

Cinco Ranch High School Choir Handbook

2021-2022



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WELCOME TO THE CINCO RANCH HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR FAMILY!

We are so happy that you have chosen to be part of a program that continues to earn the respect of the larger community through the diligent efforts of students, parents, directors and administrators. In addition to creating beautiful music, the CRHS Choir strives to be a strong family where each member feels a sense of pride and commitment to excellence in everything we pursue and is supported by others in everything they undertake.

The CRHS Choir is a safe place for you to sing in large and small ensembles, hangout with friends, work with others to set and achieve goals for the group, and develop critical thinking skills that are so necessary for success in our ever changing society. Our choir performances are meaningful for both the audience and the singer. We understand that not every student is a virtuoso performer or musician, but we ask that every student commit 100% effort to be the best choir member possible and try their very best. Whether it be varsity, non-varsity or sub non-varsity, every CRHS choir is outstanding! It is a privilege to lead this program and we accept the responsibilities that come with leadership of this program. As a choir student, each of you accept the responsibility of understanding the high expectations for your choir. As choir parents, each of you accepts the responsibility of understanding the expectations of your child in this successful choir program and supporting his or her endeavors to the fullest extent.

The CRHS Choir Handbook is designed to increase the success of the Cinco Ranch Cougar Choir, inform the students and their parents, and address questions and concerns that may arise throughout the school year. Answers to most questions concerning procedures in our department can be found within this book on our choir website at www.cincoranchchoir.org,

Please take time to read the handbook thoroughly and complete and return the paper acknowledging that you have read the handbook completely. You are responsible for all the information presented including the schedule on the CRHS Calendar. If you have further questions, please feel free to call the choir office 281-237- 5204.

We look forward to getting to know each of our students and to another wonderful year in choir.

COMMUNICATION

In our effort to keep everyone informed of choir activities we use multiple forms of electronic and social media to communicate with students and parents. With this in mind, we are also sensitive to the privacy and integrity of all parties involved. If at any time you would like your student to be excluded from a specific type of communication, please contact Mrs. Wilson.

Primary communication to parents is through email in the Home Access Center and our CRHS Choir Blog - www.cincoranchchoir.org Please keep the email address in the registrar's office up to date.

Canvas	Access through MyKaty Cloud. Assignments and class information will be posted here.
Website	www.cincoranchchoir.org
Remind101	https://www.cincoranchchoir.org/remind/ Students must join and parents are welcome to join
Charms	https://www.cincoranchchoir.org/charms/ An office management system. Please update your information and your student's information. We will use this for email.
Social Media:	FB: @cincoranchchoir Instagram: @cincoranchchoir Twitter: @cincoranchchoir
Director Contact	See the cover page of this handbook. Feel free to email us any time.

CHOIR PLACEMENT

All students sing for placement in a choir. Placement is based on musicianship, tone quality, level of interest and every day work ethic. Our students use their music reading skills to learn their music, and it is crucial that each person is able to hold their own in their choir. Every CRHS Choir is outstanding! We have many choirs, each catering to varied individual needs in order to provide the most complete and effective music education to each student. In addition to the development of individual musical skills, each choir is designed to teach self-discipline, commitment, and teamwork. Students are required to participate in concerts and may elect to participate in competitions such as All-State/Region, Solo & Ensemble, etc. Preparation for choir placement is an ongoing process that begins the first day of school and culminates at the end of the year with an individual placement. It is not something that one can practice for at the last minute. *Each day is an audition for future choir placement – make every day count!*

ABOUT THE CHOIRS

Bel Canto Treble/Cinco Tenor-Bass Sub-Non-Varsity and Non-Varsity: Choirs that sing in at least 4 concerts at CRHS. The choirs will compete at UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest and may participate in a festival event in the Spring. Students may participate in the Texas All-State Choir audition process and UIL Solo and Ensemble. \$40 Activity Fee to CRHS Choir Boosters and \$40 Course Fee to Pay ‘N Go.

Cantiamo Treble: A non-varsity auditioned treble choir that sings in 6 concerts at CRHS. The choir will compete at UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest and may travel to a festival event each Spring. Students are required to travel to the festival contest unless permission is granted by a director for an academic event or emergency. In “big trip” years, like 2021-2022, the trip is optional due to the expense. The festival contest will cost an additional fee to be announced. Students may participate in the Texas All-State Choir audition process and UIL Solo and Ensemble. \$40 Activity Fee to CRHS Choir Boosters and \$40 Course Fee to Pay ‘N Go.

Chorale: A varsity mixed choir that performs selections from all musical periods and will sing in a minimum of 7 concerts at CRHS. The choir consists of mostly upperclassmen that pass the audition and meet the eligibility requirements throughout the year. Members must have previous choral training, a history of eligibility, excellent work ethic, and the ability to sight read and move quickly through intense and fast-paced rehearsal. Members are required to attend Monday night rehearsals from 5:30pm-7:30pm outside of class for a grade throughout the year. They are encouraged to take voice lessons and are required to audition for the TMEA All-State Choir. Members may be placed in a less demanding choir if all requirements are not maintained. Members are required to participate in all CRHS Choir activities unless a school-related conflict arises. The choir competes at UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest and in a festival contest. Students are required to travel to the festival contest unless permission is granted by a director for an academic event or emergency. In “big trip” years, the trip is optional due to the expense. The festival contest will cost an additional fee to be announced. Students may elect to participate in UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest. Chorale members are expected to sing the national anthem at all home football games. The Chorale may receive invitations to perform in concert at venues outside Katy and are expected to participate. Students may be asked to pay additional money for such a trip. \$40 Activity Fee to CRHS Choir Boosters and \$40 Course Fee to Pay ‘N Go. Payable later: All-State audition entry and optional UIL Solo and Ensemble fees.

Bravo: A medium mixed ensemble whose singers have demonstrated advanced musicianship and performance skills. All members of this ensemble must be in Chorale and Bravo. Members must retain academic eligibility in order to hold their space in the ensemble. The group maintains an intense rehearsal schedule when in production for a show. Members MUST work repertoire independently. Group members are required to sing at a variety of community service events. Students purchase a uniform and dance shoes. Ensemble members are required to participate in the American Classic Madrigal Festival in San Antonio each year. Membership is by audition in the spring prior to the school year. Students must be in a competition choir for one year, demonstrate a history of academic eligibility, demonstrate strong rehearsal skills and demonstrate self-motivation in order to audition for the ensemble. Students pay a separate fee for this class.

GRADE POINT CALCULATION

All choir credits are calculated on a 4.0 scale. No GT or AP credit will be awarded. However, if students remain in choir for all four years in high school, their second, third, and fourth years may be taken as pass/fail credit in regards to GPA calculation. Students interested in taking choir for Pass/Fail must discuss this with your counselor before the 10th day of class. The CRHS Counselors can provide the necessary form for Pass/Fail. The form requires the signature of a parent, teacher, and student.

GRADING SYSTEM

Major Grades– 50% of the six weeks average The following activities are examples of criteria which may be assessed as major grades by choir directors:

- Performances- Students must demonstrate mastery of the music and performance practice in order to perform in concerts.
- Tests (performing large sections of music, All-Region/State music, sight singing melodies, score marking OR written tests/projects)
- After school engagement/Attendance/Participation/Monday night rehearsals (Chorale)
- Rehearsal etiquette

Minor Grades– 35% of the six weeks average The following activities are examples of criteria which may be assessed as minor grades by choir directors:

- Quizzes (Sight reading, score marking, concert preparation and music theory)
- Sectionals/Rehearsals/Rehearsal Etiquette

Other Grades– 15% of the six weeks average The following activities are examples of criteria which may be assessed in a category other than major or minor grades:

- Daily skills – correct posture, use of hand signs, audiation, .
- Preparation – materials, music, etc.
- Written homework – seldom assigned
- Attempting to sing and participate in all activities in class.

**Tests are understood to be assessments of an extended length and for which students have received notice well in advance of the assessment. Quizzes are understood to be assessments of shorter length for which 0-24 hours' notice has been given.*

**Singing tests or quizzes may be recorded and submitted in Canvas or sung live.*

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY RULES

Choir students are responsible for maintaining high academic standards. Many of the performances/competitions that we engage in are subject to eligibility rules established by the state. Other events, such as concerts, are considered co-curricular and are necessary as part of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills that students must attend in order to receive credit for the course and are not part of eligibility requirements.

Examples of events subject to eligibility requirements:

- TMEA Region/All-State Auditions
- UIL sponsored except Concert & Sight Reading Assessment
- Trips or Concerts that are off campus
- A concert/event at which admission is charged (Cougar Revue, Coffee House, FA musical)

Required events not subject to eligibility rules:

- Extra Rehearsals and Sectionals
- In class rehearsals and performances
- All concerts at which admission is not charged

Click here for the [2021-2022 Academic Eligibility Calendar](#)

NO PASS-NO PLAY LAW

Eligibility rules set forth by the State of Texas for participation are as follows:

- All students are eligible for the first six-weeks of school.
- At the end of the first six-weeks, if the student is failing one or more subjects they will not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities for the next three weeks.
- A student may regain eligibility if all grades are passing on subsequent 3 week progress reports or the next 6 week report card.
- If a student is passing all classes on the 6 week report card, a failing grade on a progress report will not result in loss of eligibility, i.e. progress reports can only help you to gain eligibility, not cause you to lose it.
- Any student receiving an incomplete on their report card is considered ineligible until the incomplete is cleared with the teacher & principal by the deadline and a formal grade change form is submitted to the office.

**Grades for eligibility are effective at the end of the school day on the date set-forth by the state on the academic grading calendar. Turning in assignments and grade changes after this date will not affect eligibility until the next official grading date.*

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

- Certain standards are necessary for the integrity and reputation of any organization.
- Every choir member will be expected to display good manners, follow school and choir rules, meet deadlines, and always represent CRHS and the choir with pride and dignity.
- Choir members are expected to have and maintain a character above reproach. Not following school rules both in and out of choir may result in the loss of membership and the privileges of the group.
- Members of the Cougar Choir are expected to demonstrate the following:
 - ◆ **Responsibility** through punctuality, following through with commitments, bringing supplies to rehearsal, communicating with the directors, delivering information to parents, and making a marked effort to improve musical skills and learn repertoire.
 - ◆ **Professionalism** by displaying self-discipline, working well with others, having an attitude of respect for the directors and ensemble members, presenting a positive image for the organization, and displaying the qualities of a professional musician.
 - ◆ **Dignity** by adhering to the campus dress code, using appropriate language and etiquette, displaying self-motivation in rehearsal, and presenting oneself in a well-groomed manner in school and at concerts.
 - ◆ **Integrity** through honesty with the director, oneself, and other students, and regular attendance both at school and out of school in rehearsals, at events, and in personal practice time.
 - ◆ **Empathy** through sensitivity and acceptance of diversity, displaying kindness and encouragement to peers.

DAILY REHEARSAL PROCEDURE

- Enter the room in a calm and dignified manner.
- Place all personal belongings in a designated place at the side of the room.
- Pick up your folder and pencil and be on the risers before the bell rings.
- Be ready to focus on our main priority: making music. This requires absolute attention, positive attitude and willingness to make a mistake.
- Plan on working the entire class period from August until May. While we do not have free time or free days in choir, we do have days for karaoke and other games. Do not plan on having time to leave the room for the restroom, locker, etc. Students will only be allowed to leave in the event of an emergency. Do not leave the risers unless asked to do so. This includes going to the water fountain.

ADDITIONAL EXPECTATIONS

- Students who do not demonstrate mastery of music and performance etiquette may not perform with the choir. They will be given an alternate assignment to earn their grade.
- Be ready physically and mentally to do your best in every rehearsal. Be willing to TRY!
- If you are sick, you need to go home. If you are in class, you are expected to participate. If you are unable to sing, tell the director BEFORE rehearsal begins. If you are light-headed, sit down immediately.
- Be positive! Love the challenge! Be supportive of your team members.
- You and your voice are important. Keep your voice hydrated. Please bring a bottle of water to the risers.. 5. The CRHS Choir Room is your “home” at school. The choir members are your family. Treat the choir room and your choir family with care and respect.
- As a member of the Cinco Ranch Choral Department, you stand for spirit, pride, class and tradition INSIDE the CRHS Choir Room and...more importantly...OUTSIDE the Choir Room. Make a difference!! Choose to be amazing!

CHOIR STUDENT BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

Choir students are expected to demonstrate proper rehearsal etiquette:

- Be punctual. Be in your assigned place with your choir folder & pencil ready to rehearse before the bell rings.
- Wait for permission to speak. Translation: Do not talk. ☺
- Follow instructions the first time.
- No gum, food or drinks other than bottled water are allowed on the risers during rehearsal.
- No electronic devices allowed during rehearsals. They will be taken if seen.
- Be respectful to everyone. Treat others as you would like to be treated.
- Use appropriate language and demonstrate good manners at all times.
(No expletives, fighting, inappropriate language, or verbal slurs).
- All rules of Katy ISD and Cinco Ranch High School are in effect at all times.

CONSEQUENCES

With the exception of tardiness, penalties shall be assigned as follows:

- Warning: student teacher conference; loss of participation points
- Contact parents: loss of participation points and choir detention.
- Parent/Teacher/Student Conference, loss of participation points, choir detention, and possible “N” in conduct
- Refer to administrator; possible exclusion from CRHS Choir events, and performances:
 - ◆ Loss of participation (and performance) points.
 - ◆ Possible removal from current choir or the CRHS Choir program.
 - ◆ Possible “U” in conduct.
- Severe issues: Automatic referral to grade level administrator. Possible removal from current choir or the choir program.

CHOIR BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OUTSIDE OF CLASS

Choir students are part of a team. Participants are expected to follow the CRHS and Katy ISD Code of Conduct. Participation in a music ensemble should be considered a privilege, not a right. In order to maintain the integrity of the CRHS Choir program and provide a positive learning environment for all students, consistent in-class discipline problems, multiple placements of in-school suspension, discipline referrals for fighting, any level IV or level V discipline infractions, substance abuse, and/or bringing weapons on campus will result in the revocation of choral privileges which may include movement to a different ensemble, loss of travelling privileges, suspension from performances, or removal from the choral program at the director’s discretion. According to the Katy ISD Discipline Code any student placed in ISS will not perform or travel with the choir during the time of ISS placement.

OUTSIDE OF CLASS PERFORMANCES AND REHEARSALS

Performance is a privilege not a right. Every voice matters. No one sits on the bench in choir and everyone must be prepared. Outside of class performances are a required element of the Texas TEKS curriculum and cannot be duplicated through alternative written work. Performance is a primary objective for choir students. All concerts held at CRHS and not involving the sale of tickets are co-curricular and participation is mandatory. Students who participate appropriately will receive a grade of 100.

In the case of a pre-approved school conflict or verified emergency the student will be given the opportunity to recover points on the student grade through singing off on the music for the director or one of the assignments listed below. In order to preserve the safety of all students and integrity of the performance, students may not be able to perform in concerts due to absences from rehearsals/dress rehearsals regardless of excused or unexcused absence status. A student who misses the final rehearsal before a performance may not be allowed to perform in the concert and the student will sing off on the music. Students will always be given ample advance notice of required performances; therefore, the following activities are examples of what will not be considered an excused absence from Choral Department events: Student's Work Schedule, Regular Doctor/Dental Appointments, Lack of Transportation, Babysitting Obligations, Church Activities, Non-School Related Sports Events. Chorale/Cantemus members who miss more than 2 rehearsals may be removed from the organization. A student who has an unexcused absence from a concert will receive a zero.

Absences will be considered EXCUSED when the following conditions are met:

- Directors are notified a minimum of two weeks in advance with WRITTEN notice from the parent.
- The reason for the absence is a conflicting SCHOOL activity.
- The directors, upon receiving written notification and verifying that there is no possible solution for the student to participate in multiple school activities, approves the absence.
- The student is unable to perform at a required event because of academic ineligibility.
- The student is too ill to participate.
- There is a court subpoena that prevents attendance.
- The student has a religious belief conflict.

An excused absence does not exempt the student from completing the work or equivalent makeup work for the missed event. Unexcused absences may not be eligible for makeup assignments. Students must complete the Request for Excused Absence Form in advance. Students should ask the directors for the form. Directors reserve the full discretion whether or not to excuse an absence.

EXCUSED ABSENCE MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments should be completed within one week of the missed event.

→ Rehearsals (EXCUSED)

As the directors will not be available to lead make-up rehearsals with individual students. The student will be required to receive rehearsal notes from the director and will be required to sing-off their vocal line as needed. This will occur at the convenience of the director.

→ Performances (EXCUSED)

Students must make an appointment to sing all required music for the directors within a week of the missed performance to recover the performance portion of the grade.

**In the event that a change is made in a scheduled performance or rehearsal, students are encouraged to make every effort to adapt to that change. If ample notice of the change (2 weeks) is not possible, the policy on absence will be adjusted accordingly at the director's discretion.*

SOCIAL AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA POLICY

With the continued increase of communication via electronic media, it is extremely important to understand the implications of texts, Facebook posts, tweets, etc. Nothing we do electronically can be considered temporary or private. There has been an increase of student discipline problems based on communication, bullying, etc that has occurred via electronic media outside of school. Any student who represents themselves, peers, or their organization in an unfavorable, questionable, or illegal manner through electronic media will have parents immediately notified and be subject to disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by school officials and directors, including but not limited to dismissal from the organization.

FINANCES

All students in the CRHS Cougar Choir pay a \$40 activity payment to the CRHS Choir Booster Club and a \$40 course fee to Katy ISD.

- The \$40 activity payment covers the use and alteration of a choir uniform, a personal t-shirt, use of a garment bag. www.cincoranchchoir.org
 - Choose SHOP in the title bar
 - Add activity payment and anything else to cart
 - Go to cart and check out
- The \$40 course fee covers supplies: binders, pencils, paper, transportation, printing
Pay N Go (<https://katyisd.revtrak.net/>)
 - ◆ Click LOGIN. Either log in to your pre-existing account or click CREATE NEW ACCOUNT to get a new one set up.
 - ◆ Click HIGH SCHOOLS
 - ◆ Click CINCO RANCH HIGH SCHOOL
 - ◆ Click CRHS FINE ART COURSE FEES (2021-22)
 - ◆ Click CRHS COURSE FEE - CHOIR
 - ◆ The next screen will show the \$40 fee. You will enter STUDENT NAME, STUDENT ID NUMBER, AND GRADE.
 - ◆ Click ADD TO CART
 - ◆ Either select CONTINUE SHOPPING if you have more fees to pay or CHECKOUT if you are ready to enter your payment info.
 - ◆ Review your billing address, enter your credit card info or banking e-check info, and check the items in your cart.
 - ◆ Click PLACE ORDER.

Finances should never be a barrier to a student's participation in choir activities; however, if no communication is made, no assistance can be offered. Special payment arrangements can be made by contacting Dorothy Wilson at dorothyjwilson@katyisd.org.

**Students must return the uniform and garment bag in the same condition they received them or pay for the garment or to mend the garment. The formal dress is \$90, a full tux is \$140, and a garment bag is \$40.*

ANTICIPATED EXPENSES OTHER THAN THE REQUIRED FEES

The following is an anticipated list of choir expenditures that will occur throughout the year. These are listed to help you plan your budget. Please note that in some cases, fees are approximate. Required expenses are indicated:

- Uniform/Shoes (purchased on your own) Price varies – required of all students.
 - ◆ Cantiamo and Chorale Sopranos and Altos – black character shoes purchased at a dance store.
 - ◆ Bel Canto – closed-toe black pumps with a heel no higher than 2” and not stiletto style.
 - ◆ All Tenors and Basses – black dress shoes, black dress socks, and white flat collared long-sleeved dress shirt, not tux shirt.
- All-State Entry Fee \$20 Required for Chorale and anyone who enters.
- Region Weekend Fee \$20 Required for any student who makes Region Choir.
- Solo/Ensemble \$12 Per event – optional.
- Solo and Ensemble Accompanist fee \$20-\$35 Depending on the class of solo.
- Choir Banquet \$25-\$30 Optional
- Voice lessons \$18.50 -\$25 Per half hour depending on the teacher - optional
- Letter Jacket Price varies according to what patches are selected – optional.
- Spring Trip \$1185 for March 2022 - optional

SUPPLIES

Each student will be provided with a black music folder, paper, staff paper, and a pencil as a part of the Choir Fee assessed at the start of the year. Music and other materials will be issued on loan from the school throughout the school year. Students are financially responsible for folder contents provided by the school. Students are expected to have their folder, music, and a pencil at every rehearsal. In the event any materials distributed by the teacher are lost, it is the student’s responsibility to obtain another copy or to pay the replacement cost. Failure to have appropriate materials in rehearsal results in a deduction from a daily grade. Replacement cost of the choir binder is \$5 plus the cost of individual music. If possible, each student should provide his/her own pencil bag.

TURNING IN MONEY

In order to assure the security and proper accounting of funds, money will always be handled by the directors and representatives of the booster club. Please adhere to the following guidelines:

- The most efficient and safe way to make payments to the CRHS Cougar Choir is by paying via PayPal on our website: www.cincoranchchoir.org.
 - ◆ EXCEPTION: Choir Course Fee of \$40 will be paid to Katy ISD Pay ‘N Go Always put your child’s first and last name in the memo.
- When making payments on the website through PayPal, you must always type the student’s name in the memo box so that we can match the payment to the student. A service fee of \$3 is always added to your charge.
- Cash/Checks should be placed in an envelope and marked clearly with the student’s name, amount, and the purpose of the payment.
- Always place envelopes directly into the wooden money box in the choir room or hand them to a director.
- **ALL CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO THE CRHS CHOIR BOOSTER CLUB.**
 - ◆ **EXCEPTION:** Accompanist fee for Solo and Ensemble. The fee is paid to the accompanist.

REFUND POLICY

Most fees charged to the student involve advance payment for a service or item. In such cases (i.e. accompanist fees, trip fees, etc.), the choral department has a deadline for receiving reimbursement from the supplier. Because of this, the following policy is strictly followed: There will be no refunds in any case where a student has paid for an activity or supply but is no longer able to participate. This policy applies no matter what the reason is for withdrawal and specifically includes but is not limited to the situations of ineligibility, illness, unexpected family travel, or withdrawal from the CRHS Choir. The March 2022 Spring Trip refund policy is stated in the Gerber Tour information.

CARE OF FACILITIES

Use of the Choir Room:

- Be respectful of our room and equipment so that we may enjoy it for years to come.
- Please come and visit us in the choir room at any time; however, knock and/or wait to be acknowledged before you enter an office. At no time should a student be in the choir office without the director.
- DO NOT PLAY THE CLASSROOM PIANO. It is an expensive musical instrument.
- If you are in need of a piano for practice, please ask a director to use a practice room. Practice rooms may be used for voice lessons, practicing choir music, and/or completing singing tests only. Practice rooms are always locked. There should be no food in the practice rooms at any time.
- Do not write on the boards – if you need to make an announcement to the choir, check with the director. 6. Director technology is not for student use without permission.

Use of the PAC

- Be respectful of the PAC.
 - ◆ Do not put your feet up on the furniture.
 - ◆ No food or drinks allowed in the PAC.
 - ◆ Do not touch the legs (curtains) on the PAC stage.
 - ◆ Do not walk on the strip lights on the voms along the stage.
 - ◆ Do not touch any equipment in the PAC unless instructed to do so.
 - ◆ Do not jump off the stage.

UNIFORMS

Your signature on the handbook acknowledgement also serves as a contract for uniform and garment bag usage with the following policies. We are unable to issue a uniform until this form is returned and a choir fee is paid or we receive a payment contract. Failure to turn in required paperwork may result in the student not receiving a uniform and being unable to perform on required concerts.

- Students/Parents are financially responsible for all uniform pieces issued to them by the school. In the event that you damage the uniform, notify the director IMMEDIATELY. Students are responsible for the cost of replacement or repair of damaged uniforms. Failure to report damage may result in paying for a brand new uniform.
- Uniforms are required for all choir performances. Students will be issued a clean uniform. Maintenance during the school year will be the responsibility of the student. Students should not clean the uniform before it is returned in April.
 - ◆ Sopranos and Altos receive a black formal. Tenors and Basses receive tux pants, tux jacket, vest and tie.
- Dresses, tuxedo pants, and tuxedo jackets are DRY CLEAN ONLY. Failure to clean the uniform properly will result in unusual wear, staining, or odors and will be charged as damage to the uniform. In the event you need to clean the uniform during the year, please use Fashion Park Cleaners located on Cinco Ranch Boulevard to dry clean the dresses and tuxes.
- Students will receive uniforms that have been altered. They should NOT cut any piece of the uniform to adjust the length.
- Students provide their own uniform shoes.
 - ◆ Sopranos and Altos in Chorale and Cantiamo are required to purchase black character shoes with a heel no higher than 2 inches. Bel Canto students should wear closed toe, flat or low heel, black pumps.
 - ◆ Tenors and Basses should wear formal solid black dress shoes with black dress socks.
- Tenors and Basses must provide a long-sleeve white dress shirt with a flat collar. NO BUTTON DOWN OR WING-TIP COLLARS.

UNIFORMS CONTINUED

Failure to wear the proper uniform items, or failure to arrive in a properly maintained uniform (hemmed, pressed, and clean), may result in students being removed from performance and suffering standard penalties for missed performances. Students are required to keep their uniform in the choir garment bag when travelling from one place to another.

Uniforms must be returned as requested at the completion of the concert season. It does not need to be dry cleaned at the final turn in. Failure to return the uniform will result in a fine equal to the replacement cost of the uniform. Fines will be assessed for uniforms that are damaged. Students will not be allowed to exempt exams until their uniform is cleared.

In addition to the formal uniform, students will receive a choir t-shirt worn for informal occasions, usually with jeans. When wearing the informal uniform, students should choose dark blue jeans that are plain, without rips and designs, and fit appropriately for performance. Neutral color shoes should be worn with the informal uniform.

PERFORMANCE APPEARANCE

As part of the formal choir uniform students are expected to present themselves in a well-groomed, formal manner. Anything that draws personal attention to a single student rather than the group is not acceptable in performance. Jewelry other than small stud earrings or assigned uniform jewelry is not acceptable. Hair should be groomed and styled away from the face. If you are using anything to hold your hair back (headband, clips, etc) it should be black or neutral to match your hair. A choral concert is a staged performance and students should be prepared to wear appropriate makeup that brings out features and is not a distraction. Stage makeup should include non-neutral lipstick (red or dark pink), blush, and eye makeup. Students' beards should be trimmed. Students may be asked not to wear colored nail polish. Students must wear deodorant. It is recommended that those wearing dresses use spray deodorant, as it will not stain the velvet material. Students may not wear perfume, heavily scented lotions, or body spray - many people have allergies related to these products.

STUDENT TRAVEL

The choral department will occasionally engage in overnight travel for festivals and performances. Although festival choir trips are optional, students are strongly encouraged to participate as we will be performing on all trips and need our entire team in order to be successful. Varsity members are expected to travel except in a Big Trip year.. Certain choirs may be selected for performances at TMEA, ACDA, and SWACDA. These performances are required and sufficient fundraising opportunities will be held to assist in paying for the trip. Specific regulations concerning student travel will be discussed in detail preceding all trips. Please note that consistent discipline problems in school (including multiple assignments to in-school suspension) may result in the loss of travel privileges. Any flagrant offense of school or district policy will result in the loss of travel privileges for a period to be determined by the director and school administration. Students must be academically eligible to participate. Trip payments are non-refundable after a certain period of time, based on the contract with our travel company for each trip. Overnight trips are considered an extension of the school day. In other words, all Katy ISD rules apply during the entire trip.

PRIVATE VOICE INSTRUCTION

The CRHS Choir program offers the opportunity for students to take part in the Katy ISD Private Lesson Program. It is NOT required, but it is a valuable resource for students to work directly with a qualified and approved voice teacher.

The voice is an instrument. As students enter high school, it becomes more important that each student learn how to use his or her individual instrument. While each choir rehearsal will devote time to group vocal development, it is highly recommended that singers study privately either through the KISD Private Lesson Program or with other teachers in Katy or Houston. Private lessons are for the self-motivated student who has the self-discipline to practice every day.

All CRHS Voice Instructors are contracted through KISD. Students pay the teacher directly and at least one month in advance. The fee ranges from \$22.50-\$25 per half hour. Each teacher will provide a studio policy detailing the preferred method of payment and attendance/practice guidelines. Teachers are permitted to drop students who do not pay for lessons.

The object of the voice lesson is to learn good vocal technique and how the individual's voice functions. Students will build repertoire that may include art songs, arias, jazz, pop or musical theatre music. They may also study the All-State repertoire, prepare music for coffee house auditions, Cougar Revue, pop show, Solo and Ensemble. In order to be successful it is imperative that the student practice each day and that the student be teachable (open minded and willing to learn). Through regular attendance at lessons and daily practice, individuals learn good technique, build a large repertoire of songs, and learn techniques of interpretation and presentation.

Students who wish to take part in private lessons must send an email to dorothyjwilson@katyisd.org She will send the names of teachers and their contact information. All lessons take place in the practice rooms within the CRHS Choir Room.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The development of leadership in students is a primary goal of the department. Chair people are selected based on an interview process. Any student may serve on the council. A student only needs to apply, meet the attendance and service requirements, and maintain a passing average in all classes. Students who wish to chair a committee or serve as Choir President complete an interview process in the Spring. The Choir Council Officers for 2021-2022 are:

Caitlyn Ho, *President*

Katie Shanks, *Vice President*

Jack Ward, *Logistics*

Christina Tran, *Publicity*

Alexis Wilhite, *Historian*

Elizabeth Wojciechowski, *Uniforms*

Jackson Bateman, *Spirit*

Madison Park, *Secretary*

Cole Schlomann, *Volunteers*

Niko Theriault, *Librarian*

Other officers, including section leaders, may be appointed by the directors as needed. A student may be removed by the director at any time as the result of unsatisfactory behavior or poor representation of the choral department.

Students may apply to join the 20-21 Choir Council from August 20-31. In order to join the council, simply fill out the google form that is in Remind. You must attend all meetings and events. For events, you may miss 1 or 2 but you must give notice.

CRHS CHOIR BOOSTER CLUB

The Cougar Choir Booster Club benefits all students in our department by providing adult support at events and lowering the cost of all activities through membership dues.. Fees paid for Choir Booster Club membership are in addition to the CRHS Choir activity fee and the KatyISD course fee. The money raised by the CBC helps supplement our budget from KISD by directly supporting transportation, clinicians, accompanists, hospitality/social events to name a few. The CRHS Choir Booster Club is a source of chaperones and volunteers. For information concerning booster club activities and membership go to the choir website – www.cincoranchchoir.org/booster-club

Equally important, the CBC assists the choir in many non-financial aspects including:

- Providing chaperones
- Uniform assignment and repair
- Organizing concessions for events and parties
- Organization of fundraising events for students
- Singing Valentines
- Assist the directors with organization and coordination of activities for students

Membership dues for the CRHS Choir Booster Club (CBC) are the primary source of funding for the CRHS Choir program. Students may also join the booster club.

The Choir program would not be able to achieve the standards of excellence we are renowned for were it not for the help of the CBC. Please consider joining the CBC by making a tax deductible donation at the highest level possible for your family.

Parents or students must be members of the CBC by October 31 in order for their child to be eligible for Booster Club scholarships.

CBC OFFICERS

Audralynn Allen, *President*

Tanya Ward, *Vice President of Membership*

September Theriault, *Vice President of Fundraising*

Cindy Bassett, *Vice President of Volunteers*

Anna Cace, *Treasurer - Accounts Payable(Expenses)*

Jill Wojciechowski, *Treasurer - Accounts Receivable*

Nicole Lane, *Publicity/Communication*

Pilar Reyes, *Secretary*

Cathy Turner, *Spirit Gear*

Sue LaPrade, *Uniforms*

CHOIR BOOSTER CLUB ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE CHOIR 2020-2021

- Funded Accompanists/Instrumentalists for UIL
- Provided clinicians to work with choirs throughout the year
- Awarded scholarships to worthy seniors (scholarship recipients are selected by an independent committee who reviews the blind applications)
- Purchased 4 choir mics
- Purchased Wenger Closet System to create storage for costumes and free up the Practice room for more lessons and ensemble work.
- Provided treats and decorations for the May Awards night
- Provided additional singer's masks when needed

CHOIR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2020-2021

- 2 All-State Choir members
- Success at UIL Concert and Sightreading
- Success at UIL Solo and Ensemble
- 8 Participants in TSSEC Solo Contests
 - ◆ 7 Superior ratings
 - ◆ 1 Excellent rating
 - ◆ 1 Outstanding Performer
- Incredible outdoor concerts and a brilliant Pop Show

CHOIR ACHIEVEMENTS ACROSS THE YEARS

- Chorale -Invited to perform at TMEA twice
- Chorale Women invited to perform at SWACDA
- Consistent Region Choir, Area Candidates, and All-State Choir members
- All choirs have consistent UIL Sweepstakes and Best in Class at festival contests
- Consistent Superior ratings at UIL Solo and Ensemble
- Students consistently earn scholarships in a variety of areas of study

STUDENT AWARDS

Letter Jackets can be earned via points awarded from individual achievement in the choral program. A complete guide to the point system is available in the choir office.

Outstanding Choir Student awards are presented at the choir banquet to students from each choir who have demonstrated exemplary musicianship, leadership, and character by being models of the virtues of the CRHS choir program.

Most Outstanding CRHS Choir Student individuals are nominated by the Chorale. The directors approve the nomination. The award is presented to one student, usually a senior, who shows exceptional musical ability and leadership.

Dana Krock Esprit des Corps Award recognizes an individual who represents the spirit of choir: positivity, work ethic, encourages others, discipline, strong character, punctuality, reliable, helps others and the director succeed. Individuals are nominated by the students. The directors approve the nomination.

KISD CHOIR LETTER JACKET CRITERIA

Choir students have the opportunity to earn a Choir Letter Jacket. A student must earn 15 points to receive a letter jacket. All points are cumulative within a year and carry over from year to year. A music student moving into KISD from another Texas public school will have points assigned based on the KISD point system after verification by the previous director. Any choir student that quits choir during the four year period is ineligible to receive a letter jacket based on participation in the event they return to choir.

MEASURING AND ORDERING: Students earning jackets will be measured in early September and March. Point totals will be calculated prior to each date. Participation points are added at the end of the year.

CRHS COUGAR CHOIR DEPARTMENT STUDENT OUTCOMES

The following list of skills based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for High School Fine Arts and the education philosophy of the CRHS Cougar Choir summarizes the outcome of a student engaged in the choral program for 4-years:

→ Vocal Technique

- ◆ The student can demonstrate good singing posture and proper breath technique.
- ◆ The student has a basic knowledge of the biology associated with the vocal instrument.
- ◆ The student can sing with a consistent tone throughout their vocal range.
- ◆ The student has a basic knowledge of the registers of the voice and can navigate appropriately through all vocal registers.
- ◆ The student can sing accurately and expressively at different tempi and with a full range of dynamics.
- ◆ The student has a basic knowledge of singing diction in English, Latin, Italian, German, French, and other languages as encountered in the repertoire.
- ◆ The student can evaluate vocal performances and identify strengths and weaknesses

→ Musicianship

- ◆ The student can accurately sight-sing melodies in major and minor keys using chromatic tones within functional harmony.
- ◆ The student can accurately read standard rhythms in a variety of simple and compound meters.
- ◆ The student can accurately sight-read a single part in a four-part choral texture.
- ◆ The student understands basic musical terminology and can evaluate the expressive and technical markings in a choral score and respond appropriately.
- ◆ The student can evaluate structural qualities (form) of a piece of music regarding repetition and formal properties.
- ◆ The student understands basic conducting gestures and their connection to a choral performance.

→ Ensemble Skills

- ◆ The student demonstrates proper ensemble etiquette through consistent performance in rehearsals.
- ◆ The student demonstrates the ability to perform choral music for an audience.
- ◆ The student can sing their choral part accurately and expressively either alone or as a member of an ensemble with attention to tone, blend, intonation, and balance.
- ◆ The student can memorize music and can perform music from memory for an audience.
- ◆ The student can identify the historical and cultural background of the literature being performed.
- ◆ The student will demonstrate ability to assess himself/herself and a variety of ensembles diagnosing solutions for musical problems that they hear.

→ Life Skills

- ◆ The student will develop a life-long appreciation for choral music and the other arts. b. The student will obtain the skills needed to engage in music as a performer, patron, and / or consumer throughout their lives.
- ◆ The student will develop cultural awareness and tolerance learning to cooperate with an eclectic group of people to reach a common goal.
- ◆ The student will develop communication and time management skills needed for success in higher education.
- ◆ The student will develop self-discipline and the ability to focus on difficult tasks in order to achieve goals.
- ◆ The student will develop the ability to think critically, outside the box, and problem solve.
- ◆ The student will demonstrate the core values of the CRHS Cougar Choir (Responsibility, Professionalism, Dignity, Integrity and Empathy) in all of their daily endeavors.

Choir Award Jacket Point Sheet

Honor Organization Participation:

	Points	Earned/Year
HS TMEA District	2	____ / ____
HS TMEA Region Treble Choir	2	____ / ____
HS TMEA Region Mixed Choir	3	____ / ____
HS TMEA Area Candidates (top 5)	4	____ / ____
HS TMEA All-State Choir	6	____ / ____

Individual Music Competitions:

UIL Regional Solo and Ensemble			
Division I:	Class I Solo	4	____ / ____
	Class II Solo	3	____ / ____
	Class III Solo	2	____ / ____
Division I:	Class I Small Ensemble	3	____ / ____
	Class II Small Ensemble	2	____ / ____
	Class III Small Ensemble	1	____ / ____
Division I:	Medium Ensemble	1	____ / ____
UIL State Solo and Ensemble			
Division I:	Solo	5	____ / ____
	Small Ensemble	3	____ / ____
Division II:	Solo	3	____ / ____

Participation:

To receive participation points, students must have successfully completed one year, enrolled in the choir program, fulfilling all responsibilities as defined by the campus choir director and printed in the campus choir handbook.

Ninth (9th) grade year	2	____ / ____
Tenth (10th) grade year	2	____ / ____
Eleventh (11th) grade year	2	____ / ____
Twelfth (12th) grade year	6	____ / ____
12th grade (w/ 3 previous yrs. successful completion)	9	____ / ____

Total points earned:

(A total of 15 points is required to qualify for an Awards Jacket.)

My signature verifies that all above information is true and accurate.

Signature of student

Classification/year ____ / ____

Printed name of student

Signature of Choir Director

Cinco Ranch Choir Event Calendar

**Chorale Rehearsals are every Monday night from 5:30-7:30pm unless noted otherwise.*

**Chorale sings at every home football game.*

**Additional rehearsals may be added before concerts. Parents will be notified 2 weeks in advance.*

**Bravo rehearsals are not listed on this calendar.*

August

August 20, 5:30-7pm @ CRHS - Back to School Bash
August 28, 8am-12pm @ CRJH - Car Wash Fundraiser

September

September 2, 7-8:30pm @ CRHS - Bravo Coffee House
September 11, 7-8:30pm @ CRHS - Cougar Revue
September 18, Time TBA @ CRHS - District Auditions
September 21, 7-8:30pm @ CRHS - Fall Coffee House Fundraiser

October

October 7-9, 7-9pm @ CRHS - Bravo Fall Show
October 12, TBA @ Merrell Center - Katy ISD Varsity Showcase
October 14, 7-8:30pm @ CRHS - Fall Concert
October 16, TBA @ MRHS - Region Auditions
October 29, 5:30-7pm @ CRHS - Halloween Party

November

November 11, 7-8pm @ CRHS - Veterans' Day Concert
November 12-13, TBA @ CRHS/Westbury - Region Weekend
November 16, 6-8pm @ CRHS - CRHS Fine Arts Showcase

December

December 2, TBA @ Elsie HS - Pre-Area Audition
December 3-4, 7-8:30pm @ CRHS - Bravo Sleighbell Showcase
December 6, 7-8:30pm @ CRHS - Wintersong Concert
December 8, 6:30-7am @ CRHS - Winter Breakfast
December 8, 7:15-2:35pm @ CRHS - Coffee and Carols

January

January 8, TBA @ Shadow Creek - Area Audition
January 10, 6-8pm @ CRHS - JH/HS Choir Night
January 14, 6-8:30pm @ CRHS - Movie Night

February

February 3-5, TBA @ CRHS - FA Musical: Phantom of the Opera
February 9-12, All Day @ San Antonio - TMEA All-State
February 18, 7pm-8:30pm @ CHRS - Pop Show
February 19, TBA @ MCHS - Solo & Ensemble

March

March 3, 7-7:30pm @ CRHS - Bravo MadFest Concert
March 8, 7-9pm @ CRHS - Spring Trip Concert & Meeting
March 11-14, All Day @ NYC - NYC Spring Trip
March 24, 7-8:30pm @ CRHS - Spring Coffee House
March 25, 5:30-7pm @ CRHS - Just Dance Party

April

April 12, 6-9pm @ CRHS - Pre-UIL Concert
April 13, 2:45-4pm @ CRHS - Easter Egg Hunt
April 19-20, TBA @ St. Peter's - Non-Varsity UIL
April 26-27, TBA @ Westbury - Varsity UIL
April 28, TBA @ South Main Baptist - Celebration of Excellence
April 29-30, 7-9pm @ CRHS - Bravo Spring Show

May

May 7, TBA @ TBA - Katy Young Artists Competition
May 9, 7-8:30pm @ CRHS - Cinco Sings
May 11, 5:30-8pm @ Legacy - Choir Banquet
May 13, 6-8pm @ CRHS - Choir End-of-the-Year Party
May 15, TBA @ TBA - Katy Young Artists Competition Recital

This is not meant to take the place of the full calendar with all choirs' events, rehearsals, and concerts. It is the student and parent's responsibility to check the regularly updated calendar located at www.cincoranchchoir.org/calendar

CRHS Choir Handbook Acknowledgement Form

Student Name: _____ Grade: ____ Choir: _____

Please initial next to each statement (student):

_____ I have read and understand the Cinco Ranch High School Choir Handbook which contains the policies and procedures for the 2020-2021 school year.

_____ I will refer to this handbook throughout the year when I have questions.

_____ I have noted expectations that involve performances, uniforms, and grading.

_____ I have read and understand the eligibility law for choir activities.

_____ I understand and agree to pay the required financial commitment for my choir.

_____ I understand that if money is a problem, I can contact Dorothy Wilson to set up a payment plan.

_____ I understand the uniform and garment bag care policy, and I agree to pay for a replacement uniform should the uniform I was issued be damaged. If the uniform requires cleaning I understand and will abide by the rule of DRY CLEAN ONLY (please use Fashion Park Cleaners located on Cinco Ranch Boulevard).

_____ I understand that it is possible that I may be required to attend extra rehearsals and concerts as the year progresses/as needed.

Chorale Only:

_____ I understand that I am expected to participate in the TMEA All-State Choir process.

_____ I understand that I am committing myself to Monday night rehearsals as communicated in the calendar.

_____ I understand that if I commit to perform the national anthem at a home football game I must follow through unless I am sick.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____