

Grand Oaks High School Choir Information Handbook

2023-2024



J.R. Smith & Bryanna Robilotto, Directors
jasmith@conroeisd.net / brobilotto@conroeisd.net

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

Grand Oaks Choir Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2023 – 2024 school year and year **SIX** 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. To stay connected, sign up for Remind101, subscribe to the Choir website, and follow the choir Instagram.

The choir website: www.grandoakschoir.com

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

The Booster Facebook Page: [GOHS Choir Booster Club](#)

The Booster Club website: www.grandoakschoirbc.com

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

1st Period – Bel Canto: **@gochoirbc1** (Treble Choir)

3rd Period – A Cappella: **@goaca3** (Treble Choir)

5th Period – Cantus: **@gocan5** (Tenor Bass)

2nd Period – Chorale: **@gochor2** (Treble Choir)

4th Period – Statesmen: **@gostate4** (Tenor Bass)

6th Period – Cantabile: **@goctb6** (Treble Choir)

Chamber Singers: **@gohschamb** (Mixed Choir)

The world of choir is vast and through this art, your student will immerse themselves in numerous forms of music but will also learn responsibility, commitment, dedication, teamwork, empathy, hard work, communication, and selflessness.

After reading the handbook, visit Canvas to initial the *Handbook Acknowledgement Form* by **Friday, Aug. 25, 2023**. We are looking forward to a fantastic school year!

Sincerely,

J.R. Smith & Bryanna Robilotto, Choir Directors

Choir Room and Rehearsal Expectations

1. Be in your assigned location with supplies when the bell rings
2. Students need to have a pencil at all rehearsals (and use it)
3. 100% Participation throughout rehearsals
4. Rehearsals are CELL PHONE FREE environments (leave them in your bags)
5. Ask permission to use the restroom and ***cell phone stays on piano***
6. Food and Drinks not allowed in the room (Closed lid water bottles only)
7. Pianos, computers, equipment are for DIRECTOR USE ONLY. Hands to yourself
8. Leave the room as good as you found it. Throw away trash and take belongings



Growth

Respect

Ownership

Work Ethic

Leadership

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.

Informal Uniform Expectations: choir shirt, sneakers, blue jeans (no holes or rips)

Formal Uniform Expectations: Dresses/Tuxedos hung up at home and not wrinkled. The student will replace lost or damaged uniforms.

Those wearing tuxedos will need dress socks and black dress shoes.

Those wearing dresses will need black closed toed dress shoes.

Communication: Students must balance their activities and organize their calendars accordingly. Students are responsible for informing parents, employers, coaches, sponsors, and other teachers 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, Canvas, and Instagram. *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, and trips

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 10%, formative grades 30% and major grades 60%.

Daily & Formative Grades: participation in rehearsals (posture, hand signs, singing, listening), completed written assignments and quizzes, music literacy assessments, and homework (daily)

Major Grades: attending required concerts, behavior at concerts, auditions for all-state, solo & ensemble, UIL, Theory Exams, Music Literacy 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. Less than a week may result in an unexcused absence and grade of zero.
3. EMERGENCY – Life happens and emergencies arise. Please contact the directors if such an event occurs. Documentation required for grading purposes.

Students with excessive absences/excuses may be subject to removal from upcoming performances, events, or activities and be unable to audition for higher-level choirs.

Tutoring is excused in other subject areas until 3:30pm or as determined by the director. The directors know 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. Doctor 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 possible event removal. Absence from a curricular rehearsal/performance will result in a zero.

Alternative assignments not offered as rehearsals and performances are not replicable.

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 restores after a one-week period following the end of the three weeks. Otherwise, the student remains ineligible for three more weeks. Honors, Pre-AP & AP classes do have 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.*** (Fall Concert, Winter Concert, etc.)

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 attend off campus trips and events.

“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, removal from the choir occurs and they complete written work to receive a grade in the class. Students in varsity level ensembles and choir officers will face removal for a second time of ineligibility.

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, pre-area, area)
2. TMEA All State Camps: 1 point for attending at least 1 camp
3. Solo Contest: 1 point
4. UIL Concert & Sight Reading: 1 point
5. Fundraising: 1 point per fundraising opportunity
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
Audition Entry Fees
Copy Machine Usage
Sheet Music and Educational Literature
Music Software Programs
Off-Campus Transportation for Contests, Performances, and Extra-Curricular Activities
Competition Fees
Food/Drinks for in school events when missing lunch
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 \$60 is payable by cash, check, or online (GOHS website – school cash 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.

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

Choir Concerts

Students in choir are required to attend all choir concerts held at GOHS throughout the year. This includes the Fall & Winter Concerts, Pre-UIL, and Pop Show.

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 to receive placement to the next level of competition. All-State musicians will compete through FOUR rounds of auditions and sing at convention in February. Students practice at home, in voice lessons, or after school with the directors in preparation for auditions. (Rehearsal dates found on the calendar)

Solo 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" or "Excellent" 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)

Solo Project

All students learn a solo in class and have the opportunity to compete for a rating by a judge. Those not competing in the solo contest mentioned above will sing their learned selection for the directors for a major grade. Refusal to sing or not learning the solo will result in a zero.

UIL Concert & Sight Reading

Choirs prepare three selections for judges and work on sight reading skills. The choir receives a rating based on music, sight-reading, blend, and balance as an ensemble. *Eligibility is required.*

Festivals

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

Pop Show Solos/Groups

Students are eligible to audition for a solo or group number in Pop Show. To participate students must be *academically eligible.* (Auditioning for pop show earns a letter jacket point)