**SANTA FE**

**High School Choir**

**

**Handbook**

**2018-2019**

*“Nothing is impossible, the word itself says “I’m possible.”*

* *Audrey Hepburn.*

*“Life is 10% what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it.”*

* *Charles Swindoll*

*“We are the music makers, and we are the dreamers of dreams…”*

* *Arthur O’Shaughnessy*

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION\_\_

Title of course:

Santa Fe Bel Canto, Varsity Treble Choir, Men’s Choir, Non-Varsity Treble Choir, Introduction to Choir

Course Description:

* The Santa Fe High School Choir is dedicated to the study and performance of a wide variety of choral literature from all the major stylistic periods and genres. The development of basic musical skills and proper vocal function is emphasized.

Purpose:

* To provide an ensemble where students can develop musicianship, vocal technique, and ensemble artistry in a choral setting through the rehearsal and performance of a wide variety of quality choral literature.

**Course Objectives:**

The student will:

* Develop and refine the essential skills of musicianship,
* Use tools such as solfege and count-singing to assist in developing musicianship both in the choral rehearsal and in the student’s individual preparation for the rehearsal,
* Develop a healthy and confident singing voice through vocalizes, vocal production instruction, and high quality choral literature,
* Refine individual singing voice for efficiency and effectiveness in the choral setting,
* Demonstrate a commitment to mature, expressive, and artistic music making,
* Develop an individual aesthetic sense through the study and performance of choral music,
* Develop a sense of community with the ensemble through the study and performance of choral music.

**Content and Instructional Activities:**

* The class meets for preparation of music and practice toward musical literacy and artistry in musical performance.
* Rehearsing, performing, ear-training and sight-singing instruction, group singing, individual singing, peer group activities and assessment, and written work, quizzes, and exams.

2. GRADING

GRADED WORK

Major……50%

* Concert Performance
* Concert Dress Rehearsals
* Tests

Minor……30%

* Pitch and Rhythm Ear-training and Sight-Singing exercises (individual sing, group sing, class sing)
* Dictation of Pitch and Rhythm (using learning tools or written)
* Voice part tests (individual, small ensemble, section, class)
* Theory and Musical terms quizzes
* Other types of quizzes

Daily……20%

* Weekly Participation

MAKE UP POLICY

* Given the nature of a concert performance, make-ups will not be an option. Only in the ***most***severe of emergencies will the director allow a student to substitute work for a concert.
* Students must schedule a make-up time for any other class work with the teacher within three school days.
* Any student who is frequently absent should consider a different elective particularly one with grading based on written work rather than participation.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Students are expected to complete their own course work. Plagiarism is not an acceptable practice and will not be tolerated. Refer to the student handbook for the policy on cheating.

3. EXPECTATIONS OF CONDUCT

As representatives of the SFHS CHORAL DEPARTMENT, students are expected to conduct themselves with a cooperative attitude and a poised demeanor both on campus and when traveling off campus.

IN THE CLASSROOM AND REHEARSAL, EACH STUDENT WILL:

*1. Be seated or standing and prepared to begin class or the activity:*

* Report promptly to class.
* Get your music folder or book and a pencil.
* Leave your book bag and other items along the wall of the class.
* Be seated and ready for class to begin
* Sit or stand as each classroom activity necessitates.

*2. Perform rehearsal activities with physical and mental awareness*

* No sleeping, eating, or other class work. **NO** **GUM**
* No cell phone or digital electronic use, unless *expressly* authorized by director.
	+ Cell phones and digital electronics should be stowed safely in book bags along the wall and out of reach.
	+ Any unauthorized use will result in collection of your device to be returned to you at the end of the class period or day or sent to the office.
* No drinks other than water (in clear water bottle)

*3. Contribute to the productivity of the rehearsal or activity*

* Be a positive leader in your section, group, or class.
* Keep all comments and questions relevant to the topic at hand.
* Ask a question if something is unclear.
* Follow directions
* Perform at his/her highest level.

*4. Respect faculty, students, the classroom, materials and the classroom environment*

* Create a safe place for growth and artistic expression by being polite and tactful to others.
* Safeguard everyone in the room from harm by keeping your hands, feet and objects to yourself.
* Keep your feet off of chairs.
* Be impeccable with your words--no demeaning, derogatory, or foul language.
* Take care of the choir room and everything in it.
	+ You will be expected to replace anything you destroy.

4. ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Tardiness:

* If you are not in your seat with your folder and other materials when the bell rings, you may be listed as tardy.
* Unexcused and excessive tardiness to class will impact your grade.
* Being late to an outside-of-class rehearsal or performance will negatively impact your grade for that rehearsal or performance.

Absences:

* All performances and rehearsals are a mandatory part of the curriculum.
* A student’s poor attendance affects the choir as a whole, and will affect that student’s grade as there is no way to make up a missed rehearsal.
* Absence from a mandatory outside rehearsal or performance will result in a zero for that rehearsal or performance.
* *Consider failure to perform in a concert like receiving a zero on a term paper. Just as you spend weeks researching and preparing a paper, you spend weeks rehearsing and preparing for a performance. You receive no credit on your paper if you do not turn it in; you receive no credit for a performance if you do not perform.*

Excused Absences:

* There are only two categories of excused absences for outside rehearsals and performances:
	+ 1.) personal illness or
	+ 2.) family emergency.
		- You must have a parent or guardian contact the director if you will miss an outside rehearsal or performance as soon as you know you will be absent, even if you missed school that day.

5. MATERIALS AND EXPENSES

MATERIALS

* Composition Notebook
* Pencils
* Concert attire items (dressy black shoes, black socks)
* Choral music (loaned to each student)

CLASS FEES

* $50.00 for returning students
* $75.00 for new students

STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITES UNTIL THEY HAVE PAID THEIR CHOIR FEE.

The class fee is used to dry clean current concert attire, purchase new concert attire, purchase hard copies of music, purchase, repair and tune classroom instruments and materials. It also covers one choir T-shirt.

Note that most activities (such as UIL Solo and Ensemble, UIL Concert and Sight-Reading and choir trips) will have associated costs. These costs will be outlined and shared with students and parents.

Other fees may be applicable such as audition fees.

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 choir has a deadline for receiving reimbursement from the supplier. Because of this, the following policy will be 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 Santa Fe ISD Choirs.

6. CONCERT ATTIRE

Uniform concert attire is an important element in our performances; it allows the audience to focus on our music, musical expression, and our faces. It allows the audience to stay “in the moment” during our performances. Our “costume” shouldn’t be indicative of one period in time because in many of our concerts we will perform music spanning 400 years of musical composition. That would require quite a few wardrobe changes! Instead we choose something neutral that looks uniform, professional, mature and attractive.

Your responsibilitY FOR FORMAL CONCERT ATTIRE

*Arrive to performances cleaned and groomed.*

* Hair for men and women must be worn off the face.
	+ If your bangs are long your will need to pin or tie them back.
	+ Hair in “non-naturally occurring hair colors” (blues, purples, greens, orange, anything florescent) should be completely pinned back and may need to be covered or colored over for certain events.
	+ Hair that impedes the visibility of other students will need to be restrained.
* Facial or visible body piercing or gauges should be removed or covered. (i.e. Cover a small nose stud with a dab of foundation or wear clear or flesh colored options.)
* Visible tattoos should be covered. A good waterproof foundation should work well.

*Ladies*

* Gown: You will be presented with a formal gown.
	+ You may alter the length of the dress but do not cut any fabric from the dress.
* Shoes: Wear black closed toe dress shoes with heel no higher than 3 inches.
	+ Wear black hose, stockings, or knee highs
	+ Flip-flops, sandals, boots, platforms, wedges are unacceptable.
	+ No sparkles or decoration
* Jewelry: Wear stud style earrings no larger than a dime.
	+ Color: clear, black or grey
	+ No bangles, necklaces, hair bows or other decoration.

*Men*

* Attire: You will be presented with a tuxedo (pants, shirt, tie, cummerbund).
	+ All elements of the tuxedo must be returned.
* Shoes
	+ Black dress shoes and black socks must be worn
	+ Flip-flops, athletic shoes, sandals, boat shoes are unacceptable.

RETURN

You must return your gown or tuxedo with all of it’s parts and in the condition it was presented to you. Failure to return your concert attire, damage to your attire, or missing parts will be replaced at the student’s expense.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR INFORMAL CONCERT ATTIRE

*All Students*

* Choir spirit shirts
* Informal Performances: solid colored casual jeans (in good condition-**NO** holes)
* Lost or damaged shirts will be replaced at the student’s expense.

7. ELIGIBILITY

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Eligibility rules for participation in EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES are as follows:

1. All students are eligible the first nine weeks of school.
2. At the end of the first nine weeks, if the student is failing (below 70%) one or more subjects he/she will not be permitted to participate in extra-curricularactivities for the next three weeks (trips off campus, TMEA, UIL sponsored events)
3. An ineligible student may gain eligibility status at the end of the third week of the six weeks grading period. If the student is passing ALL subjects, he/she will be eligible to participate in choir activities following a one-week grace period. If he/she is failing any course, the student will continue to be ineligible for the remainder of the grading period.
4. Students placed in select ensembles will be expected to maintain their eligibility status throughout the year. Students who become ineligible should expect a probationary process and a possible transfer to another less demanding ensembles so that the student is able to focus on academic concerns.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Eligibility rules for participation in CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES are as follows:

1. **Attendance is expected by ALL students, eligible and ineligible.** Concerts on campus that do not require an admission fee are considered co-curricular.

Any student receiving an incomplete (I) on his/her report card is considered “ineligible” UNTIL the incomplete is cleared.

8. IMPORTANT DATES

**August**

24……...Choir Meet and Greet (High School Choir Room)

**September**

3 ……...NO SCHOOL

7**……..Handbook Agreement Form and Choir Fees Due**

22 …… All-District Auditions @ Angleton HS

**October**

**9-10 ….Fall Show Rehearsal**

**11 …….Fall Show Concert**

17-19 ... Fall Break

20 …….All-Region Auditions @ Clear Lake HS

**November**

6……..…Renaissance Festival (Music Day)

8………All-Region Clinic @ Moody Methodist Galveston

10……....All-Region Choir Concert @ Blocker MS (Texas City)

12-14 …..Musical Auditions

19-23…..THANKSGIVING BREAK

**December**

1 ………… Pre-Area Auditions @ Clear Springs HS

5-8 ……… Madrigal Dinner/Rehearsal & Performance

**14,17-18….Christmas Cluster Rehearsal/Concert**

**January**

13 …….. Area Auditions @ Ridge Point HS

31………Musical Opening Night

**February**

1-2 …….. Musical Performances

13-16 ...… TMEA Conference and All-State Performance

**23 ………. Solo & Ensemble @ Manvel HS**

**March**

11-15…….SPRING BREAK

**26 & 28 …Pre-UIL Rehearsal/Concert**

**April**

**3-4 …….. UIL Concert and Sight-Reading @ Dickinson Methodist**

**May**

**21-23 …….. Pop Show**

24-25 …….. State Solo & Ensemble (TSSEC)

30 …………Choir Banquet

**June**

7 …………. Graduation

10-13 …….. Trip!!!!

9. CHORAL CONTESTS

IN-SCHOOL CHOIR AUDITIONS:

Students may have the opportunity to audition for select large and small ensembles within the choral program.

UIL SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST:

Students are encouraged to prepare a solo selected from the UIL Prescribed Music List, rehearse with the director and accompanist, take private lessons with a voice teacher (“in-house” or in the community) and perform the solo for contest. Students are responsible for paying a non-refundable accompanist fee. Ensembles will be selected and prepared by the directors according to voice blend, choral balance, and relative abilities.

UIL CONCERT & SIGHTREADING:

Choirs will prepare three selections from the UIL PML and also prepare for the sight-reading procedures as described in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules Handbook. Students will be evaluated on contest music and sight-reading. Students *may* have to audition to be selected to perform in the ensemble or ensembles participating in UIL Concert & Sight-reading. Mandatory after-school rehearsals will be a large part of the preparation for this chorus.

FESTIVALS:

Competitions of this nature will vary from year to year according to activities of the choir, commitment, expense, fund-raising, eligibility, and involvement of the students in other school related or work related activities.

10. STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Officers will be appointed in May of the preceding year. Students wanting to be considered for an office should be supportive of the ideals and programs set forth by the choral department.

The following items must apply to all officers:

* Must maintain a “C” overall average and must be eligible each grading period
* Must have one year in choir and one year on the executive board to apply for President or Vice President
* Attend all choir council meetings
* Be able to work diligently, effortlessly, and pleasantly with all other members of choir
* Participate in all of the activities of the choir
* Actively seek out new members to the choir

Appointed Offices of the Executive Board—*Descriptions of each office forthcoming.*

* President
* Vice President
* Secretary
* Librarian
* Concert Attire Manager
* Historian

11. PARENT VOLUNTEERS

A successful music program, band or choir, will usually have a strong volunteer commitment from parents and/or guardians. Parents are vital to our performing, competing, participating, traveling, and fundraising goals. If you are able, please consider helping out where you can especially in an area where you excel! Mark your interest on the Handbook Agreement Form. I look forward to meeting each of you.

12. FACULTY

**Mr. Gunnar Tietge,**

Choir Director

gunnar.tietge@sfisd.org

409-927-3248



Mr. Gunnar Tietge earned his Master’s in Music Education from Tarleton State University. He holds another Master in Education Administration from Lamar University and Bachelor in Vocal Music Education from Wayland Baptist University. Between the years 2011 - 2016, he lived in Irving, Texas where he served as Music Teacher at Farine Elementary in Irving ISD. He was the assistant conductor for the Irving Children’s Chorus for two years.

Mr. Tietge conducted at the Texas Choral Directors Association in July of 2011. He is currently a member of the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA). This is his third year at Santa Fe, and he is very excited for the upcoming school year and for the future of choral education in Santa Fe ISD.

**FORMS**

The next few pages, along with payment, are to be carefully read, filled out, signed, and returned by:

**FRIDAY,**

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2018**

**Student/Parent Information**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Age: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Parent/Guardian Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Parent/Guardian Email(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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May we contact you occasionally via email regarding parent chaperone opportunities?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_No

May we post your child’s name and photograph on the choir or district website, or in the newspaper or other media?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Name only \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Photo only

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_With permission on a case-by-case basis

**Choir Fee and Shirt Order Form**

**Choir Fee\*\***

A fee of $50 per returning student/or $75 per new student will be required of all 2018-2019 choir members.

Cash or checks made out to Santa Fe High School Choir will be the only accepted methods of payment. Checks must include your name, physical address (No PO boxes) and phone number as well as your student’s name on the memo line. This must be in your handwriting.

Payment is due by September 7, 2018

*\*\*Let me know if your child is on a free or reduced lunch as it may be possible to adjust fees. \*\**

**Choir T-Shirts**

So that we order adequate t-shirts in the correct sizes, please measure the widest part of your student’s torso (chest or waist) and include the measurement below, or state a size.

For discretion you may email me your student’s size as well. Simply make note of this in the space below.

Add $15 extra for any additional choir shirts you would like to order.

Shirt 1 (included in choir fees)

Measurement \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or Shirt Size\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Shirt 2 ($15.00)

Measurement \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or Shirt Size\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Shirt 3 ($15.00)

Measurement \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or Shirt Size\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Shirt 4 ($15.00)

Measurement \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or Shirt Size\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Shirt 5 ($15.00)

Measurement \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or Shirt Size\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Handbook Receipt and Acknowledgement Form**

We have read and agree to all terms, rules, regulations, and procedures set forth in the 2018-2019 Santa Fe High School Choir Handbook.

Furthermore, we agree to mark all of the performance dates on our family calendar of important events and *will make every possible provision* to make sure our musician is present for any and all scheduled performances and rehearsals.

My student promises to adhere to the classroom rules and expectations and will conduct him/herself in a dignified manner during school and at any scheduled events sponsored by the choral department.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I, the student, understand that my failure to abide by this agreement may result in appropriate action including, but not limited to: teacher/student conferences, teacher/parent conferences, grade penalization (as stated in the grading and conduct policy), discipline referrals, and dismissal from the Santa Fe High School Choir Program.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (print) Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (sign)

I, the parent/guardian, agree to support my child in his/her participation in choir, and to help foster the sense of pride, teamwork, and success that s/he can acquire through such participation.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (print) Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (sign)