

BENBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL **CHOIR**

COURSE SYLLABUS

Director- Mr. Chris Wilson
Email: chris.wilson2@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

GOOGLE CLASSROOM CODES:

- 2nd Period, AP Music Theory: **brofmav**
- 3rd Period, HS Tenor/BASS: **augvl6h**
- 6th Period, MS Non-Varsity Treble: **hfj6n72**
- 7th Period, 6th Grade Treble: **5bqlq7m**
- 8th Period, MS Tenor/Bass: **yc5cm7n**

PRE-REQUISITES FOR COURSE:

- Beginners: No previous choral experience required
- Non-Varsity: One previous year of choir required.
- Varsity: One previous year of choir required, Audition only

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 from both the standpoint of performer and 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 from a variety of countries, societies, and cultures.

DEPARTMENT RULES/PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS:

- Be in your seat with folder and pencil when the bell rings. You will be tardy, otherwise. 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 do this, 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.

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, and may be occasionally required for this course.

TUTORIAL/SECTIONAL REHEARSALS:

- All Region Choir rehearsals will be held after school on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 3:45-5:00PM in the month of January.
- Dress Rehearsals occur on the day on choir concerts from 3:45PM-5:00PM and are MANDATORY for all MS students. After the rehearsal, dinner will be served before the 6:00PM concert.
- Students may also schedule meeting with Mr. Wilson during lunch.

EVALUATION (SEE HANDBOOK FOR SPECIFIC DETAILS):

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

GRADING POLICY:

- Formative- 40% (Class participation, Rehearsal Etiquette, Materials Check)
This will be a combination of class participation, weekly written grades for music theory concepts and sightreading skills, and small group performances of music learned. Students are expected to sing individually and in small groups.
- Homework- 10%

Homework includes, but is not limited to: musical literacy activities, practice logs, and the prompt return of required choir paperwork.

- **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.

VIRTUAL LEARNING POLICY:

The 2020-2021 school year will begin virtually, so it is important that student's understand the expectations for their participation in choir. We are working hard to provide thoughtful and rigorous musical instruction to engage students during this time of virtual instruction. All assignments will be delivered via Google Classroom, and students will be expected to log into their school email once daily for any important information from their teachers or administrators.

- **Join a Google Classroom**
 1. Go to: <http://www.fwisd.org/myfwisd>
 2. Login if not already
 3. Click on Google Classroom icon
 4. In the upper right corner click on the plus "+" sign
 5. Choose "Join class"
 6. Enter your class code given to you by your teacher located on the top of your teacher's syllabus. Make sure you use the correct class section you are enrolled in.
- **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 choir class or choir 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 Mr. Wilson. 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.