

BMHS

BOBCAT CHOIR

COURSE SYLLABUS

High School Director- Dr. Emily Sáenz
Middle School Director- Mr. Jacob Brown
Emily.Sáenz@fwisd.org, Jacob.Brown@fwisd.org
Office phone:817-815-7149
www.benbrookbobcatchoir.com

Required Course Materials:

- Folder (provided)
- Pencil (provided)
- Choir Uniform
- 110% good attitude and work ethic

PREREQUISITES FOR COURSE:

- “Cantus Choir “ (JV Treble): No previous choral experience required
- “Arpeggio” (JV Mixed Choir) One year of choir required
- “24” (Varsity Treble): Audition with Dr. Saenz, plus one year of choir required.
- “sFz” (Varsity Tenor/Bass): Audition with Dr. Saenz, plus one year of choir required.
- “Mic Drop” (Show Choir): Audition with Dr. Saenz

Goals:

- To cultivate a sense of identity, pride, teamwork, and improved self-image through participation in a successful performing ensemble.
- To recognize, understand, and apply structural elements of melody, harmony, rhythm, and form as a performer and a listener.
- To develop a sustained vocal technique, applicable across many genres of vocal music.
- To improve the use of expressive elements such as dynamics, phrasing, and tempo.
- To develop a sense of fulfillment, responsibility, and pride in quality performance.
- To expand interest and knowledge of repertoire, performances, and artistic achievement form a variety of countries, societies, and cultures.

Department Rules/Procedures for Students:

- Be in your seat with folder and pencil when the bell rings. Please be familiar with the school tardy policy.

- The use of electronic devices are not permitted during the instructional period, unless notified by the director, per school policy. All electronics that are seen or heard during the instruction period will be collected.
- Raise your hand before speaking during rehearsals
- Students are expected to be an active part of rehearsal, both mentally and vocally. If you are unable to sing, the director must be notified BEFORE the bell rings. If you are unable to sing due to illness for more than one rehearsal, a doctor's note needs to be provided so that the daily grade is not affected.
- No GUM, FOOD or DRINK allowed in the choir room, other than bottled water.
- No students may be in the choir room during lunch or any class period that has not been assigned to them.

Consequences:

Listed below are discipline management techniques that should be utilized to address minor classroom disruptions.

- Verbal correction
- Student Conference
- Parent phone call home
- Detention
- Parent-Student-Teacher conference
- Multiple Detentions
- Office Referral

Technology Expectations:

Cell phones are prohibited in the choir room. Laptops are allowed in the classroom, but will not be required for this course.

Tutorial/Sectional Rehearsals:

- All State Choir rehearsals will be held after school on Tuesdays from 3:45-5:45PM.
- If required, Dress Rehearsals will occur on the day of choir concerts from 3:45PM-5:00PM.
- Students may also schedule a meeting with Dr. Saenz or Mr. Brown during lunch.

Evaluation (see Handbook for specific details):

- Class Participation
- Concert Attendance /Behavior
- Written/Vocal Assessments
- Common Summative Assessments
- Classroom Assignments

Grading Policy:

- Formative- 50% (Class participation, Rehearsal Etiquette, Materials Check)
This will be a combination of class participation, weekly written grades for music theory concepts and sight-reading skills, and small group performances of music learned. Students are expected to sing individually and in small groups.

- Summative-50% (Concerts/Tests, Projects/Performances, Formal Attire Check)
Major grades are counted twice. Major grades may include, but are not limited to: Before or after school rehearsals (as per the choir calendar), dress rehearsals, concerts, and written exams over theory skills learned in class.
- **Checking your FWISD email**
 1. Go to: <http://www.fwisd.org/myfwisd>
 2. Login if not already
 3. Click on Office 365
 4. Click on the Outlook icon

CONCERT ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Because this program allows students to receive their fine arts credit/local elective credit for graduation, attendance in class and at required events is mandatory. Students that miss class or rehearsals and performances will see that their grade is affected. The choir grade make-up policy and late-work policy is in line with the district grading AR. Whenever an absence occurs, students have ONE WEEK from the date of absence to make up that grade. This is MORE than the district AR allows for makeup work. It is the student's responsibility to request a make-up assignment from Dr. Sáenz. Please consult the FWISD Student Handbook for grading guidelines and clarification. If a student misses a mandatory event (concert or rehearsal) for student illness, an email must be sent to the director BEFORE the event. **Unexcused absences will not be eligible for makeup.** Unexcused absences would include:

- No transportation
- Caring for younger siblings
- Work
- Family vacations
- Appointments (other than student illness)
- Non-BMHS athletic events

Make-Up Policy:

Missed Work Because of Absence: A student who is absent, but turns work in by the teacher-designated due date, one week from the date of absence, will have an opportunity to redo or retest, if applicable. The Redo/Retake policy does not apply if a student does not submit work timely.

REDO ASSIGNMENT/RETAKE TEST

- Redo Assignment or Retake Test Board Policy allows a student who receives a failing grade on a test or assignment, except for semester exams, the opportunity to redo the assignment or retake the test. The student or parent must initiate the request according to the following parameters:
- The student and/or parent must request to redo an assignment or retake a test within five days from earlier of the date the assignment or test was returned to the student or entered into the student grading system.

- The student will be provided an opportunity for tutoring or re-teaching prior to retesting. This may occur during class time, before or after school, or at another time agreed upon by the teacher and student.
 - A teacher may require the student to complete missed homework, test corrections, or other items as part of the re-teaching process.
 - A student must redo the assignment or retake the test within five school days from the earlier of the date the assignment or test was returned to the student or the date the grade was entered into the student grading system.
 - A teacher may provide longer than five school days if necessary.
 - Assignments offered for redo or retaken tests may be different from the original assignment or test so long as the concepts/content assigned or tested are the same.
 - Re-testing or redo assignment guidelines do not apply to grades received due to failure to adhere to the established late work guidelines approved by the principal and disseminated to students.
 - Any retests will be administered on the campus.
 - The grade the student receives on the redone assignment or retaken test will be no higher than a 70.
 - A failed semester exam cannot be retaken.
 - If more than 50% of the students in a class fail to demonstrate mastery on a summative assessment, except a benchmark, a teacher is encouraged to reteach and retest the class. The higher of the two grades will be recorded. A student who passed the original test can elect to retake the test. Reassessments should occur within five school days from the date the test is returned with feedback to the student.
-

FOCUS:

Parent Focus Log-In

In order to check your student's progress in class as far as grades and attendance are concerned, please login to Focus for updated information.

First Time Users:

1. Using Chrome/Mozilla Firefox, go to www.fwisd.org
2. Click on FAMILIES
3. On the left side of the page, click on LOG IN TO PARENT PORTAL
4. From there, you must REQUEST ACCESS TO THE PARENT PORTAL and follow the steps

Repeat Users:

1. Using Chrome/Mozilla Firefox, go to <http://fwisd.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus>
2. Fill out the Username and Password fields
3. Click Login

AVID:

The Bobcat Choir is excited to support the BMHS AVID program! During units focused on the exploration and preparation for the MET Live in HD Broadcast, students will utilize techniques from the AVID classroom including: debates, speeches, philosophical chairs, and WICCOR. Students with AVID binders may place them on the storage table beside the risers during class.

UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Assessment:

Each year the Benbrook Bobcat Choir participates in the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Assessment to evaluate the work we are accomplishing as a choir. This performance is our equivalent to the STAAR test. Due to recent changes in the UIL policy, students may perform in the assessment at the discretion of the director, regardless of their academic status. Students must show individual preparation and work ethic to participate in the UIL assessment. Only those whom the Director decides are musically ready will represent the choir in this assessment. If not chosen to participate in in the UIL Concert and Sightreading Assessment, students will receive an assignment to complete in class to replace the UIL grade.

Eligibility

In order to participate in certain extra-curricular activities with the choir program (for example the All State Choir process), students must be academically eligible for the six weeks in which the activity occurs. To be eligible, a student must score a 71 or above for all on-level courses on their report card or progress report. If a student receives a 70 or below in any one class, the student becomes ineligible. The best way to avoid confusion on this topic is for all students to pass all of their classes. Each member of our team is valued and important, we need everyone to be eligible to participate!

Bobcat Choir Code of Conduct:

Members of the Bobcat choir must abide by Fort Worth ISD's Student Code of Conduct for the 2023-2024 school year. Students will be held accountable for the behavior expectations and disciplinary consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. The Student Code of Conduct governs all behavior at school, at school-sponsored and school-related activities, during on-line or other remote instruction, during school-related travel, or while traveling in a vehicle owned or operated by the District.

To read the FWISD Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Consequences, please visit the website below:

<https://www.fwisd.org/codeofconduct>