice lessons, or after school with the director in preparation for auditions. (Participation in All State earns a letter jacket point and is required for those wanting to audition for the mixed choir at GOHS)

Round 1: October 10 – 14, 2020

- Students will have from Oct. 10 – 14 to submit their audition into Music First
- Auditions judged October 17-18
- Results announced October 19
- Top 50 Tenor/Bass Advance & Top 75 Soprano/Alto Advance

Round 2: November 28 – December 2, 2020

- Students will have from Nov. 28 – December 2 to submit their audition into Music First
- Auditions judged December 5-6
- Results announced December 7
- Top 20 make the Region Mixed Choir & Top 5 Advance to Area Auditions

Round 3: January 2 – 6, 2020

- Students will have from Jan 2 – 6 to submit their audition in Music First
- Auditions judged Jan 9 and results announced the same day
- Top 9 Tenor/Bass make All State Choir & Top 12 Soprano/Alto make All State Choir

TMEA Clinic and Convention: February 10 - 13, 2021 – San Antonio

Solo and Ensemble Contest

All students learn a solo in class and then have the opportunity to compete for a rating by a judge. Students who earn a “Superior” receive a medal. This is a great experience for all students. It encourages individual performance and growth for your personal music education. *Eligibility is required.* (Competing in S&E earns a letter jacket point)

UIL Concert & Sight Reading

Choirs prepare three selections for judges and work on sight reading skills. Students are judged on music, sight-reading, blend, and balance as an ensemble. (Our yearly assessment)

Festivals

Competitions of this nature will vary from year to year according to activities of the choir. (Renaissance Festival, Spring Trips, Madrigal Festival, etc.) *Eligibility is required.*