

Gunter High ISD

Gunter High School



Choral Music Department

**2010 – 2011
Student/Parent
Handbook**

**Elizabeth Kulbeth, Director
Debbie Keatts, Accompanist**

**Gunter High School
PO BOX 109
Gunter, Texas 75058
903-433-5315 ext. 105**

Gunter High School Choir Handbook

PREFACE

The Gunter High School Choral Department is dedicated to providing each of its choral students with the highest quality of music education available. The goal is to instill in each student the concepts of work ethic, time management, appropriate peer group socialization and above all, a love and a passion for the artistry of making music. Communication and cooperation between students, parents, and the director is the key to our success.

Our commitment for the 2010-2011 school year should be that of team spirit, creating a working environment conducive to a positive learning experience, having open minds and a passion for music. This investment of time, effort and energy will create a basis for the rest of your lives!

Participation in the GHS Choirs provides students with the opportunity to improve individual vocal techniques, music theory, music history, and sight-reading skills. Students will learn challenging choral literature in a variety of musical styles, and will be able to compete at choral contests both in and out of GISD.

This handbook is designed to introduce you to the GHS Choral program and provide you with valuable information regarding grading policies, eligibility, private lessons, uniforms, fees, fundraising, trips and calendars. As the year advances, any additions or changes will be provided to you via the student.

PLEASE read this handbook carefully and sign the appropriate pages and return them to the choir office by Thursday, August 26, 2010.

We are excited about the opportunity that awaits us in the 2010-2011 school year. Thank you for your support of music education at GHS. It is a privilege to have you as a valued part of our choral family.

Gunter High School Choral Staff

Elizabeth Kulbeth, Director

Debbie Keatts, Accompanist

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MUSIC IS A SCIENCE

It is precise, and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's score is a chart, or graph, which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody and harmony all at once and with the most exact control of time.

MUSIC IS MATHEMATICAL

It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time, which is done instantaneously, and not worked out on paper.

MUSIC IS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French; and the notation is certainly not English – but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas.

MUSIC IS HISTORY

Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, often the country and/or racial feeling.

MUSIC IS PHYSICAL EDUCATION

It requires extraordinary coordination of fingers, hands, arms and facial muscles, in addition to controlling the abdominal muscles and the respiratory system, all of which responds to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

Music is all these things, but most of all,

MUSIC IS ART

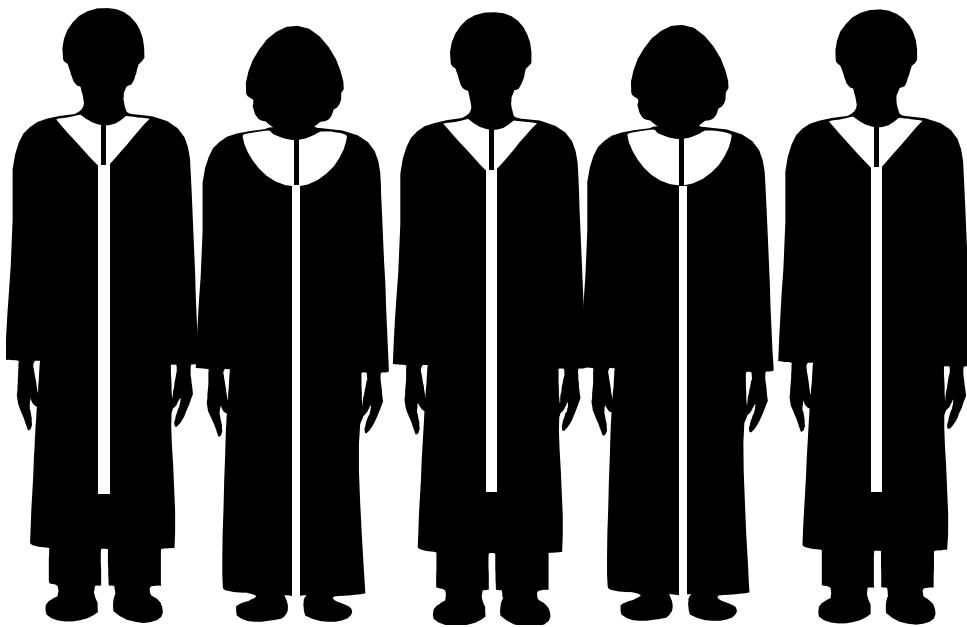
It allows a human being to take all the dry, technically boring (but difficult) techniques and use them to create feeling and emotion.

That is why your child should take music,
not because I expect them to major in music,
not because I expect them to sing all of their life,
but – so they will be human,
so they will recognize beauty,
so they will be sensitive,
so they will have more love,
more compassion, more gentleness,
more good – in short, more life.

That is why your child should take music.

PARENT MEETING

**Discussion of policies, uniforms,
fundraising, trips, volunteers and
calendar.**



Thursday

August 26, 2010

GHS CHOIR ROOM

6:00 P.M.

Student Code of Conduct

Members of the GHS Choir are expected to behave in an exemplary manner, both in public arenas and in the classroom. At every performance as a choir student, you represent the choir, your family, and your directors, Gunter High School, GHISD and Gunter, Texas. Your actions should reflect those of a champion with class in every way.

Choir students are welcome in the choir room before and after school only. However, do not disturb a group rehearsing during these times. Show common courtesy to the director and students involved by not being a distraction to them as they work. The following requirements will make our rehearsals more productive and will contribute to a positive learning environment.

GHS Choir Rehearsal Guidelines:

Guidelines For Each Singer –

1. Be in your place on the risers with folder, music and pencil when the tardy bell rings OR the chord on the piano is sounded.
2. You will be given a folder in which to keep your music and a pencil. Just as you are expected to return textbooks to the school, we expect you to return each piece of music to us in good condition. You may make markings in the music in pencil only.
3. **DO NOT PLAY THE PIANO.**
4. **DO NOT BOTHER THE CALENDAR.**
5. Do not chew gum, candy or any other “foreign” object during choir.
6. Show good rehearsal etiquette by being a good team player – when Mrs. Kulbeth or Mrs. Keatts is talking, don’t talk. When another section is working, follow along quietly in your music, studying YOUR part. Remain on task at all times. Do not interrupt the focus of a rehearsal.
7. Stand like CHAMPIONS! Sit like CHAMPIONS! (GOOD POSTURE)
8. If you have a question, raise your hand to be recognized.
9. Put your folder in its appropriate slot following rehearsals. You are responsible for your own folder.
10. If you make a mess, clean it up.
11. Disorderly behavior and abusive language will not be tolerated.
12. This is your Choir Room! KEEP IT CLEAN!
13. All students will adhere to the GHISD Student Code of Conduct Handbook.
14. DO NOT leave your chair or place on the risers without permission.

Food and soft drinks are not allowed in the choir room unless previously approved by Mrs. Kulbeth or Mrs. Keatts. Bottle water is acceptable and encouraged.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should a student be chewing gum in the choir room. This is an **automatic detention**.

Guidelines For Each Singer As A Performer:

1. Be on time for warm-up and performance.
2. Be dressed appropriately for performance.
3. Be professional on and off stage.
4. Be enthusiastic, expressive and entertaining.
5. Strive to perform at the highest level of your vocal and musical ability.
6. Strive to musically fulfill yourselves as well as the listener.
7. Know the difference between “*competence*” and “*excellence*” in performance.

Guidelines For Each Singer As An Audience Member:

1. Respect others in the audience by refraining from talking during a performance.
2. Leave or enter the performance area between musical selections – not while a group or individual is performing. Emergency situations would be the only time this would be used.
3. Applaud at the appropriate time, and applaud to express enjoyment and appreciation to the performer(s).
4. Never “Call Out” or make noises directed at performers. Concerts are NOT pep rallies.
5. Eliminate disruptions by reminding others to turn off pagers, cell phones, remove restless or disturbing young children, etc.
6. Observe the performance in its entirety. ***There will be at least a two grade level deduction from a student’s grade for leaving early.*** Students that follow you on stage had to sit through your performance. You need to show these students the same courtesy.

Guidelines For Each Singer For Off Campus Conduct:

1. Dress appropriately as a representative of the Gunter High School ISD, each individual’s family, and the GHS Choral program.
2. Observe the rules and regulations of all venues (i.e. concert halls, restaurants, banks, and modes of transportation).
3. Strictly adhere to the GISD Student Code of Conduct Handbook and GHS Student Code of Conduct rules (behavior, dress, “no tolerance” policies, etc.), and abide by the rules and regulations mandated by the Texas State law (use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, etc.).

Due Process

Our goal as the choir directors is to make sure that all students are treated fairly. Please call 214-683-9772 if you have any concerns to resolve problems and/or to schedule an appointment. Make sure you understand both sides of the story before making an assessment of the situation. We will work with you to resolve problems. We are here to provide a quality music education for all of our students.

Eligibility

The Gunter High School Choir activities are governed by the policies of the GISD Board of Trustees, Texas Education Agency, University Interscholastic League, Texas Music Educators Association and the Gunter High School. Texas Education Agency's "no-pass/no-play" rules govern all "extra-curricular" activities such as UIL Contest, TMEA All-Region auditions/concerts, certain choir trips and selected "admission" events such as the Spring Musical. Students must earn a 70 or above in all classes to maintain eligibility status. The GHS choral staff will enforce all eligibility rules and regulations. Students who are ineligible will continue to rehearse during their choir class and before and after school and participate in curricular performances to earn their grade. Ineligible students will not travel with the choir to participate in extracurricular performances during the school day. Ineligible students will remain at school to master the subject in which they are having trouble.

Grading Guidelines In Music

Students will be expected to meet the responsibilities for each choir class as listed in the preface to this handbook. Since choir is an academic music class with some extracurricular activities attached, the choir student's grade will reflect achievement in both curricular and extracurricular areas.

A choir member's six weeks grade will be an average of the following items:

Participation (35%) TEKS 9.2,10.2,11.2,12.2

1. The student will receive a grade for each before, during and after school sectional and rehearsal during a grading period.
2. The student will be on task and focused during all rehearsals.
3. The student will have music, pencil and supplies.
4. The student will be prepared to sing his/her part successfully.
5. The student will mark their music and take notes as needed.

Skills (15%) TEKS 9.1,10.1,11.1,12.1

1. The student will be expected to improve individual music skills.
2. An evaluation of the improvement will include voice part singing tests and written theory tests.

Fundamentals (20%) TEKS 9.3,10.3,11.3,12.3

1. The student will be expected to improve fundamentals of singing and sight-reading.
2. An evaluation of this improvement will include weekly sight-reading tests.

Performance (30%) TEKS 9.2,10.2,11.2,12.2,9.6,10.6,11.6,12.6

1. Students will receive a grade for each performance during each 6 weeks.
2. Performances will count as major exams.
3. The number of performances may vary during each grading period.
4. If no public performance occurs during a grading period, the performance grade will be based upon informal classroom performances determined by the director.

Additional Criteria Affecting Grades

1. Excused Absences

- a. In accordance with GISD policy, all excused absences will be honored with no grade penalty. These include:
 - i. Medical emergency (A doctors excuse must be provided)
 - ii. Death in the family
 - iii. Religious holiday

Circumstances may justify an excused absence for reasons other than those listed above. If an excused absence is anticipated, a written notification should be submitted at least 7 to 10 days in advance.

******Performances cannot be made up! It is impossible to recreate the moment that the whole choir experienced, therefore projects must be completed to make the grade.******

If the absence is excused it is possible to make a 100 on the project depending on the quality of the work.

2. Unexcused Absences

- a. I had to work.
- b. I had to baby-sit my siblings.
- c. I could not find a ride.
- d. I had a reception to attend.
- e. ETC.....

If the absence is unexcused the highest grade possible is a 70 depending on the quality of the work.

The project will include a 5-page report (typed) on a specific musical topic chosen by the director. The project will also include a power point presentation.



UNIFORMS

All GHS Choir students are required to pay a \$40 uniform fee.

1. A New Choir T-shirt that will be used in both informal and formal concerts.
(Remains the property of the student)
2. A Polo or dress shirt.

The following items will be provided by the students:

Ladies:

1. Black dress pants
2. Black Dress Shoes (must be no more than 1 ½" heel, must be closed toe and must have a back on the shoe. Absolutely no sandals, tennis shoes, or flip flops of any kind.
3. Blue Jeans (without any special design on them) will be worn in the spring with our choir shirts.
4. All hair will be pulled back and out your face.

Gentlemen:

1. Black Dress pants
2. Black Socks (white socks are NEVER allowed)
3. Black Dress Shoes (Absolutely no tennis shoes of any kind)
4. Blue Jeans (without any special design on them) will be worn in the spring with our choir shirts.
5. All hair will be out of your face

UNIFORM RULES

1. No Spandex Ever!
2. No Flip-Flops Ever!
3. No Sagging Pants or Sagging Shorts Ever!
4. No Large Bell-Bottom or Capri Style Pants!
5. We should strive to look the same so that no on individual stands out amongst the others. Look like a Team!
6. If choir uniform cannot be worn, (lost, torn, etc.), student will be responsible for replacement of uniform.
7. At all times, students must follow the student dress code.

**UNIFORM FEES ARE DUE BY FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 3, 2010**

Gunter High School Choir Class Rules and Regulations

1. Be in your assigned chair or place on the risers with your folder, music and pencil by the time class begins.
2. Do NOT talk during rehearsal unless you have permission from the director.
3. Do NOT chew gum. Automatic detention.
4. Do NOT use the bathroom until we have completed sight-reading for the class.
5. Do NOT enter the director's area unless you have permission from the director.
6. You are expected to be an active participant in rehearsal, both mentally and vocally. If, for any reason, you are unable to do this, you must consult with the director BEFORE class begins. **If you are sick, you need to go home.** If you are in class, you are expected to participate.
7. Backpacks and books go at the south end of the risers.

CONSEQUENCES

- 1st Time: Warning
2nd Time: Director/Student conference after class and a detention
3rd Time: Call Parent and a detention
4th Time: Conference with parent, director and student and a detention
(At this time we will discuss the benefits of you staying in choir)
5th Time: Student to the office

SEVERE CLAUSE: For blatant insubordination, misbehavior or dangerous actions, the student will be immediately sent to the office for punishment. The parent will be contacted as soon as possible.

ALL OF THE ABOVE WILL HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON A STUDENT'S GRADE ON THAT PARTICULAR DAY.



**RULES AND REGULATIONS AGREEMENT FORM
AND HANBOOK ACCEPTANCE FORM**

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND the Gunter High School Choir Handbook. I agree to abide by all rules and regulations discussed herein. I also understand that additional regulations will be enforced as deemed necessary.

Student Signature_____ Date_____

Parent Signature_____ Date_____

Must be signed and returned by Thursday, August 26, 2010.

GUNTER HIGH SCHOOL

Medical Release

This form should be completed in full. It should enable your child to receive treatment if taken to the hospital by school personnel or a sponsor. One form should be completed for each child. PLEASE COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS.

I, the undersigned, do hereby authorize officials and sponsors of Gunter High School to contact directly the person named on this document, and to authorize the named physicians to render such treatment as may be deemed necessary in an emergency, of the health of said child. In the event physicians, other persons named on this form, or parents cannot be contacted, the school officials are hereby authorized to take whatever action is deemed necessary in their judgment, for the health of aforesaid child. I will not hold the school financially responsible for emergency care and/or transportation of said child.

Signature of Parent or Guardian Date

Full Name of Child _____

Child's Date of Birth _____ SS# _____

Home Address _____

Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Person to be notified in Case of Accident/Emergency _____

Relationship _____ Phone # _____

Known Medical Problems _____

Allergic to any Medicine _____

Child's Private Physician and Phone # _____

Insurance Information
Company Name _____ Phone # _____

Party Responsible for Payment _____

Directory/Mail Out information

The following information will be used through the school year for staff reference, choir mail-outs and the Student Directory where appropriate.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Student Name _____
Last First Middle

Student's Mailing Address _____
Street or P.O. Box

City Zip

Student's Phone # _____

Student's Birthday _____ Grade _____

PARENTS INFORMATION

Parent or Guardian's Name _____

Parent or Guardians Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Parent's Email Address _____

Parent's Place of Employment _____

Work Phone _____

Volunteer Interest _____ Which Areas? _____

Please complete and return by Thursday, August 26 2010.

If you do not wish to have your home phone number published in the student directory, please make an indication to this effect beside your phone number.

Name _____

EARNING A CHOIR LETTER JACKET

The following point system has been developed for distributing choir letter jackets.

Points can be accumulated for up to four years.

1. Concerts

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-------|
| a. Fall Concert | 15 points | _____ |
| b. Christmas Concert | 15 points | _____ |
| c. Trip Year Performance | 15 points | _____ |
| d. Spring Concert | 15 points | _____ |
| e. Concerts Outside of School | 3 points each | _____ |
| (3 per year max., attend NOT sing) | | |

2. Auditions

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| a. Audition for Select Choir | 5 points | _____ |
| b. Audition for All-Region | 10 points | _____ |
| c. Audition for Pre-Area | 10 points | _____ |
| d. Audition for Area All-State | 10 points | _____ |
| e. Sing at Solo and Ensemble | 20 points | _____ |

3. Accomplishments

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-------|
| a. Make a Varsity Choir | 20 points | _____ |
| b. Make the Show Choir | 20 points | _____ |
| c. Make the All-Region Choir | 20 points | _____ |
| d. Make Pre-Area All State | 20 points | _____ |
| e. Make Area All-State | 25 points | _____ |
| f. Make the ALL STATE CHOIR | 100 points | _____ |
| g. Receive a "1" at S & E | 30 points | _____ |
| h. Receive a "1" at State S & E | 30 points | _____ |
| i. Choir Receives Sweepstakes UIL | 30 points | _____ |
| j. Sing a Solo with an GHS Choir | 20 points | _____ |

4. Extracurricular

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| a. Participate in School Musical | 30 points | _____ |
| b. Hold a lead role in School Musical | 20 points | _____ |
| c. Study Private Voice (min 1 year) | 30 points | _____ |

5. Director Discretion Points

300 points are required to receive a Choir Letter Jacket!

Total Points _____