

Plano West Howling Wolf Choir 2020-2021

Leading with Pride
Continuing the Legacy

Integrity

Excellence

Creativity

pwshchoir.com

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“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.” -Plato

To Our West Choirs:

There is a tradition of excellence in the Plano West Choir. Each one of you has something special to offer this organization.

During your tenure in the West Choir, we will work together to develop the following skills:

An understanding of MUSIC	An understanding of CHOIR
Musicality Tone Rhythm Composers Eras of Music Note reading Performance Vocal technique Competition Expression Vocal health	Pride Unity Respect Courtesy Accountability Pursuit of excellence Communication Participation Integrity Creativity Genuine souls Passion for music Compassion for people Acceptance and tolerance Laughter Lasting friendships A true value of life THE WEST SPIRIT

...All through the meaning and beauty of music.

Make every note, every song, and every day count!

We hope when your days are completed at West, you will have the desire to keep music in your life forever.

Be the best you can be!
Mrs. Council and Mr. Krajca

“It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.”-Harry Truman

Attitude

“...The remarkable thing is that we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day.

We cannot change our past...We cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string that we have, and that is our attitude. ****This rings even more true in the era of COVID19!**

I am convinced that life is 10% of what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it. And so with you... we are in charge of our attitudes.”-Charles Swindol

Philosophy Statements

The philosophy of Choral Music Education at Plano West is to provide a sequential, developmental music curriculum that allows each student an opportunity to build musical skill and understanding through a wide variety of *quality* musical experiences.

Students who elect membership in the PWSH Choirs believe in the following:

Unity, Achievement, Loyalty, and the collaborative pursuit of excellence.

We are dedicated to developing musical knowledge and experiencing a wide variety of types and styles of music. Members are to give 100% of their cooperation, concern and support of the directors and of each other. Together WE strive to meet these expectations for continued success.

Participation yields:

- Development of ability to sight-read capably
- Development of strong, mature vocal quality
- Development of tonal memory capability
- Development of self-confidence and pride on stage
- Mastery of diverse choral literature
- Development of aesthetic appreciation

Choral Ensembles

2nd period: Rhapsody

*Auditioned in May

3rd period: Concert Mixed

*Honors Credit by application

*Auditioned in May and/or

based on previous year's choir participation and director recommendation

4A Period: Chorale Mixed

*Auditioned in May

*Honors credit by application

5th Period: Syncopation

*Auditioned in May

6th Period: A Cappella Treble

*Honors Credit by application

*Auditioned in May

Plano West offers a two year choir program; over the two years each student will have the opportunity for several varied performance experiences. No two years are ever the same in the PWSH Choir.

Communication and Cell Phones

Communication is STUDENT responsibility!

Take care of scheduling and your business! Fill out rehearsal excuses in advance through the QR link to the Google Form. Talk to directors in case of scheduling conflicts! Do not think that the directors know everything that happens on this campus **(in person or virtual!)** or in your life!

-----Advance notice! Advance notice! Advance notice!-----

**In person learning - No phone zone during vocal instruction, unless otherwise indicated!
Consider this your warning!**

Plano West Howling Wolf Choir

Calendar Page 2020-2021

*At this time, only dates we know for sure are posted. This calendar does not include Fall Semester Concert Dates at this time and does not include ANY Spring Semester dates with exception of TMEA auditions. As soon as we are able to release reliable dates, don't worry! You will be the first to know!! No one wants to be back to a typical calendar more than we do - trust us!

August

12 First Day of Class (Virtual)
19 MANDATORY PARENT MTG 7pm
Virtual (link will be sent) AND PWCBC INTRO
21 Student Info Form Due to Google Classroom

September

8 No School

October

9 End of 1st 9-weeks
14 Region Audition Due (Virtually)
19 Region Results Posted

November

2 Pre Area Due (Virtually)
7 Pre Area Results Posted

December

18 Last day of Fall Semester
12/23-1/6 Winter Break

FYI-SAT Dates 2020-2021

Aug. 29
Sept. 26
Oct. 3
Nov. 7
Dec. 5
Mar. 13
May 8
Jun. 5

FYI-ACT Dates 2020-2021

Sept 12, 13
Set 19
Oct. 10
Oct. 17
Oct 24, 25
Dec 12
Feb. 6
Apr. 17
Jun. 12

Standards of Conduct

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit!”

“MAKE IT HAPPEN!”

-Kathy L. Hackett, PWSH Choir Director 2001-2019

1. Choir members are expected to behave as mature young adults at all times and treat each other with mutual respect. Students gathered (in person or virtually!) for choral functions at any time are bound by the Plano West Senior High School Student Handbook rules as well as those within this Choir Handbook.
2. The Choir Council is charged with the responsibility of aiding the directors in maintaining our standards of behavior and should be respected by the membership for their efforts.
3. Loss of daily merit points (rehearsal grades) will reinforce understanding of expected behavior/rehearsal decorum.
4. The quality of performance is determined by the quality of rehearsal. Daily and additional rehearsals are very important in achieving continuous quality performance. Members must focus with mind, body, and spirit while maintaining maximum self-control regardless of the style of music or type of program/concert.

Daily Expectations

Class participation and cooperation will contribute to the success of our choir.

Virtual Expectations will be discussed in greater detail during the first week of school

#1 Rule: Mic off/Camera On

1. Get your choral folder as you enter the room. Be seated. Make sure you have a pencil and prepare to arrange your music for order of rehearsal. Check boards for dates, due dates, and announcements.
Announcements are disseminated in the following ways:
 - verbal
 - white boards
 - calendar
 - handbook
 - Booster Club website
 - bulletin board
 - email blasts
 - Booster Club newsletter
 - director Remind 101
 - CutTime Emails

Student officers also distribute information through student-led social media and Remind 101. So much to say: 10+ ways!

2. Place all backpacks out of the way in assigned areas. Under no circumstances should you go to someone else's folder unless asked to do so by the directors. Do not take any personal belongings (backpacks, phones, purses, makeup, etc.) to your chair.

3. If for some reason you cannot fully participate in rehearsal, clear with the directors before class begins; however, you must participate in any activity that will not harm oneself. Actively observe, mark music and learn. Please stay off your phone as illness or injury does not equate a free class period. If you are well enough to be at school and participate in your other classes, you are well enough to participate in choir.
4. Misbehavior, talking without being recognized or any other disruptions will not be tolerated at any time.
5. Warm-ups and/or announcements begin promptly after the tardy bell rings. Students will be counted tardy if not seated and attentive when the director(s) begins the rehearsal. Listen for announcements, due dates, committee meetings, etc.
6. No chewing gum, candy, food, drinks, hacky sacks, tennis balls or other athletic equipment or hats are allowed in the choir room for reasons of safety.
7. Replace folders in proper slots on shelves, straighten chairs and pick up trash at the end of rehearsal. (Section leaders are responsible for your area.) Librarians and Section Leaders will periodically check folders and the condition of the room.
8. Members should remain in their assigned seat during rehearsals unless otherwise instructed by the directors. Always remain inside the room until the bell rings. Take care of personal problems before coming to class. You will be excused from class only in an emergency situation. If you must leave the room, leave your phone with the director and quietly exit. Do not take anyone else's phone with you when exiting the room.
9. During sectional rehearsals all members should give complete effort and cooperation to student leaders...that means rehearse with the section. Do not play on your phone or work on homework for another class.
10. The student should strive to utilize all vocal technique aspects learned throughout the class period...including proper posture and music marking. If music is missing or you need to be issued a copy, see you section leader or librarian.
11. For your safety and the safety of your classmates, no horseplay, running, throwing, etc. is allowed at any time.
12. **CRITICALLY IMPORTANT AS WE WORK TO CO-SEAT OUR VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON LEARNERS!**
Please do not play the pianos and other musical equipment, including the stereo, unless agreed to by the directors. A charging station is provided.
****Do NOT unplug cords from the teacher classroom computer to charge your phone.**
13. Please do not enter the directors' offices, uniform room or library without an invitation.
14. Disrespect, offensive/suggestive language, intolerant attitude of any kind, etc. will be dealt with severely. Parents and school administration will be notified to aid in correcting unacceptable behavior. Any indication of hazing, bullying or anything of the sort will be immediately reported to campus administration.
15. PWSH Choir is an LGBTQIA+ inclusive organization. PWSH Choir strives to equally support students from all racial, ethnic, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds, as choral music in and of itself is about community.

Concert Etiquette

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”-Theodore Roosevelt

1. Choir students will be expected to help with set up and take down of rehearsal/performance sites, if necessary.
2. Expected dress/uniform will be announced in advance. The Choir will be affected by non-compliance with all aspects, including hair, make-up, jewelry, socks/hosiery color, show color, or other specific items.
3. Warm-up rehearsal order will be posted in advance; tardiness/absences from this warm-up will affect the grade.
4. You are expected to follow the Section Leader/Choir Council/Parent Supervisor expectations regarding seating assignment, proper decorum while sitting through the performance, line-up, and filing-on procedures.
5. You are expected to focus on the directors from the time you arrive on stage until you depart from the stage. No talking/glancing to anyone while on stage. Watch the director attentively. If using music, hold it professionally; the folder is in the left hand while approaching the stage.
6. The only proper recognition is applause; no screaming, yelling, whistling, etc.
7. No food/drink/candy/gum in the performance or dressing areas.
8. You are expected to be seated in the assigned seating area at a specific time. Do not leave the performance area without clearing with the parent supervisor/choir council/section leader. You are expected to attentively stay in your seat for the duration of the entire performance. Parents should not expect you to leave after your portion of the performance or to arrive late in order to be present for your particular group. Your involvement in performance is from the very first piece until the final applause following the last piece of the entire concert.
9. For formal shows in the theatre, you are expected to remain in the dressing room and/or stage areas as assigned. You should not visit with audience members/family during dressing, warm-up time, or intermission. You are expected to maintain the backstage, onstage and dressing room areas and leave all in acceptable appearance prior to departing the performance.

Choral Folders

Students are financially responsible for their issued folders and the contents provided by the school.

All folders are to be returned to the folder cabinets after each rehearsal. Students may take their music home after rehearsal for study and practice but should always have the music in class the following day for rehearsal.

Any folder left out after rehearsal will be collected by choir officers. Repeated neglect will have consequences. Only appointed the librarian will be allowed in the Choral Library.

Students should treat their class librarians with courtesy and respect. They have a thankless job!

If for some reason you do not receive a piece of music, check the Google Classroom first to print more, if possible. Following COVID19, you may share with your neighbor for the day, write a note to your class librarian with your music folder number and the title you are missing, and hand it to them at the end of class. You should receive a copy by the next class period if it is available.

Grading System and Commitments

“Performing, creating, and responding to music are the fundamental music processes in which human beings engage. Because music is a basic expression of human culture, every student should have access to a balanced, comprehensive, and sequential program of study in music.

The study of music contributes in important ways to the quality of every student’s life. The adult life of every student is enriched by the skills, knowledge, and habits acquired in the study of music.”

-National Standards for Arts Education

All music classes are curricular courses with some extra-curricular components. Class time and performances are considered curricular whether during school hours or before or after school. Each nine weeks is graded differently according to weighted performances and assignments.

Choir is a curricular course with some extra-curricular activities. Performances cannot be made up. Choir is a performance class just as band, orchestra, theatre, athletics, etc. The performance is a major grade and a requirement of this course. You have signed up for the class to learn to perform. If you are eligible, you are required to perform in the extracurricular activities which include the Spring Show. This is your commitment, and the majority of your grade.

*Daily rehearsal will make for a better performance. Daily rehearsals are a major grade (weekly). Your presence, your participation, your focus, and your commitment will be graded. This will call for focused, mature, self-disciplined individuals with a desire to improve and succeed.

*You must be dependable. You are expected to rehearse so that you can perform. If you do not show up, you have let others down and need to consider an individualized elective (such as art, speech, etc.) rather than a group elective where everyone performs together and depends on each other.

*As you develop individually, you also develop as a choir. You are only as strong as your weakest member. Ultimately, choir is about the collective, NOT just the individual. What is your goal?

75% of SEMESTER GRADE:

- 1) MAJOR GRADE: CONSISTENT AND ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT IN REHEARSAL AND CLASS PARTICIPATION (REHEARSAL ACCOUNTABILITY)
The student must demonstrate a consistent, positive effort toward VOCAL PROFICIENCY AND IMPROVEMENT. The indicators include:
 - Correct singing posture
 - Correct execution of Pitch/Rhythm
 - Correct production of Vowels/Consonants
 - Appropriate response to conductor's gestures and suggestions
 - Attendance at rehearsals, sectionals, and other graded extra and co-curricular activities and projects (Extra-curricular Performance is expected as a member of the organization.)

- 2) MAJOR GRADE: PERFORMANCE AND CONCERT ATTENDANCE (DOUBLE GRADE)
 - ALL performances and concerts are REQUIRED in order to maintain membership in the Plano West Choral Department. YOU WILL BE GRADED!

 - The student must demonstrate a consistent, positive effort toward developing MUSICIANSHIP. The indicators include:
 - Singing their understanding of given musical challenges
 - Completion of problem-solving exercises, performance critiques, and self-assessment

- 3) MAJOR GRADE: WRITTEN AND ORAL TESTS
 - The student must demonstrate a consistent understanding of the basics of music. Indicators include:
 - Basic theory (TEKS Math related)
 - Sight-reading using the solfeggio method
 - Knowledge of music vocabulary and terms (TEKS)
 - Composers/Eras of music (TEKS –social studies related)
 - Score Study Sheets

- 4) MUSICIANSHIP COMPREHENSION & ACCOUNTABILITY
 - Quizzes
 - Homework
 - Journal of Personal Reflection
 - Work in sectional rehearsals and extra-curricular graded activities/projects expected as a member of the CHOIR.

25% OF SEMESTER GRADE = SEMESTER EXAM

(Weight according to Plano ISD)

More Grading Information

Periodic Verbal/Written/Singing Exams

Periodic verbal/written/singing exams will also constitute a portion of the daily grade. These quizzes will evaluate the students' achievements in vocal development, sight-reading skills, and general musical knowledge.

Attendance

All choir students are expected to attend all scheduled performances and rehearsals of their particular choir, as well as full choir events, sectionals, and rehearsals. In the event of a schedule conflict, the student is expected to make arrangements and communicate in writing if the compromise was not reached.

Absences from Performance

The only justifiable excused absences from performances are: illness, death in the family, religious beliefs conflict, immediate family funeral, subpoena, court or "pre-arranged" by the school principal.

The student should notify the directors through the pwshchoir.com linked google form well in advance of the absence if at all possible. In order to be excused and to avoid a grade reduction, the student (not the parent, please) must enter and communicate the absence. Absences from performances due to any other reasons are considered unexcused and will result in reduction of grade. As the performances are scheduled in advance, it is the responsibility of the student and parent to plan ahead to avoid conflicts with work schedules and appointments. Please note: An absence is a detriment to the rest of your performing group, as well as the elimination of the student's opportunity to learn performance skills which are an essential element of choir. School activity conflicts should be worked out with the sponsor/coach involved. Every effort by the student to reach a reasonable and equitable compromise is expected. Students have a responsibility to all organizations in which they are involved - not just one. Therefore communication is vital. Conflicts in schedules can usually be resolved if given adequate time.

Absence from Rehearsals

It is not possible to produce quality performance without ample preparation. To meet expected standards, there will be times when rehearsals outside of class are necessary and required. In order for the entire group to benefit, all must be punctual in attendance. Advance notice will be given and attendance is required.

The same excuse rules for performance apply to after school and Saturday rehearsals. An unexcused absence from dress rehearsals will result in grade reduction and may result in the student's suspension from the ensuing performance. Tardiness is unacceptable. If a student misses more than 50% of a rehearsal, that alone constitutes an absence.

Recovery

The student's current grade is continually monitored and updated. The student may schedule a conference with the director to discuss opportunities to improve a failing average, but he/she must take the initiative to do so.

Student Employment

Students are responsible for arranging with their employers to be excused from work for choir events. This should be done well in advance of the published events. Most employers in the area are quite aware of the importance of meeting school responsibilities. If a student has a problem being excused from work, particularly for a performance, notify the director for assistance. Please note that for school responsibilities, no employer will create negative ramifications when you present

Transportation

Lack of transportation to performance or rehearsal is not an acceptable excuse. Your section leader or officers will be happy to help arrange transportation to and from these events given ample time to make these arrangements. Again, communication is vital and the responsibility of the student.

Honors Credit

Each choral student may elect to enroll in his or her particular major ensemble for honors credit at the time of course sign up. Any changes need to be made directly through the counselors - NOT the choir directors. Please check the Honors Program Packet for information concerning credit.

Class Absences and Make-Up Work

The school policy (PISD) will apply for absences and make-up work. Projects will be assigned for any excused absences of a performance grade.

Personal Accountability

Students are responsible for turning in forms or money on requested dates and meeting deadlines.

Academic Expectations

Students are expected to maintain passing grades and academic preparation is a high priority. If for some reason a student does not maintain a passing grade in a subject, please plan to attend tutoring session(s) with teachers or peers until the grade is passing.

Choir Awards

Grades are given for expectations and requirements of the course. School and Choir Banquet awards will be presented to those who go over and beyond the course requirements.

Eligibility Law

Texas Education Agency oversees the rules for all school districts in the State of Texas and teachers are bound to eligibility law.

If your son or daughter makes below a 70 in any on-level (regular-level, 4.0 GPA scale) class, they are not allowed to participate in the extra-curricular portion of choir. That includes:

- Region/Pre-Area/State competitions/performances.
- Any concerts/shows for which admission is charged. Example: Spring Show, Spring trip, other performances/activities that are mandated as extra-curricular by Plano ISD.

Other performances such as a Cluster Concert, a Fall Concert, or a pre-UIL concert are considered curricular and students will be expected to perform for a choir grade.

Dates for recovery are listed online. Once a student has passed all of their classes with a 70 or above on the specified UIL 9-weeks designated date, they may participate after seven school days.

Ineligibility lists are sent to the teachers by the Activities Principal. Students will be notified of the failure and lack of participation in extracurriculars. This should not be a surprise if grades have been tracked by students and parents.

A student or parent who has questions may contact the teacher of the subject the student is failing. Elective teachers (i.e. Choir directors) will NOT contact the core teacher or the activities principal to question or challenge a grade. Parents and students may check grades online through Parent Portal. It is illegal for a teacher to change a grade unless it is a proven mistake by the teacher who issued the grade.

Eligibility is not affected in classes such as AP, Honors or Pre-Calculus. Students should make every effort to stay eligible for activities in the electives by attending departmental tutoring or peer tutoring. Should there be any grade changes, those should be communicated to the elective teachers (i.e. Choir directors) by the activities principal, NOT the students or parents.

*Please note! Any personal threat of a lawsuit to the elective teacher will be immediately reported to administration.

Guidelines for District Extracurricular Activities

Students involved in extracurricular activities are held to a higher standard of conduct than the general student body. Plano ISD views participation in extracurricular activities as a privilege, not a right. Any student who violates the student Code of Conduct shall be subject to extracurricular discipline and/or regular school district disciplinary action. This includes any misconduct, regardless of time or location that would reflect negatively upon Plano ISD in an extracurricular activity. Students clearly involved in major disciplinary infractions (i.e., including, but not limited to, drugs, alcohol, bullying, hazing and violent behavior) will be placed on probation, removed temporarily, or removed permanently from extracurricular activities.

Disciplinary measures taken by sponsor/principal may be in one or more of three forms, defined as special assignments, probation, and/or dismissal.

Special assignments may consist of extra duties and may be assigned for minor disciplinary infractions. Probation and/or dismissal from extracurricular activities will be for infractions involving alcohol, smoking, drugs, use of profane and offensive language, hazing, bullying, violence, sexual assault and other serious offenses when the sponsor and/or principal believes the integrity and credibility of the organization has been jeopardized by the student's action.

Probation may also be assigned when the student fails to comply with rules and regulations of the extracurricular activity. (Probation is defined as a trial in which a student is permitted to redeem bad conduct.)

The student may be dismissed from extracurricular activity upon any major infraction, or during a probationary period. Prior to being dismissed from extracurricular activities, the student and parents will be notified of the reasons for the action. The student or his/her parents will be afforded the opportunity of a hearing with the sponsor and principal. The appeals process will be outlined at that time. The students will not be eligible for any individual or team recognitions or awards that occur after the date of dismissal.

Academic ineligibility is not to be confused with disciplinary action. Under the provisions of House Bill 72, all students must maintain a passing grade in all courses attempted. The probationary time for academic ineligibility is currently three weeks and is established under the education code.

Private Vocal Study

Supplemental music lessons are offered as an enrichment to classroom instruction. These lessons are designed to utilize the characteristic literature of the voice, rather than to rehearse the music a student will be performing in choir. *Participation in these supplemental lessons is optional, but highly encouraged.* Students who elect to not participate will not be penalized grade-wise or otherwise in their class activities. All students will have access to supplemental lessons.

Student's Responsibility to the Supplemental Music Teacher:

1. Be fully prepared for each lesson.
2. Follow guidelines pertaining to absenteeism.
3. Provide documentation of required practice time each week.
4. Supply method books and other materials as required by the teacher.
5. Participate in all activities required as a condition of private study.
6. Pay your teacher on time as expected.

Lesson Location and Scheduling

Lessons during the day will be taught in the school the student attends. Lessons will be scheduled for students who participate. Lessons will be scheduled for half and hour and may be scheduled during choir class, lunch, or before or after school. **NO LESSONS WILL BE SCHEDULED DURING NON-MUSIC CLASSES** or on another Plano ISD campus while their classes are in session.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify his/her supplemental music teacher at least 24 hours in advance if the lesson is to be canceled, unless serious emergency arises. This courtesy is also the responsibility of the private teacher if he/she cancels a lesson. **STUDENTS WILL ADVISE** the private teacher of testing, pep rallies, concerts, holidays, etc., which would result in any interruption of the regular lesson schedule.

Private Study – Financial Obligation Students will pay the private instructor directly. Cost of each half hour lesson is \$20.00 which is the Plano ISD rate given to the private teacher weekly or monthly, depending on the arrangements between the private teacher and student.

Enrollment: Teachers are assigned as requested by the student if possible. Questions concerning assignments should be directed to Mrs. Council. Questions concerning lesson dates and times, billing, or number of lessons taught will be handled through the private teacher.

Choir Council

Co-Presidents:	Ayesha Sadaqat and Mitchell Thorsell
VP of Social Activities and Community Outreach:	James Fawcett
Social and Outreach Committee:	Farishtay Fahim, Aanya Pramanik, Pratyush Mohapatra, James Smith
VP of Operations:	Isaac Tuan
Equipment and Secretarial Committee:	Amir Hendawi, Abby Roth, Aryan Kapoor, Ripley Cooley
Syncopation Student Director:	Pooja Bode
Rhapsody Student Director:	TBD
Chorale Student Director:	Matt Baker
Co-Librarians:	Helen Xu, Nidhi Kallur
Historian:	Ashley Chen
Co-Social Media Chair:	Vedika Sinha, Tanya Atrvash

Reminder to all Officers

All officers are responsible at all times for:

1. Leadership roles
2. Behavior of choir students in class and in concert
3. Appearance of choir in concert/programs
4. Pride
5. Unity
6. Respect
7. Personal responsibility (grades, social media presence, etc.)
8. Maintenance of facilities before and after rehearsals and concerts
9. Assisting students with transportation
10. Assisting students with peer tutoring
11. Community representation and public relations
12. Parent communication
13. Maturity in decision making
14. Communication
15. Promotion of Choral Program at ALL times and under ALL circumstances
16. An uplifting and positive spirit
17. Musicianship
18. Reputation of the choir both in and out of school

West Cluster Choral Faculty

Sarah Council
Micah Krajca
Katie Patel and Cody Alarcon
Richard Serra
Aron Mattes and Christine Embry
Halley Radebaugh and Becky Kozinski
Chelsea Farmer and Mande Young
Kim Ahrens and Emma McClure

Director of Choral Music & West Cluster Leader
Associate Director of Choral Music
Jasper Choral Directors
Shepton Choral Director
Frankford Choral Directors
Renner MS Choral Directors
Rice MS Choral Directors
Robinson MS Choral Directors

Miscellaneous Information

Scheduling

Music students should be aware of the desirability of continuous enrollment in choral music throughout their high school careers. Students who “float” in and out of choir create hardships for themselves and for their organizations. It is recognized, however, that certain scheduling problems do exist.

Some suggestions:

- Secure a four-year plan sheet from your counselor and plot out your courses of study for your entire 4 years.
- Make the director aware of problems that you cannot resolve on your own – either in planning ahead, or at registration time.
- Don't try to cram everything into the early grades! Allow yourself an enjoyable four-year tenure

Choir and other PWSH Activities

(Drill Team, Cheerleading, Theatre, Speech/Debate, Athletics, all the things...etc.)

Successful compromises in all activities can and has been worked out satisfactorily to allow for both activities if planning in advance and prioritizing happen! **Communication is VITAL.**

College Scholarships

Scholarships for music majors and non-majors are available at most colleges and universities. Entrance and scholarship auditions usually occur during the month of January. Interested students (and parents) should consult the college bulletin board, the counselors, or the choral directors for assistance in preparing auditions and college selection. If you would like guidance, please feel free to set up a conference.

Fundraising

Each choral student is expected to carry his/her share of the load regarding fund-raising projects to benefit the entire choral program. Fundraising allows a communal way to offset costs for the “bells and whistles” of the PWSH Choir program of which you are accustomed. The school budget only covers a fraction of the bottom line - world class clinicians, venue rentals, sound engineers, busses to invitational concerts with colleges (which often forge introductions that garner scholarships for our students)

Parent Conferences

Students are required to have parents sign a statement to the terms of participation as specified in the handbook. Contact the director for an appointment if any aspect of participation prevents agreement.

Academic Standards/Peer Tutoring

Most departments will offer before or after school assistance. Counselors may be able to assist with contacts for tutoring. See the Directors or Choir Council for information on peer tutoring.

Uniforms

***Due to COVID19, uniforms will not be issued until a much later date.**

Women

- Long Black Concert Dress (school provided) (\$100.00 replacement fee for lost or damaged uniforms).
- Black ballet flats (student provided)
 - NO clogs, sandals, flip-flops, platform shoes, or open toe sandal-type shoes
- Black stockings or nylons or tights (student provided)

Hair

Hair should be set and away from your face. Strive for uniformity of the ensemble - No bows, headbands or accessories that do not blend with your hair color.

Jewelry

Only small earrings and a ring on the ring finger are acceptable. No rhinestones or flashy jewelry, necklaces, bracelets or watches. We are striving for a uniform effect.

Men

- Tuxedo Pants and Jacket (school provided) (\$135.00 REPLACEMENT FEE FOR LOST OR DAMAGED TUX.
- Black dress shoes (student provided)
 - NO athletic shoes
- Black dress socks (student provided)
- Specific white tux shirt (student provided). PURCHASE AT AL'S FORMAL WEAR approximately \$16.00
- Choir Vest (\$65.00 REPLACEMENT FEE)

Hair

Hair should be clean, set out of your face, and should not move.

Jewelry

Jewelry for men should be worn under your uniform. NO VISIBLE JEWELRY except for ring on the ring finger.

FOR ALL: We have alumni that donated their previously worn uniform parts if circumstances prevent you from being able to provide your own. Please see Mrs. Council or Mr. Krajca and we will make it happen. Please just don't wait until the last minute!

Financial Obligations to the Choir

****Due to COVID19, no fees are being asked for Fall 2020, with the exception of “a la carte” entry fees (All-Region, Choir Polo if needed, Synco/Rhaps T-shirt if needed). Depending on the circumstances of Spring 2021, a prorated production fee to cover Spring Show costs and additional accompanist and/or instrumentalist costs beyond the school budget will be asked. All students are asked to participate in group fundraisers for the benefit of the choir program at large.**

It takes money to have a program with the quality and standard we have experienced at Plano West Senior High. The tax based school budget only covers a small fraction of the expenses of the department. Choir Fee is one of the lowest of any organization in the school. The fee is **non-refundable**. Fundraisers are handled through the Plano West Choir Booster Club: PWCBC.

The Choir fees HELP with expenses for music, professional photos, clinician fees, performance fees, technician fees, accompanist fees, supplies, transportation costs, judge fees, etc. This will not cover all expenses for music, contests, spring show expenses, banquet and award supplies, choir trip, and more. Therefore several fundraisers will be offered throughout the year by the Booster Club. You will be contacted concerning the fund raisers. Donations will be accepted.

The Choir Fee will be announced and explained at the MANDATORY PARENT MEETING.

Students will also need the following items:

1. Women's Black Ballet Flats (all) and Character Shoes (Synco/Rhap) and black stockings if they do not have them.
2. Men's black dress shoes and black socks.
3. Men's Tux Shirts.....The check TO AL'S FORMAL WEAR will be due the day of the fitting for men who do not have the correct PWSH tux shirt.
4. Payment to Voice Teachers if students are enrolled in campus voice lessons.
5. Spring Banquet
6. Uniform Fee due at check out of uniform
7. Production fee for Spring Show.

Questions?

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Booster Club Site.....PWSHCHOIR.COM