



Rock Hill High School

CHOIR

**Better
Together**

2021 - 2022

Choir Handbook

CHORAL MUSIC IN PROSPER ISD

Through participation in any of the many choral ensembles available in the Prosper Independent School District, students are afforded the opportunity to achieve the following goals of the program:

- Attain a healthy sound through the exploration of vocal technique and good body position
- Develop strong musicianship through the performance of “quality” choral literature, such as:
 - singing with expression and line
 - singing as an ensemble and individually
- Sing in a variety of styles, languages, and ensembles
- Learn through teamwork a sense of responsibility and commitment through a variety of performance opportunities
- Achieve a better appreciation, understanding, and respect for choral and vocal literature through performance and experience
- Develop cultural awareness and acceptance by learning to cooperate with a group of people to reach a common goal and outcome
- Demonstrate core values of the choral program, campus, and the Prosper Independent School District

ROCK HILL CHORAL MUSIC STAFF

Mr. McGuire

Joshua McGuire is the Head Choir Director at Rock Hill High School. He holds a Master’s Degree in Choral Conducting from Louisiana State University and a Bachelor’s Degree in Music Education from Western Illinois University. Originally from Illinois, Mr. McGuire taught at the middle school and high school levels in the Chicago area. Previous to Rock Hill High School, he was the head director at Sachse High School (Garland ISD) for fifteen years.

He is a member of the King of Glory Choir at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Dallas, and has performed professionally with the Chicago Choral Artists and Highland Park Chorale in Dallas.

Mr. McGuire is a member of ACDA, TCDA, TMEA, TMAA, and Pi Kappa Lambda. He serves the Texas Music Educators Association as Area B Vocal Chair. He is VERY excited to have all of the choirs back in face to face classes this year

Mr. Keen

Tate Keen is the Associate Director of Choirs at Prosper High School and Rock Hill High School in the Prosper Independent School District. This is his third year in Prosper ISD and his fifth year teaching. Previously, Mr. Keen was the Director of Choirs at Pioneer Heritage Middle School in Frisco ISD where his choirs consistently received Sweepstakes at UIL and Superior ratings at various contests in the metroplex.

Mr. Keen graduated from Texas Christian University with a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Music Education in 2016.

Aside from teaching, Mr. Keen is passionate about composing/arranging music, building relationships with people, and serving his community.

CHORAL ENSEMBLES AT ROCK HILL HIGH SCHOOL

There is a choral ensemble for every student at Rock Hill High School regardless of their experience or age. Directors will assess student ability and ensemble balance throughout the year. Students may be re-auditioned before the Winter break for class changes beginning in the Spring semester.

Bel Canto – Non-auditioned group for all soprano and alto voices, grades 9-12. This choir performs at all choir concerts throughout the year, and may participate in UIL adjudicated activities. Emphasis is placed on the basics of music theory and literacy, with a special emphasis on the basic knowledge of solfege and sight-reading.

Tenor-Bass Choir – Non-auditioned group for all tenor and bass voices, grades 9-12. This choir performs at all choir concerts throughout the year, and may participate in UIL adjudicated activities. Emphasis is placed on the basics of music theory and literacy, with a special emphasis on the basic knowledge of solfege and sight-reading.

Bella Voce – Auditioned group for sopranos and altos in grades 10-12. This ensemble performs at all choir concerts throughout the year, participates in UIL Concert and Sight Reading, and performs for school and community events as well.

Continued emphasis on music theory and literacy, building independent skill and confidence in solo literature, and preparation for Varsity Choir ensemble.

A Cappella Choir – This is the Varsity Mixed Choir at Rock Hill High School. Membership is open to all students in grades 10-12 through an audition in the Spring of the previous year, or through approval of the choir directors. Membership is limited to approximately 40-50 students.

Music study includes exploration and performance of four-part music and advanced repertoire in all styles and time periods, along with a continued emphasis on sight-reading, solfege, and rhythm skills. This ensemble participates in all UIL music contests and tours each spring.

Blue Note – This ensemble is a contemporary a cappella and chamber choir ensemble. Membership is open to all choir students, grades 10-12, through audition in the previous Spring (limited to approximately 14-18 students). Members of this ensemble display the highest levels of musicianship in sight-reading, improvisation, and showmanship. Some rehearsals are held after school throughout the school year.

Hawk Corp – This ensemble is open to tenor and bass choir members through audition in the previous Spring. Members of this ensemble display the highest levels of musicianship in sight-reading, improvisation, and showmanship. Some rehearsals are held after school throughout the school year.

PROSPER ISD PRIVATE LESSON PROGRAM

The Prosper ISD Private Lesson Program gives each student the opportunity to take voice lessons at school for a reasonable fee of \$22.50 per 30-minute lesson. The lessons are scheduled either during class, over the lunch period, or after school. Times are limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. All choral students are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. In each lesson, students will practice sight-reading, prepare for All-Region auditions, PISD Vocal Solo Festival, choral auditions, and Voice Recitals. Contact your choir director for more information.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

Several means of communication will be used throughout the year.

Rock Hill Choir Website

<http://www.rockhillchoir.com>

Bookmark this site on your favorite web browser. All the news you can use, access to the 21-22 choir calendar, and communication to your choir directors and booster club board.

CHARMS

<http://www.charmsoffice.com>

The Charms web-based management system is a means for parents and students to maintain their financial and personal Rock Hill High School choir information at

home. Visit www.charmsoffice.com and login with your students ID and password. If you forget your password, enter your e-mail and click on “Forgot your password?” Parents will follow the same steps to login their child’s information.

Facebook

Follow us at @RockHillChoir

PARENTS! If you are an avid Facebook user, we would like to encourage you to follow us on Facebook. Announcements, highlights of our student success, upcoming events, ticket information, and so much more!

Twitter

Follow us at @RockHillChoir

Given the issues presented by face to face contact with choir members this year, the Rock Hill High School choir program will continue to utilize Twitter *for students and parents*.

Instagram

Follow us at @RockHillChoir

Given the issues presented by face to face contact with choir members this year, the Rock Hill High School choir program will continue to utilize Instagram *for students and parents*.

GRADES

Technical Proficiency and Improvement

40% Rehearsal & 10% Class Work

- ***Ensemble Performing/Rehearsal (participation and music skills).***
Graded regularly during the rehearsal.
- ***Technical Proficiency.*** Selected sections of a music assignment or Sight-reading. This will be graded during the choral rehearsal.

Written Work

5% Homework & 10% Quizzes

- ***Homework Assignments.***
- ***Quizzes.*** Based on work done within the class.
Includes recorded sight-reading quizzes.

Self Reflection and Critical Listening

20% Test

- **Performance Critique.** Following each concert/performance, students will complete an evaluation based on their performance as well as the performance of their ensemble. This will be graded on content, use of appropriate musical terminology, and observable analytical skills.

Performance

20% Test

- Required performance in at least one concert or music presentation each 6-8 weeks. A student may receive up to two test grades per performance (Performance and attendance, listening/concert etiquette).

Term Final

To be announced each term. The final exam may be written (simple theory, music history, fundamentals of singing, etc.) or performance based task (sight reading, excerpt from a prepared selection).

Remediation

Remediation is only offered for concert absences discussed with the director prior to the absence, or in the extreme case of sudden illness or family emergency. The director will assign a project to “make-up” the concert grade. This will include, but is not limited to, watching a recording of the entire concert and writing a critique, singing through your choir repertoire to show individual knowledge and skill, and other projects as assigned. This make-up assignment will require at least as much time as the warm-up and concert (approximately 1 ½ hours). This will replace the individual performance grade.

Attendance

Extra rehearsals and concerts are an extension of the classroom, and students will be graded accordingly. These required choir activities are the “assessment” of the choral program and the circumstances of the “test” cannot be duplicated at another date or time. The dates for all concerts are presented to each student/family at the beginning of the year. If a student chooses not to participate in a required choir activity, even if that activity occurs before or after school or on the weekend, they will receive a grade of “0” which will dramatically affect a student’s grade for the grading period. All choir activities are a team effort; therefore, attendance is required, regardless of whether or not the student thinks attendance is needed.

Unexcused absences are determined by the choir directors, and may include:

- Lack of a ride (ask a friend IN ADVANCE or inform your choir director, who can help you make arrangements!)
- Non-school related activities (club sports, dance or music recitals, parties, birthdays, etc.)

- Job (having to work is NOT considered an excused absence)
- Trip or family planned activity
- Other circumstances as determined by the choir directors

Failure to participate in required choir activities will negatively affect a student's grade, possibly causing the student to fail choir and will also affect a student's future placement and participation in ensembles at Rock Hill High School.

Grades are updated frequently and are available on-line by logging in to Skyward.

ELIGIBILITY

All choral ensembles adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and Prosper ISD. To be eligible to participate for a nine weeks period following the initial six weeks of the school year, a student must not have a recorded average lower than 70 on a scale of 0 to 100 in any course for that proceeding nine weeks period.

Any student whose recorded grade average in any course is lower than 70 at the end of a nine weeks period shall be suspended from participation during the succeeding six weeks period. However, a student may regain eligibility seven calendar days after the succeeding three-week evaluation period if the student is passing all courses on the last day of the three-school-week period (this includes a grade of at least a 70 on a scale of 0 to 100).

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Your choral ensemble's performance is directly related to your rehearsal. Participation is a factor in determining the quality of the finished product. Students must always work to focus with mind and body. The following are expectations designed to assist us all as we strive for excellence.

- **Be On Time and Be Prepared!** All students are expected to be in the choir room, prepared for class on the risers with binder and pencil, prior to the bell. Trips to the restroom, water fountain, and lockers are to be taken care of prior to the beginning of rehearsal.
- Cell phone use is at the discretion of the directors in the choir room during rehearsals.

- **Absolutely No Food, Gum, or Drinks are allowed in the Choir Room.** Failure to observe this expectation will result in choir service being assigned to the student – Water bottles with a lid or cap are the only exceptions.
- **The Choir Director’s Office is Off Limits to Students.** This also goes for all storage rooms, the practice rooms, and the choir library. The piano in the choir room, as well as choir room stereo and all computers, are not for student use.

UNIFORMS

Concert Dress

A black dress and uniform bag (\$5.00 replacement fee) will be provided by the SHS Choral Program. The total cost of this dress is \$75.00. This amount will be charged to the student at the end of the year if the dress has been destroyed or lost. **Do not make any permanent alterations to your dress.** Students will be charged for any permanent alterations.

Students are responsible for the following:

- Black character shoes (these are available through the Choir Booster Club for \$35.00). Dresses are fitted and hemmed with this 2” shoe height.

Concert Tuxedo

A black tuxedo (\$30.00 for the pants and \$65.00 for the coat), bow tie and cummerbund (\$10.00 together), and uniform bag (\$5.00 replacement fee) will be provided by Rock Hill High School. This amount will be charged to the student at the end of the year if the tuxedo has been destroyed or lost. Do not make any permanent alterations to your tuxedo. Students will be charged for any permanent alterations.

Students are responsible for the following:

- Black dress shoes (No athletic shoes or boots will be accepted)
- Black socks
- Standard white “lay down collar” tuxedo shirt

UNIFORM CARE

Do not make any permanent alterations to your uniform. The following are suggestions to care for dresses and tuxedos.

Dry Cleaning Your Uniform

- One dry cleaning is included with each student’s choir fees.

- All dry cleaning will be through the approved cleaners contracted by the Choir Booster Club. Location and pricing information are available by contacting Mr. McGuire.

Dresses

- **DO NOT WASH YOUR DRESS IN THE WASHING MACHINE!** Your dress is to be dry cleaned only.
- Always hang your dress when you are not wearing it.
- Only wear the shoes that you wore during your dress fitting (otherwise your dress may not look right on stage).
- **DO NOT MAKE ANY ALTERATIONS!** All alterations will be made through the uniform committee chair. **DO NOT CUT OUT THE DRESS TAGS.** As with extra dry cleanings, please bring your dress in to the choir room and alterations will be made.

Tuxedos

- All tuxedos are expected to be hung properly at home when the student is not wearing it.
- **DO NOT WASH YOUR TUXEDO JACKET OR PANTS IN THE WASHING MACHINE!** Your tuxedo is to be dry cleaned only.
- **DO NOT MAKE ANY ALTERATIONS!** All alterations will be made through our uniform committee chair. As with extra dry cleanings, please bring your pants to the choir room and alterations will be made.
- Extra uniform parts (tie and cummerbund) will be distributed before each performance, and will be picked-up by section leaders immediately following the performance. No tie or cummerbunds should leave the school.

Cologne and Perfume

All students should be “scent neutral.” That means that no cologne or perfume will be allowed during any performance. However, deodorant should be worn for all rehearsals and concerts.

Choir T-Shirt

T-shirts will be worn to school on days of choral concerts, contests, specified spirit days, or any performance during the school day. **Choir t-shirts are automatically purchased on the behalf of each student, and are part of the choir fee payment.**

LETTER JACKETS

The Prosper ISD Fine Arts Department has implemented this program to allow a student involved in a choir the opportunity to accumulate points towards an award jacket. Once a student accumulates the needed 100 points, they will be given a date for the next available fitting. While the directors will submit students that qualify on the award jacket fitting list, **it is up to the student to maintain their award jacket form, not the directors.**

This Award Jacket Application form is located on a bulletin board in the choir room, and available on the Charms website.

PARTICIPATION FEES

A participation fee of \$100 will be assessed at the beginning of the school year. This fee will cover the cost of the Spring uniform cleaning, all uniform alterations, a choir t-shirt, transportation for miscellaneous trips, All Region Choir and All-State audition fees, as well as many other expenses that arise throughout the school year. This fee is due at the same time as the Student/Parent Handbook Agreement.

Members of Blue Note are also required to pay a \$100 fee for the year (in addition to the choir participation fee of \$100). This fee will cover uniforms, rentals, group shirts, photo studio sitting charges, and many other expenses that arise throughout the year.

No student will be denied participation in the Rock Hill High School choir program.

For the 2021-2022 school year, members of the Rock Hill High School choir program have the convenient option of paying online. Please use the following link for all credit card payments:

<https://rockhillhschoir.ludus.com/9727>

Payments with Cash or Check

All payments must be received in an envelope (located in the choir room) with the following information:

- Student Full Name written on the outside of the envelope
- Student ID written on the outside of the envelope
- Cash or Check amount written on the outside of the envelope
- Purpose written on the outside of the envelope

ROCK HILL HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR BOOSTER CLUB

It is the intent of this organization to provide support for the choirs at Rock Hill High School by serving in the following roles:

- Provide chaperones for choral events throughout the year
- Assist the choral directors in the organization and implementation of fundraisers
- Provide food and supplies for Rock Hill High School choir events
- Raise and distribute scholarship money to assist students in further music study
- Overall, to instill and maintain an enthusiastic interest in the various needs of the choirs at Rock Hill High School

2021-2022 Booster Club Meetings

Monday, October 25, 2021

Monday, January 24, 2022

Monday, March 28, 2022

All booster club meetings are at 7:00 PM in the Rock Hill High School choir room.



CHOIR FORMS & FEES

You may access all forms that accompany this handbook at the following address:

<https://forms.gle/kxfja7PFFS9bsYQ27>

All Forms and Fees are due Monday, September 20, 2021