



BCHS SHOW CHOIR Handbook

2022-2023

Dr. Kara Cowart, director

kcowart@baycityisd.org

(979) 401-1132

Welcome to the Bay City High School Show Choir! Show Choir is a group activity that emphasizes teamwork and cooperation. Each individual must strive to work for the success of the group. Even though you are a part of a large group, each individual's participation is needed in order to make our group goals a reality. Our choir should be seen as a source of pride for our school and community.

Each time you participate with the group whether at school or in the community you are carrying on a tradition that stretches back many decades. **Every student that joins our program assumes the responsibility of upholding and making an effort to improve the high standards responsible for our future success.** It is up to all of us to continue the traditions that will last long after we have left. Therefore, students in the Show Choir must be dedicated to this organization.

Classroom Rules:

1. Be courteous to your classmates.
2. Be in your seat when the bell rings with your music and a pencil, prepared to sing.
3. NO talking during instruction.
4. NO food or gum allowed in the choir hall (water is acceptable).
5. NO cell phones!
6. Class will be dismissed by the instructor, not the bell.

Classroom Procedures:

1. When you enter the room, place your backpacks, purses, and personal items along the wall. This would also be the time to spit out your chewing gum.
2. Once this is done, get your choir folder from the closet. Make sure you have a pencil in your folder.
3. Be in your seat when the bell rings. The door will be locked when the tardy bell rings. If you are not in the classroom before the tardy bell, you must go to TARDY SWEEP.
4. Cell phones or other electronic devices will not be tolerated!! There will be a bag for cell phones to be placed in during class time. You will put your phone in your assigned number and get it when class is finished. If you do not do this and are caught with your phone, it will be taken up and you may retrieve it from Student Services.
5. Be ready to begin as soon as the bell rings.
6. Please have a pencil in your folder at all times to make any notes. Pen is NOT allowed.
7. The final bell does NOT dismiss you, I do. Please remain in your seat until I dismiss you.
8. In choir, every voice counts. You will be given daily participation grades and our concerts will count for a test grade. We can work together to create beautiful music but it requires effort from everyone!! Let's do our best to make this a choir we can all be proud of!

Supplies:

You are responsible for all music passed out during class.

Restroom Visits:

You have plenty of time between classes to use the restroom. You will be given three (3) restroom passes for the SEMESTER. When you need to use the restroom, you must turn in a pass and you will be given the RED pass to use the restroom. You are responsible for these passes. Put your name on them. **If you lose them, you will not get a new one.**

Consequences:

1. Verbal Warning – Loss of points on participation grade
2. Student/Teacher Conference – Loss of points on participation grade
3. Phone call to parents/guardian
4. Parent/Teacher/Student Conference
5. Office Referral

Grading:

Grades will consist of the following:

1. Participation (includes singing and having all materials)
2. Every performance counts as a test grade~
3. Semester exam – final concert

~ All students are required to attend every practice, sectional, and performance. Your grade is largely dependent on your attendance. **Work related absences are not excused.** Plan ahead!!!! A schedule of events will be provided to you-- check it! The director is not responsible for determining your excuse. You must keep her informed well ahead of time if a conflict cannot be avoided. (The day or week of a contest or performance is too late! Major points will be deducted if this occurs). If some emergency arises and you cannot attend, you must notify the director as soon as possible ahead of time and BRING A NOTE SIGNED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN. You will be given an alternate assignment to complete your grade for that event in case of emergency only.

LETTERMAN JACKETS

Students can earn their letterman jacket in choir. Listed below are ways to earn your jacket. You must be currently enrolled in a choir class to receive your jacket.

- Be active in your third (3rd) year of choir
- Audition for and make the All-Region Choir (fall semester)
- Advance to State for Solo and Ensemble

Student Responsibilities:

- You must pass all classes every six weeks. If you fail, you cannot participate and that leaves a hole in the group. I will be checking your grades each six weeks. If you are having trouble in a class, seek help through the teacher or another student, attend tutorials, and make up tests. **Students that continue to fail two years in a row and are not eligible to participate in UIL events will be removed from the program.**
- Show Choir is 6th period. Be in class ready to sing or dance, whichever is on the schedule for that day. **If you are not in the room when the bell rings you will be tardy and you will be locked out according to school policy.**
- Be flexible. This group is often asked to perform for things at the last minute. While most performances will be scheduled well in advance, it is always possible that we will be asked to sing for something. If even one voice is missing, it leaves a hole in the group. I will inform you of performances as soon as I know about them.
- Students in the Show Choir represent BCHS and must therefore be the best students in the school.
 - Placement in ISS more than 5 times or placement in DAEP will result in removal from the choir at the semester.
- **YOU CANNOT MISS EVENTS!!!** This includes performances, fundraisers and work days. In order to achieve all that we do it takes commitment from everyone, all the time!
- Nothing can tear apart a choir more quickly than gossiping about each other. If you have a problem with someone, work it out with them or come to Dr. Cowart. If gossip occurs on a regular basis, it will be grounds for dismissal from the Show Choir.
- You will need to purchase some costuming from time to time (leotards, black pants, etc.). The choir purchases the dress and some other items. You will need to purchase jazz shoes. As other costuming items are decided upon, I will let you know well in advance what needs to be purchased.

- Show Choir MAY cost you up to but not more than \$100. This includes costume items that you will order for yourself. If you already have the items needed, then the cost will be less. (Please note that this is not an upfront cost and may not have to be paid at all.)

Parent Responsibilities:

- Please read the student responsibilities. Parents must also adhere to these guidelines.
- I realize that things do happen, occasionally, and I will be flexible to a point. However, if you and your students do not communicate with me, then I cannot be flexible. Each member has a responsibility to this group. If you and your students feel that you cannot commit to this, please let me know now.
- Students CANNOT miss performances. Every performance is a test grade.

Director Responsibilities:

- Help the students to be the best choir they can be.
- Communicate, communicate, and communicate!

SHOW CHOIR SHIRTS - \$30

Each member must purchase a choir t-shirt. These will be worn for certain performances and on our trip in the spring. **We are getting 2 shirts this year and each is \$15.**

CHOIR TRIPS

We hope to travel to in the spring. Information will be given out as soon as plans are finalized.

FUNDRAISING

As a choir, we strive to get new costumes for each concert. The choir will purchase the costumes but we must fundraise in order to do this. For any travel, each student will be responsible for their portion of the trip. We will do ample fundraisers to help with this amount but if the student or parent does not participate in the fundraiser, the balance owed will be your responsibility.

As we are having fundraisers, **participation is required**. Money raised will be divided among those who help and the more you help, the more you will earn.

It is my goal to have as many fundraisers as we can but this will take effort from everyone involved. This may also mean that students will be responsible for more costuming purchases instead of using choir budget money for that.

SOCIAL MEDIA

You can follow the choir on Twitter **@Choir_BayCityHS** and on Facebook **@BayCityHSchoir**.

You can sign up for text message reminders through Remind.com. The easiest way to start receiving these is to text the message **@bcshowch22** to **81010**. Students and parents can receive important reminders throughout the school year.

Important Dates

Fall 2022:

Friday, Aug 26	T-shirt money/uniform fee due - \$20
Saturday, Sept 24	Region Choir Auditions @ BCJH (optional event)
Nov 4-5	All-region Clinic and Concert
Tuesday, Nov 15	Pre-area Auditions @ Columbia HS
Tuesday, Dec 13	JV/Bella Voce Concert @ FBC - 6:30pm
Thursday, Dec 15	Show Choir Concert @ BCHS - 7:00pm

Spring 2023:

Saturday, Jan 7	Area Auditions @ Cuero HS
Saturday, February 4	Solo & Ensemble @ BCHS (optional)
Monday, April 3	Pre-UIL Concert (Bella Voce & JV)
Tuesday, April 18	Bella Voce - UIL Concert & Sight Reading Contest
Friday, May 12	Show Choir Concert @ BCHS - 7:00pm
Tuesday, May 16	JV/Bella Voce Concert @ BCHS - 6:30pm

