

MARINE CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORAL DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK 2019-2020



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Website under construction

Dear Marine Creek Chorale Parents and Students,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2019-20 school year, and to the inauguration of the MCMS Choir Program. We are looking forward to building what I truly believe will be the BEST choir in EMSISD! I look forward to working hard and creating wonderful music and memories with your students.

Research has shown that the value of music participation can be crucial to a student's overall intellectual development. The study of music strengthens critical thinking skills and is considered an academic discipline by researchers. Musical expression utilizes the creative part of the brain and nurtures a positive self-image. Marine Creek Middle School is pleased to offer a quality choral music program that will provide you and your student with experience in all areas of their music education.

I believe that choir should be a fun, positive experience where students develop musical and vocal skills, learn valuable lessons about teamwork and self-discipline, learn to read music and become musicians, perform many different styles of music, learn respect for one another, and take pride in accomplishments. Through hard work and determination, we can accomplish our very best!

This handbook and packet of information is being provided to you so you can understand the policies, rules, and procedures in choir. We appreciate your time in reading through our information, signing forms, noting our concert dates on your calendar, and returning the necessary forms and uniform fees by: **Friday, September 6th**.

Please return these 5 forms (located in the back of this packet) to me by Friday, September 6th.

____(Form 1) Parent-Student Handbook & Calendar Acknowledgment/

____(Form 2) Choir Fee Breakdown Form

____Choir Participation Fee - **\$20.00**

____Uniform Fee (Contest Fee for 6th Grade) - **\$10.00**

____T-shirt Fee - **\$10.00**

____Binder Bag Purchase - **\$5.00** (I am requiring students to have a binder bag with 2 pencils and 2 highlighters in it and I will provide that for \$5.00)

****Please place your child's fees in the sealed envelope attached with their name, grade, and class period****

____(Form 3) MCMS Choir Field Trip Permission Form

____(Form 4) T-Shirt Order Form

____(Form 5) Contact Information Form

____**1 Box of Kleenex or 1 Pack of Pencils**

I look forward to meeting you and teaching this year!

*Stephen Bolduc & Noel Boggs
Marine Creek Middle School Choir Directors*

**Forms 4 & 5 are
being filled out online
via Microsoft Forms**

Marine Creek Choirs and Course Description:

Beginner/ 6th Grade Treble Choir - This class is for 6th grade girls and will focus on the basics of vocal technique, music theory, sight reading, and music performance. This class meets 5th & 8th periods.

Beginner/ 6th Grade Boys Choir - This class is for 6th grade boys and will focus on the basics of vocal technique, music theory, sight reading, and music performance. This class meets 6th period.

Intermediate/ JV Treble Choir - This choir is for developing 7th & 8th Grade female singers. This choir is for singers who have some music experience, but may be needing some development in technique. This course continues to develop vocal technique, music theory, sight reading, and music performance while introducing more advanced concepts and literature. This class meets 7th period.

Intermediate/ JV Boys Choir –This choir is for developing 7th & 8th Grade male singers. This choir is for singers who have some music experience, but may be needing some development in technique. This course continues to develop vocal technique, music theory, sight reading, and music performance while introducing more advanced concepts and literature. This class meets 2nd period.

Varsity Treble Choir - This choir is for more experienced singers and music readers. Students are placed into this choir based on director recommendation only. A strong work ethic and positive attitude are a must! Students have the opportunity to work up to this ensemble at semester as well as be moved downward, based on work ethic or poor grades. This course offers accelerated study of vocal technique, music theory, sight reading, and music performance. Students in Varsity Treble are expected to be leaders and will be working extensively on performance of solo/small ensemble/and advanced choral literature. **Students in this choir will be expected to either audition for region choir or participate in Solo and Ensemble competition.** This class meets 4th period

Varsity Boys Choir - This choir is for more experienced singers and music readers. Students are placed into this choir based on director recommendation only. A strong work ethic and positive attitude are a must! Students have the opportunity to work up to this ensemble at semester as well as be moved downward, based on work ethic or poor grades. This course offers accelerated study of vocal technique, music theory, sight reading, and music performance. Students in Varsity Boys are expected to be leaders and will be working extensively on performance of solo/small ensemble/and advanced choral literature. **Students in this choir will be expected to either audition for region choir or participate in Solo and Ensemble competition.** This class meets 3rd period

It is important to note that choirs at MCMS are not chosen, and students are not placed based solely on talent, but more-so experience, attitude, and behavior. I do not rank my choirs and I strive to place students based on where will be most developmentally beneficial to them.

Mr. Bolduc & Ms. Boggs's teaching schedule is as follows:

Period 1	8:20 - 9:06	Conference/Planning
Period 2	9:10 - 10:00	JV Boys Choir
Period 3	10:04 - 10:49	Varsity Boys Choir
Period 4	10:53 - 11:38	Varsity Treble Choir
Period 5	12:16 - 1:02	6th Grade Treble Choir
Period 6	1:06 - 1:52	6th Grade Boys Choir
Period 7	1:56 - 2:41	JV Treble Choir
Period 8	2:45 - 3:30	6th Grade Treble Choir

Essential Elements and Goals:

It is important that my students grow as **musicians** and not just as singers. For this reason, we spend instruction time on many things in addition to just singing our repertoire. Some of these lessons include:

1. **Study of vocal techniques**
2. **Music Theory**
3. **Ear Training**
4. **Sight-singing or Sight-reading**
5. **Creative self-expression**
6. **Performance skills**
7. **Concert etiquette**
8. **Appreciation of all performing arts**
9. **Development of responsibility, citizenship, self-discipline, and positive self-esteem**
10. **Development of personal standards for teamwork in rehearsal and group performances**
11. **Music History and study of composers**

Grading Policy:

Six-week grades are computed in the following manner:

40% Major Grades (Including Concerts, Tests, and quizzes)

60% Daily Grades (Including participation and small assignments, as well as smaller written quizzes and assessments)

Most of my daily grades are taken from classroom participation. Proper classroom participation consists of following the classroom expectations (outlined later), and performing all duties of a choir member as instructed by me (the director). Refusal to sing and participate in an appropriate manner will result in low participation grades. Daily grades can also consist of written assignments.

Each of the **REQUIRED CONCERTS (see calendar) TEST GRADES**. Concert test grades are determined in the following manner:

1. 15% Arriving on time and being in your chair in the auditorium.
2. 15% Dressing in the correct uniform, making sure that all parts of the uniform are present and extra parts are not!
3. 10% Listening quietly to the other choirs and following audience behavior expectations.
4. 10% Walking on and off stage correctly.
5. 50% Performing on stage in the manner that has been instructed.

Quiz grades are earned in several ways. Singing and sight reading quizzes may be given throughout the year to monitor the progress of each student. Written quizzes also may be given.

Students who participate with energy, enthusiasm, and cooperation make excellent grades in choir!

Concerts:

Concerts are a very important display of all of our hard work in the MCMS Choir Program. Please see the calendar on the attached sheet and note the dates of our concerts on your family calendar. Concerts are a required part of the MCMS Choir Program and are graded events. Marine Creek Middle School staff work very hard to minimize and overcome conflicts with other MCMS activities. These issues **will be worked out** between the director and other MCMS sponsors and will therefore **NOT** be considered excused absences. Concerts are considered by the State of Texas to be **CO-CURRICULAR** not extra-curricular. Absences that are considered **UNEXCUSED** and will result in a test grade of zero include (but are not limited to):

- Transportation problems
- Babysitting siblings
- Doctor appointments
- Family vacations
- NON-MARINE CREEK MS Athletic, Cheer, or Dance events

Once again, these reasons for absence are **NOT-EXCUSEABLE**. If your child is having an issue with one of these, it is the responsibility of the student and the parent to find a solution **BEFORE** the concert. If there is an **EMERGENCY** conflict the day of the concert, such as severe illness or family death, the parent of the student is required to inform the director **in writing** as soon as possible.

Choir Uniforms:

The mandatory uniforms for choir members are detailed below. It is important to note that there are parts of each uniform that are provided by your child's Choir Fee, and others that are not provided and are expected to be provided by the student.

Uniforms:

Girls: Black formal dresses that are owned by the Marine Creek Chorale. Each girl will need to supply black close-toed dress shoes to complete the uniform and may wear makeup or small/stud earrings.

Boys: Black tuxedo shirt that is purchased from the Marine Creek Chorales, black dress pants, and navy neck ties that are owned by the Marine Creek Chorale. **All boys will need to provide black dress shoes (no tennis shoes) and black socks.**

All uniforms will be turned in to the Choir Director at the end of the year and dry-cleaned BY MARINE CREEK CHOIRS. Failure to turn in their uniform will result in a fee being placed on your child's account for the amount to replace the uniform.

Choir Expectations:

Rules

1. Be respectful. Treat yourselves, each other, the Director, and materials with respect.
2. Students are expected to be in their assigned seat with their choir folder, and pencil when the bell rings.
3. Keep hands, feet, and all objects to yourself at all times.
4. Gum, food, and drinks are not allowed in the Choir Room as they pose a serious health risk and can damage choir property.
5. Raise your hand and wait to be called on.

Consequences

1. Verbal warning
2. Conference with director after class
3. Removal from the days rehearsal (to complete book work)
4. 20 minute detention with phone call to coach and/or parent
5. Office referral

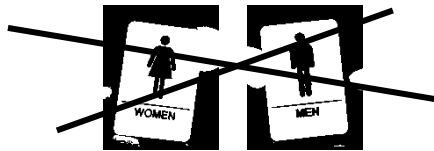
*Any serious behavior that compromises the safety of the teacher or the learning environment of the students will result in an immediate office referral.

General MCMS Choir Policies



Class begins as soon as the bell rings, so we expect students in their place with folder, music, and pencil as the tardy bell begins ringing. If you are not in your place with your materials as the bell begins ringing, you will be counted as tardy.

We are very active and engaged throughout the class period and do not have time to stop and write passes to the bathroom. In addition to that, students are not permitted to leave the class in the **First or Last 15 minutes of class**. Please take care of your restroom needs between classes. If you must use the restroom during class, each student will be allowed 2 bathroom uses per 6 weeks.



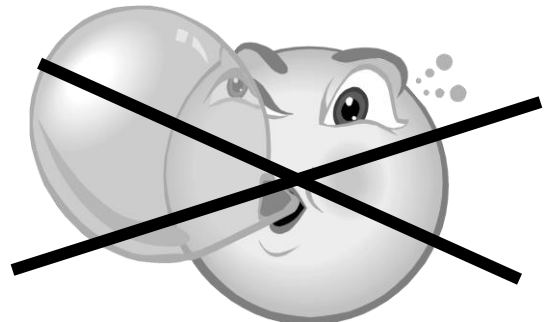
When you enter the choir room,

Take only your choir folder and a pencil with you to the risers. You may leave your backpacks and all other belongings in the cubbies located in the shared music space. **Cell phones MUST be left at the charging station and may not be visible in the choir room or they will be taken and turned into the office.**

Please mark in your music in pencil only.



Chewing gum is not allowed at any time. We have BRAND NEW facilities and equipment at MCMS. Bringing chewing gum that could be left underneath chairs or around the room is unacceptable.



Contests and Auditions:

All-Region Choir

The Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) sponsors regional auditions throughout the state for participation in select honor choirs. Students are chosen by panels of judges on the basis of ability and preparation. The selected students meet together on a Saturday to rehearse with a guest conductor, and then perform a concert that night along with the high school honor choir. Parents, family, and friends are invited and encouraged to attend this special concert. Some outside of school rehearsals will be available for those students, and parents are asked to encourage students to practice at home.

UIL Choral Concert and Sight Reading Contest

The University Interscholastic League (UIL), which is under the direction of the University of Texas at Austin, sponsors this contest. This contest is designed to rate the performance and sight reading skills of choirs throughout Texas. The choirs sing three selections in front of a panel of three judges and are given a rating of I - V. The choirs then proceed to a sight - reading room where they perform a piece they have never seen before. A panel of three judges rates the performance. Attendance at this event is required for all eligible students.

UIL Vocal Solo and Ensemble

This is another UIL activity. The director helps students select a solo or ensemble piece and provides as much assistance as is reasonably possible to prepare students. Parents are again encouraged to monitor at-home practice. This contest consists of the soloist or ensemble performing a selection by memory in front of one judge. A rating of I - V, along with valuable suggestions, is given by the judge.

Eligibility Requirements:

According to Texas State law in order for students to participate in extracurricular activities, they must be passing all subjects at the end of each six weeks grading period. Students who are **ineligible** due to failing grades may regain eligibility at the end of the 3-week grading period if they are passing **ALL** classes at that reporting time. Once again, concerts and the UIL Concert and Sight Reading are considered by the state of Texas to be **CO-CURRICULAR** not extra-curricular therefore all students are required to participate and will be graded on their attendance at concerts.

Marine Creek Chorale Calendar 2019-2020

***These dates are currently tentative. Any changes or additions will be given to the students at least 1 week prior to the event**

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location
Aug. 22	Thursday	6:00PM	Community Pep Rally	CTHS Stadium
Aug. 27	Tuesday	5:30 PM	Choir Parent Meeting	MCMS Cafeteria
Sept. 25	Wednesday	1:30PM-5:30PM	Region Choir Audition Bootcamp	CTHS
Oct. 5	Saturday	8:00AM-5:00PM	All Region Auditions	Fossil Ridge High School
Oct. 21	Monday	6:30PM	Fall Cluster Concert (Varsity Choirs)	CTHS PAC
Oct. 22	Tuesday	6:30PM	Fall JV and 6th Grade Concert (With Wilkie MS)	CTHS PAC
Oct. 24	Thursday	6:00PM	National Anthem @ MCMS vs. EWMS Volleyball	EWMS Gym
Oct. 29	Tuesday	6:00PM	National Anthem @ MCMS vs. EWMS Football	CTHS Stadium
Nov. 2	Saturday	9:00AM-5:30PM	All Region Clinic/Concert	Weatherford HS
Nov. 21	Thursday	5:00PM-7:00PM	F.Artsgiving	MCMS Cafeteria
Dec. 13	Friday	6:30PM	Marine Creek Chorale Winter Concert	CTHS PAC
Dec. 18	Wednesday	During School	EMSISD Administration Holiday Open House	1200 N. Decatur Rd.
Dec. 19	Thursday	During School	CTHS RVB Tour	MCMS
Feb. 21	Friday	2:30PM-6:30PM	Pre-UIL	Boswell HS
Mar. 2&3	Mon-Tue	8:00AM-5:00PM	UIL Concert & Sight Reading	TBD
Apr. 14	Tuesday	3:30PM-6:30PM	EMS Solo and Ensemble	
Apr. 16	Thursday	6:30PM	Post UIL Concert	CTHS PAC
May TBD	TBD	6:30PM	Marine Creek Chorale Spring Concert	CTHS PAC

** Parents, please note that some of these dates are subject to change. More information (including any changes) will be sent home closer to event date.

*** Director holds the right to hold additional before or after school rehearsals that are not on the calendar, but would be required. Students will be notified of dates and times at least one week in advance.

Form 1

Parent/Student Handbook & Calendar Acknowledgment

- I have read, understand, and agree to the rules, policies, and expectations of the MCMS Choir Program.
- I understand that **CONCERTS** outside of the school day are co-curricular, **REQUIRED**, and **count as major test grades** that factor into the six weeks grade.
- I have read the **2019-20 MCMS Choir Dates** and I have marked them on our family calendar.
- I understand that participation in choir requires some investment in uniform. I understand that as a parent, it is my responsibility to assist my child with meeting uniform requirements, fees, and transportation to and from concerts.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

I _____ (Parent Name) Acknowledge my understanding that concerts are **NOT** optional events and that my son/daughter, _____ (Student Name) will attend all concerts as required by the Marine Creek Middle School program. I also understand that it is **OUR** responsibility to resolve any conflicts or find carpools as necessary to attend choir concerts. Failure to attend these concerts **WILL** result in my child receiving two major grades of a 0. I understand that I may not dispute this grade and make-up grades will **NOT** be offered for missed concerts.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Form 2

CHOIR FEES BREAKDOWN FORM

Choir Fees are absolutely necessary to the program and allow us to do all the wonderful things that we do. However, it is not the intent of the program to impose a crippling fee to hurt families or prohibit students from participating. If your family has extenuating circumstances that make paying this fee difficult, PLEASE CONTACT THE DIRECTORS. Payment plans can be set up and arrangements can be made to make sure that your student can participate. Simple failure to pay the fee without communication is NOT AN OPTION. Fees paid in either cash or check must be turned into the director in a SEALED ENVELOPE with the students NAME, GRADE, and CLASS PERIOD on it.

The Choir Fee Breaks Down as Follows:

\$20.00 – Choir Participation Fee

\$10.00 – Uniform and Dry-cleaning Fee (Contest Fee for 6th Grade)

- The Choir Dresses that the girls use and the pants that the boys wear cost money and need to be replaced due to wear over time. Additionally, Marine Creek Chorale must dry-clean every Choir Dress to ensure that they are clean and ready to be re-issued every year. Boys need to purchase their shirt. (Once you purchase the shirt, you may re-use it for your 8th grade year)
- 6th Grade Choirs participate in the EMSISD Choir Festival. There are entry fees for the festival that are not covered in our budget

\$10.00 – Marine Creek Chorale T-Shirt

(Every choir student is required to have a shirt for off campus functions. Parents are more than welcome to support our choir by purchasing their own T-shirt at an additional \$10.00 per shirt)

\$5.00 – Pencil Bag Purchase

(Every choir student is required to maintain a pencil bag with 2 pencils and 2 different color highlighters in their choir folder throughout the entire year. This one-time purchase will give your student a zipper bag with their first 2 pencils and 2 highlighters.)

I am paying the choir fee in full (\$45.00 + \$10.00 for any additional shirts ordered)

I cannot pay in full at this time, but I am including \$_____. I will pay the balance of this fee on _____ (date)

I am paying in _____ installments of \$_____.

Comments: _____

Form 3

MCMS Choir Field Trip Permission Form (FRONT AND BACK)

This form MUST be filled out in hard copy

Student Name _____ Grade _____ Class Period _____

Address _____ City and Zip Code _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

Parent/Guardian Information:

Mom/Guardian Name _____ Dad/Guardian Name _____

*Cell Phone _____ *Cell Phone _____

*Email Address _____ *Email Address _____

In case of Emergency, please contact:

Name _____ Phone # _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

If academically eligible, my child has permission to travel and participate with the Marine Creek Middle School Choir Program in any and all choir events and activities in the 2019-20 school year. My child and I are aware of the choir, school, and district rules and expectations for participation, conduct, and travel and will abide by them to the best of our abilities. We are also aware that the consequences, if these rules aren't followed, may result in my child's removal from any event at my expense. As a courtesy to the Director and other parents, I will have my child dropped off and picked up at the set time and place. This serves as my written consent.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Medications student is currently taking:

Allergies to medication, food, or environment

Name and Phone Number of Family Doctor

Parent's Permission Release and Indemnity for Field Trips

I hereby certify that my son/daughter, _____(name) has my permission to participate in field trips with the MARINE CREEK CHORALE during the 2019-2020 school year.

To the best of my knowledge he/she is physically fit to engage in such activity and is not suffering from any disease or injury.

I agree and do hereby waive and release all claims against the Eagle Mountain-Saginaw Independent School District and any teacher, employee or other person engaged in the activity in question and agree to hold them harmless from any and all liability relating to my son/daughter for any personal injury or illness that may be suffered or any loss of property that may occur.

I understand that reasonable measures will be taken to safeguard the health and safety of my son/daughter and that I will be notified in the case of an emergency. In the case of an accident or sickness, I authorize the calling of a doctor or the providing of other medical services.

It is understood that no child will be allowed to participate in any activity until this form is signed by his/her parent/guardian.

Signed at _____, Texas, this ____ day of _____, 2019.
(location)



Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Home Phone # _____

Home Address _____

Work # _____

Cell # _____



**Scan the QR Code
and fill out online**

If you would rather, you may also follow this link:

<https://bit.ly/2YG6ZW1>