

# Martin High School Choral Department

## Choir Handbook

### 2011 – 2012

---

August 22, 2011

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Martin High School Choral Department. We hope you have had a restful summer, and are looking forward to another successful school year. The directors for this year are Kay Owens, head director, and Betsy Clark, assistant director.

**September 3, 2011 is Choir Registration Day.** On this day your student will be assigned a time to turn in all forms, pay fees and receive their choir uniform for the year. Please read this handbook carefully and retain it for your reference. There have been some changes made from previous years, and we want to make sure that you are aware of our department rules, regulations, and expectations for the students. Please read and sign the signature page to be turned in on **Saturday, September 3, 2011, Choir Registration Day.**

We encourage you as parents to become involved in your child's choral education by becoming a member of the Martin High School Choir Booster Club. A membership form is on the "Forms and Docs" page of the website for your convenience. You will also find forms for your child to take private voice lessons on the "Forms and Docs" page. We encourage all students to take private voice if possible.

If you would like to volunteer for clerical work, uniform distribution, chaperone choir parties and UIL Contest, please go online to [aisd.net](http://aisd.net) and complete the volunteer form.

Please go to our website [www.martinchoir.com](http://www.martinchoir.com) for information such as calendar dates, charms, forms/docs, etc.

Again, we are looking forward to a wonderful year in choir!!!

Ms. Kay Owens  
[aowens@aisd.net](mailto:aowens@aisd.net)  
817-483-6462

Miss Betsy Clark  
[bclark13@aisd.net](mailto:bclark13@aisd.net)

# Classroom Rules and Materials

---

The Directors of Martin High School Choirs consider participation in the choral program a basic right of all students enrolled at Martin. **However, it is understood by the directors and administration that the selection to and participation in the choir is a privilege and not an automatic right. Students earn this continued privilege by demonstrating responsible behavior, dependability, musical excellence, and dedication. With this philosophy in mind, the following rules of behavior will be expected:**

1. Treat everyone as you wish to be treated. Rudeness will not be tolerated.
2. Follow the director's instructions at all times.\*
3. Classroom behavior will be appropriate to the activities.
4. Gum, candy, soft drinks, or food are not allowed in the classroom.
5. Students are not allowed to use the phone without permission of the director.

**\*Following directors' instructions includes directions on posture, excessive talking, attitude, respect of others, and any other activity associated with each rehearsal. Failure to follow such instructions with a positive attitude will result in a five point deduction from the weekly grade for each infraction. Continued infractions will result in parental contact, followed by appropriate disciplinary procedures. If a student continues such behavior on a consistent basis, the student will be removed from the choral program at the discretion of the director.**

## MATERIALS

Each student will be issued a choir folder. Each student is expected to have their folder at the beginning of each rehearsal, and to put their folder back into the assigned folder slot at the end of each rehearsal. Students will be expected to keep a number 2 pencil in their folder at all times. No choir folder will be allowed to leave the choir room without the permission of the director. It is the student's responsibility to replace any lost choir folder and/or its music at his/her own expense.

# Grading Procedures

---

## **Six Weeks Grade**

Choir is a performance course. The classroom rules coincide with proper performance in the rehearsal. **Proper performance skills are essential to the rehearsal process, and will be graded as such.**

Students begin each week of the six weeks period with a 100 for the weekly grade. Each infraction of the classroom rules, especially following directors instructions\*, that causes the student to be off task will result in a deduction from the weekly grade at the discretion of the director. Weekly grades are then averaged for the students' six weeks grade.

**\*Following directors' instructions includes directions on posture, excessive talking, attitude, respect for the teacher, respect of others, and any other activity associated with class time and rehearsal. Infractions will result in deductions from the weekly grade and continued infractions will result in parental contact, followed by the appropriate disciplinary procedures as described in the Martin Student Handbook.**

## **Rehearsals and Concerts**

The Fall, Winter, Pre-UIL, UIL and Spring Concerts as well as any extra rehearsals are mandatory, requiring each student's attendance. Attendance at these events count as a 100 to be averaged in with the weekly grade. Excused absences are to be fulfilled by a written report designated to the student by the director for the required grade.

**Unexcused absences from these activities will result in the following points subtracted from the final six weeks average:**

**Rehearsals: 5 points each**

**Concerts: 30 points each\*\***

\*\*Attendance is required for the entire concert, not just the individual students' performance.

**CONFLICTS WITH WORK SCHEDULE OR TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS EXCUSED UNDER ANY CONDITION. ONLY EXTREME ILLNESS OR DEATH IN THE FAMILY WILL BE EXCUSED.**

If a student must miss a scheduled rehearsal or concert due to extreme illness, **call the choir office at 817-483-6462.**

[www.martinchoir.com](http://www.martinchoir.com)

# Activity Fee

---

Each choir student will pay an activity fee for the year of **\$60**. This fee covers all expenses for the year with the **exception** of chorale dress, tux shirt package, show choir uniforms, and spring trip payment. This fee should be paid on **Choir Registration Day**, September 3, 2011. **Make checks payable to Martin High School Choir.**

## Uniforms

---

### BOYS

Tux Shirt Package (\$25)- Boys will be required to purchase a tux shirt package, which includes a white tux shirt, a black bow tie and a black cummerbund.

Students will be measured during class and the directors will make the order.

Boys will rent the tuxedo coat and pants from the choral department. (included in the activity fee). **Boys will also be expected to wear black dress shoes with black socks with their tuxedo.**

### GIRLS

Girls in Chanticleer, Concert Choir and Choraliers will rent a choir uniform for the year. This uniform includes a sequin top and chiffon pants (included in the activity fee).

Chorale girls will purchase their dress for \$95.00.

In addition, **ALL Girls** will be expected to wear black character shoes and black hose. Black character shoes may be purchased from any dance studio. Shoes should be 1½-inch heels.

# Registration Day

## Students and Parent need to attend

---

Choir registration day will be on **Saturday, September 3, 2011**. **Students** will be fitted for their choir uniform. Please bring the following forms signed: parent signature, permission to travel, and media release. **Parents** will need to complete the Medical Authorization Form, which requires a parent signature, insurance information, and medical emergency information and needs to be notarized. Bring money to pay the following fees: \$60 activity fee, \$25 tux shirt package, and \$30 Chorale shirt (for Chorale members only). **Separate checks are needed for each payment.**

### **Please follow the schedule below:**

8am – Chorale Boys

9am – Choraliers Boys

10am – Concert Choir and Cambiata Boys

11am – Chorale Girls

### **12 Noon – 1:00pm – Lunch**

1pm – Choraliers Girls

2pm – Concert Choir Girls

3:30pm – Chanticleer Girls

# Calendar of Events

---

## Required Concerts

October 11, 7:00pm	Fall Concert	MHS Auditorium
December 12, 6:30 pm	JV Choir Winter Concert	MHS Auditorium
December 13, 7:00 pm	Varsity Choir Winter Concert	MHS Auditorium
January 20-21, 3p&5p	Cluster Concert Weekend	MHS Auditorium
	<b>(Chorale and Showchoirs Only)</b>	
April 2, 4:00p-10p	Pre-UIL Concert	MHS Auditorium
April 10,11,12(TBA)	UIL Contest	Trinity HS
May 1, 7:30 pm	Spring Concert	MHS Auditorium

**Additional note: The Cluster (Chorale only), Fall, Winter, and Spring concerts are co-curricular, and are thus required for a grade in choir.**

## Other Events

August 25, 3:00 pm	JV Show Choir learning session	Choir Room
August 27, 9:00 am	JV Show Choir Auditions	Choir Room
September 24	All District Choir Auditions	Seguin HS
October 22, TBA	All Region Choir Auditions	Arlington HS
October 22, TBA	9th/10th Grade Auditions	Arlington HS
November 18, TBA	All Area Choir Auditions	UTA
November 19, All Day	Region/District Clinic/Concert	FUMC Hurst
December 1, 6:30pm	Dinner Theatre fundraiser	FBCA
December 2, 6:30pm	Dinner Theatre fundraiser	FBCA
January 7, TBA	All State Choir Auditions	Midland Lee HS
Feb 17, 7:00pm	Show Choir Showcase	Bowie HS
Feb 18, TBA	UIL Solo/Ensemble	Legacy HS
Feb 18, TBA	Arlington Solo/Ensemble	Arlington HS
March 6, 7:30 pm	Show Choir Pops Concert	MHS Auditorium
April 17, 8:00 pm	Chamber Recital	St. Mark's Episcopal
May, TBA, 7:30 pm	Spring Musical	MHS Auditorium
May 31, 7:00 pm	Choir Banquet	Ft. Worth Club
June 2, 12 Noon	Graduation (Chorale)	TCU

**MEMBERS OF CHORALE ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO SING AT GRADUATION CEREMONIES. DO NOT TAKE THE SAT/ACT THE DAY OF GRADUATION.**

# Fundraising Activities

---

Due to a stricter interpretation of its rules concerning student activity accounts, the Internal Revenue Service will no longer allow us to keep individual accounts for students. All fundraising money will now go into the general choir activity fund to benefit the entire choral program.

Although participation in fundraising activities is not a requirement, we urge each student of choir to do so if at all possible. The choir department will be selling the Passbook Coupon booklets again starting in September and the Choir Booster Club will be sponsoring various fundraising activities for the students throughout the school year.

**Money from these fundraisers will go to help defray cost of the choir banquet, as well as help provide music and other materials for the choirs. Money raised by members of Chorale may be used to help defray the cost of the Spring Trip.**

# Parent Signature Form

Bring completed form to Choir Registration Day,  
September 3, 2011

I have read the Choir Handbook, and agree with the policies and procedures. I understand that my support of these guidelines is essential to my child's success in the choral program at Martin High School.

I am aware of the following information:

1. Attendance requirements for rehearsals and concerts.
2. Transportation or work conflicts will not be accepted as excused absences from required rehearsals or concerts.
3. Grading procedures.
4. Uniform requirements, fees, and deadlines.
5. Booster Club membership opportunities.
6. Private Voice Lesson opportunities for my student.
7. Volunteer opportunities.

Parent Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_