



2018-2019

Wortham ISD Vocal Choirs  
Curricular & Extracurricular Handbook:

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Jr. High Choir  
9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> High School Choir  
UIL Region MS & HS /All State Choir  
Texas Federation of Music Clubs Participants  
TMEA Honor Choir Participants

## WORTHWHILE VOICES

*A small town . . . energies and drive are many,  
energies and drive producing experiences beyond the small town,  
changing perspectives, opening minds, creating a love for the world.  
We do this while teaching our voices to be good, to speak out, and to  
carry the tune of life . . . worthwhile voices.*

*Linda Ferris*

## BEYOND THE WALLS

"...one of the most direct ways of praying and meditating is through singing, and singing in community is exceptionally powerful. You get people together in a room and get them singing, and you instantly knock down all the walls, the creeds, the gender, age and race differences, everything. You're all one at that point, lifting your voices."

Bobby McFerrin

### WORTHAM MS/HS CHOIRS HANDBOOK

Congratulations on being part of Wortham's choir and extracurricular performance program!

The following information is provided to help us all work together to produce excellence in these music programs at Wortham ISD. Please take time to read it carefully with your family. Addendums will be posted at later dates.



#### REHEARSALS

##### **6th-8<sup>th</sup> Grade UIL Honors Choir/Jr. High Choir Class**

**The 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who have enrolled in the fine arts elective for choir will automatically be included in the UIL Non-Varsity High School performance choir of Wortham ISD.** In this class, members will specialize in the vocal development skills, study repertoire for region and state honor choirs, and be part of two community performance concerts throughout the year.

In the 2018-2019 school year, students who are part of the band ensemble may be able to meet with the enrolled choir class occasionally during the school hours as above, but may also be required to attend three afterschool rehearsals to participate for

sectionals to be part of the spring musical, medium ensemble auditions, and or UIL Concert Choir & Sightreading event. Attendance monitoring will be strict, and failing grades will not enable the student to participate.

Extra individual rehearsals can be scheduled for the Jr. High Participants upon appointment immediately after school, if needed.

Depending on the membership, this group will combine special times of the year for UIL group competitions and other judging events, and members may participate in outside UIL Region events on an individual basis through an audition process outlined by TMEA for Region participation.

Field trips will be scheduled for this group outside and during the school day. Continued Vocal training and performance will determine the curriculum.

A calendar of UIL, Texas Federation of Music Clubs, and the Texas Choir Directors Assn. events will be supplemental material with membership. At this time, there is no lab fee, however, classroom supplies, and uniform accessories may require fees during the school year.

Students must have forms on file for travel, medical information, blanket permission to publish, field trip consent, and parent acknowledgment of grading policy and class rules

### **9<sup>th</sup>-12 Grade High School Choir Class**

This ensemble fine arts class is offered to high school students based on vocal technique and requirements outlined by UIL and TMEA functions.

#### **Course Objectives:**

1. Students will sing proficiently, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music that is of an average difficulty level.
2. Students will compose or arrange short passages of music within specified guidelines.
3. Students will work in unity to produce a cohesive choral sound.
4. Students will be able to read and notate music given in class.
5. Students will listen to, analyze, and describe music using proper musical terminology.
6. Students will be able to articulate the relationship between music and other disciplines.
7. Students will describe music in relation to history and culture.

#### **The 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> High School will be:**

Educating through UIL Participation in Concert and Sightreading in the Choir  
 Educating through Individual Vocal Performance through UIL Solo and Ensemble Event and/or Texas Federation of Music Clubs Jr. Festival  
 Educating and providing Community and Local Opportunities through performance  
 Offering Music Theory and Analysis, Studies in Foreign Language Development,  
 Exposure to Significant High School and Secondary School Choir Groups through Judging events and field trips.  
 Providing Opportunity to Participate in Cross-Curriculum Events with Vocal Contribution, Theatrically and Artistically  
 Helping to Build Confidence for Leadership through Singing and Presentation  
 Widening the Knowledge of All Vocal Styles, Group and Individual  
 Offering Private Study, Camp Opportunities for Enrichment through TMEA events, All-State Clinics, etc.  
 Working closely with Instrumental groups to build "College-Bound" All-Round Musicians.

Students must have forms on file for travel, medical information, blanket permission to publish, field trip consent, drug testing, and parent acknowledgment of grading policy and class rules.

See additional Wortham High School Choir Handbook for Procedures, Expectations, and Detailed Policies.

#### ATTENDANCE/TARDY POLICY

It is essential that every choir member attend all rehearsals and be punctual. Regular tardiness will be addressed and will need a note from parent on file for the date late or missed. **In the instance that Mrs. Ferris may have specially scheduled meetings or duty responsibilities, an adjusted calendar will be sent home with the members.**

We depend on everyone to attend ALL rehearsals. If you are ill and miss school, you are excused from choir and should stay home and get well! **A note or email stating the nature of the absence BEFORE it occurs, if possible, is appreciated.**

During competition months special scheduled afterschool rehearsals may apply.

A supplemental handout for class requirements will accompany the Choir Handbook for detailed instruction requirements, letter-Jacket requirements, concerts, and yearly concert expectations.

#### BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Choir members are expected to have good citizenship at all times; during the **school day**, during **rehearsals** and during **performances**. We will follow the Wortham Elementary and Middle School and High School Student Handbooks including \*Attentive Listening (no talking during rehearsals), \* Mutual Respect, \*Appreciations, \* No Put Downs”, and \*Bulldog Best! Failure to follow these agreements may result in dismissal from the choir. Parents and students should keep both handbooks on file.

#### RESPONSIBILITY

Choir members are expected to turn in all necessary forms/permission slips, etc. on time. There is a designated box in the music room for all choir related papers and information. Please **DO NOT** turn in choir forms to homeroom teachers! Choir members are also expected to wear the appropriate uniform for all choir performances. Students who are absent from choir practice are expected to find out what they missed. Choir "business" should be taken care of outside of your daily music time, preferably before or after school. I can be reached by email at [lindaferri55@me.com](mailto:lindaferri55@me.com) or [linda.ferris@worthamisd.org](mailto:linda.ferris@worthamisd.org).

You can also check the Designated Choir pages at the website:

[http://www.worthamisd.org/89471\\_2](http://www.worthamisd.org/89471_2)

Or <http://www.worthammusic.org>

UNIFORM

The standard uniform will once again consist of a Wortham Choirs polo or T- shirt PURCHASED annually by each member (and stored at the school) and dress **black** **\*\*NEW** pants or jeans depending on occasion called for (GIRLS, NO TIGHTS!) Until a stricter uniform policy is adopted by the music clubs and/or choir boosters, parents should discuss styles with the director before purchasing, if possible. \*\* Usually comfortable athletic shoes will complete the uniform. Jr. and HS students will need to purchase black performance shoes to wear with their slacks and shirts. Cost of uniform shirts vary year to year, but definite costs will be relayed to the parents of each student during the ordering process.

High School and Middle School Concert dress may be required for Region, Honors Choir events. The student will be informed of uniform responsibility, accessories, etc. when notified of event. The choir program will work closely with the Choir Boosters Members for sizing, purchase, and maintenance of any uniform item.

\*\*If you would be willing to assist the acquisition, cleaning, and storage of t-shirts, please let me know ASAP!

**Cell Phones.....**

In Academic Classes during the day, personal cellphones will be checked in at the teacher's desk. Otherwise, the school policy of cell-phone use will apply.

**Choir I-IV****Wortham High School Choir Policies and Procedures**

Classroom Policies – Mrs. Ferris

Choir is a course that seeks to give students in Wortham's High School experiences in the study and performance of a diverse repertoire of vocal/choral music. The course will include instruction in proper vocal technique, musicianship skills, and the cultural and historical context of choral literature. The course will encourage self-expression through performance and creation of music.

**Class Description Curricular Music Class – Two Binders!!!**

Materials for Class:

1 – 1" Black 3-Ring Performance Binder with Plastic Coating for Strength

Packet of Tab Dividers

Plenty of Pencils (Non-Mechanical), Erasers, Pencil Packet

1- 1" Binder of Choice for Classroom Materials

**FWortham Choir Boosters Membership Rules**

Like Band, Choir Class is a Curricular Class providing teaching materials, performance supplies necessary for function in the class. The Wortham Choir Boosters Assn. is a functioning group that will assist in certain uniform purchases and some fees throughout the school term. There will be an initial fee of \$15 to join the Choir Boosters Assn. and a \$20/shirt fee. Other expenses throughout the year may include long dress

khaki pants, black belt, and black performance shoes. A formal concert attire will require sizing, ordering, and upkeep, and will be maintained and stored in the choir Room

### CLASSROOM RULES

1. Be at class and ready to start on time.
  - a. HS Choir students may not enter the music room until the director is present from previous class
  - b. Students will have only 5 minutes to get materials and sit for instruction
  - c. Students will be held until 2:35pm for release.
  - d. Class and Materials must be put up for next class' arrival, chairs in place.
2. Leave all other business outside of the door and focus on working.
3. No eating, drinking, gum chewing, or cell phone use in class.
4. Be polite and respectful to teacher and students at all times.
5. Follow teacher's directions.
6. Participate and try your BEST. All must sing!
7. Follow all rules in student handbook.
8. Be responsible for work assigned, if any, and use your calendar for deadlines, etc.
9. News and reminders will be given through REMIND App. All students must log in for this to be in effect.

All Students:

Please enter music rooms and rehearsal areas with **Responsible Attitude:**

- **Respect for the Teacher's Lesson and Planning**
- The Willingness to Learn
- The Appropriate Discipline & Character for a Learning Environment
- The Mindset to Become Better in the Subject ....and....
- The Behavior to Meet the Expectations Required of You!

Consequences for Continuous Disrespect for Rules:

Few verbal warnings, possible parent/student conferences,  
 Disappointment of the choir and its director for disruption and stop in progress.  
 Continued lack of participation and disrespect may lead to writing and research assignments as an alternative to vocal input.

Severe behavior results in immediate referral to office and possible expulsion from honor choir activities, festivals, and events (i.e. Fighting, disrespecting teacher, stealing, etc.) Conduct and Participation Grades are averaged weekly for choir students in class. Parents should pay close attention to progress grades as indicative of students' participation, effort, input, and choir behavior. There should be no behavior issues as Wortham Students of the choir class will be considered above all in discipline and representation of the school body. All will be expected to participate in several projects, performance and academic assignments throughout the year. There will a semester project assigned, as well. Final grading is based on:

**CHOIR GRADING POLICY**

- Grades will be based on students' participation in the classroom and at performances, written work, and quizzes.
- All students are required to participate unless they have a doctor or parent note. If any student is too sick to sing, the director must be notified with a note from the nurse and/or parent at the beginning of the class period so that the student will earn a participation grade by attentively reading along with the music.
- Students are expected to participate and put forth their best effort at all times. No participation equals a failing grade.
- Those missing class will have one full school day to makeup work or turn in alternative lesson material, etc.

**Grade Scale**

A = 90 – 100 B = 80 – 89 C = 70 – 79

Failing = Below 70

**CONCERTS**

Two performance concerts will be held this year, a winter concert in December and a spring concert in May. **Both concerts are mandatory**, as they are included in grading for the current six weeks and will be considered the semester exam. When uniform is not worn, standard dress code rules will apply. Absence will only be excused if the absence is due to illness, death in the family, or any other reason approved by the instructor.

**Field Trips and Performance Trips and Travel****BUS TRIPS**

- During the year, the Wortham ISD Choir or combination of choirs may travel out of town to events, games, or competitions. Moving 25-50 persons, uniforms, instruments, and equipment is not as easy job. To make this easier, strict rules of behavior will be enforced on the bus to avoid consequences.
- When taking long bus trips, student assistants may be assigned for emergency exit evacuation, first aid supplies, equipment, trash duty, etc.
- A seating chart is required by Texas law to accompany school groups on every trip.
- Stay in your seat while the bus is moving is mandatory. This is STATE LAW, and failure to follow it can result in serious injury.
- Obscene language/music and loud noise are not permitted.
- There are no limits on personal stereos with headphones, as long as the student understands they must leave them on the bus at events, and are not secure.

- Everyone is responsible for cleaning the trash out of the busses. Individuals may be assigned to assess bus clean-up.
- For legal reasons, students who are non-choir members and family members may not ride the bus to an event. However, a student may leave with the immediate parent only with prior filing of request.
- In keeping with school rules, **ALL Choir MEMBERS MUST RIDE ON THE BUS TO AN EVENT.** Any exceptions must be approved by the principal.
- Every student must work to unload and load equipment for each performance trip.
- Only a PARENT or LEGAL GUARDIAN can arrange for a student to leave the field trip and return home through other transportation. (Please note this does not say boyfriend/girlfriend, brother/sister) A written note must be on file with the director in this case.
- Other situations must be approved by the director AND principal.

#### LOADING/UNLOADING

Again, everyone is expected to help unload the bus and equipment vehicles upon return from a trip. It is also EACH STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY to load his/her own instrument, uniform, etc.

#### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

It is the student's responsibility to report damaged equipment, inappropriate and abusive behavior on busses, and disrespect for materials on a trip. All out of town and out of state trips are considered a privilege through Wortham Schools and Wortham ISD, and behavior will be managed using the school's Code of Conduct.



**FORM 1**

RETURN THIS PAGE TO MRS. Ferris by Labor Day Weekend.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

I/We have read the information attached and will support the policies stated for the Wortham All-Honors Choir Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

I understand the expectations of me as a member of the Wortham ISD Choirs

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

Food allergies? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
1<sup>st</sup> Period Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Email (preferred)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Best Contact Phone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Email and/or Cell#

If you already have a group shirt, check here \_\_\_\_\_ (DO NOT circle a size below)

If you need to purchase a new shirt, or are a charter member of the Wortham Middle School/HS Choir, please send cash OR a check for \$15.00 made out to Wortham choir Boosters Assn.

T-shirt Size (please circle size): Youth M Youth L Adult S

Adult M Adult L Adult XL XXL XXXL

\*\*Remember that these will be tucked in for all concerts, so please allow for length.

**PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

Would you be available to assist with:

\_\_\_\_\_ Ordering and distributing shirts (immediately)

\_\_\_\_\_ Providing snacks for a rehearsal (approx. 30 snacks 1-2 times during the semester).

\_\_\_\_\_ Organizing snack schedule

\_\_\_\_\_ Piano accompanist for choir rehearsals and performances

\_\_\_\_\_ Working, planning, and helping to execute semester performance(s).

\_\_\_\_\_ Chaperoning, sponsoring, etc. annual field trip performances or competitions.

## Student Enrollment Information:

Choir and Group Designation(s):

High School \_\_\_\_\_

Middle School \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently in Band or Art? Explain

Special Programs and Request for Participation:

TFMC Solo: Vocal \_\_\_ Instrumental\_\_\_

TMEA MS/HS Ensemble: Vocal\_\_\_\_\_

TCDA Honor Choir (7-9) Summer: \_\_\_\_\_

UIL Solo \_\_\_\_\_ 9-12

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

Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> Period Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Experiences in Vocal Choirs:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Vocal Range: Fall \_\_\_\_\_ Spring \_\_\_\_\_

Vocal and Instrumental Wortham Choirs Experience (year, and group):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ .

**Student Information Sheet 2018-2019**

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT NAME(s): \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

MOTHER'S WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FATHER'S WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Extracurricular/Curricular/Sports Teams/ Performance Group (s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We have read and understood the Wortham MS/HS Choirs Handbook. If we have any questions regarding participating in any Choirs/Recorder, we will contact Mrs. Ferris at 254-395-4369 or email at <mailto:linda.ferris@worthamisd.org>

STUDENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Permission to Travel** (separate from individual permission slips sent home for each individual event)

I agree to allow my child to attend ALL Choir/Recorders ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH HE/SHE IS ELIGIBLE. I understand that while student safety is a high priority for the District, under State Law, the school is not responsible for medical costs associated with a student injury.

I expressly waive all claims for medical expenses, loss of services, or other claims, and I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the District, its Trustees, employees, and agents from all claims made against it or them on behalf of my child.

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the District, its Trustees, employees, and agents from all claims made by third parties against it or them which result from my child's actions on each trip.

I understand that the District, its Trustees, employees, and agents are not waiving any sovereign or governmental immunity which it or they have under Texas law.

I have read and understood this release and sign it voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance.

\_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT ALTERNATE PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
(This number could be an office phone, pager, another cell phone, etc.)

**PERSON (OTHER THAN PARENT) TO CONTACT IN CASE OF**

EMERGENCY: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

(This information is very important. Please provide the name and phone number of a relative or family friend who will know how to find you in an emergency. Please do not use any of the phone numbers listed above. If your child is injured, or becomes ill while away from school, it is vital that school personnel are able to contact you as quickly as possible.)

KNOWN ALLERGIES OR MEDICAL CONDITIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

MEDICATIONS CURRENTLY USING: \_\_\_\_\_

INSURANCE CARRIER: \_\_\_\_\_ POLICY #: \_\_\_\_\_

(To be used for emergency treatment only. Parent and school administrators will always be notified of emergencies.)

PARENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

## **Wortham Extracurricular and Curricular Choir and Performance Groups Music “Blanket” Permission to Publish**

We are very proud of the many accomplishments achieved by our students. The Wortham Choirs and Music students are wonderful students involved in so many positive activities. We would like to provide greater opportunities to give our students the acknowledgements they deserve.

### Consent

I hereby consent for my student, \_\_\_\_\_ (student's name), to appear in published form (written or photographically) in the local news media, choir booster newsletter, choir web site, choir show shirts, choir concert programs, seasonal and annual performance events programs and flyers, and other community media sources, for the purposes of providing Wortham students and parents contact information and/or to promote and acknowledge the student's accomplishments, successes and involvement in the Wortham Choirs and Music program.

### Waiver and Release

I release and waive, and further agree to indemnify, hold harmless or reimburse the Wortham Independent School District, the Board of Education, the Wortham Choir Boosters, its successors and assigns, its members, agents, employees and representatives thereof, as well as supervisors and volunteers from and against, any claim which I, any other parent or guardian, any sibling, the student, or any other person, firm or corporation may have or claim to have, known or unknown, directly or indirectly, from any losses, damages, or injuries arising out of, during, or in connection with the student's representation in the published format.

Signature of Parent(s) or Guardian(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

(A copy of this must be on file to determine membership in the performing organizations)

**WORTHAM ISD**  
**Student Drug Testing**  
**Consent Form**

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

Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

**AS A STUDENT:**

I understand and agree that participation in school-sponsored extracurricular activities is voluntary and a privilege, along with the opportunity to obtain a parking permit. I understand that as part of my voluntary participation in any school-sponsored extra-curricular activities and obtaining a parking permit, I am consenting to participate in the Wortham ISD's Random Student Drug Testing program.

I understand that if I decline to consent to participation in the Random Student Drug Testing Program, I will be unable to partake in any school-sponsored extra-curricular activities and my parking permit privileges will be declined at Wortham ISD for the entire academic school year, 2018-2019.

**AS A PARENT/GUARDIAN/CUSTODIAN:**

I have read **Wortham ISD's Student Drug Testing Policy** and understand that my child's participation in any school-sponsored extra-curricular activities and enrollment in corresponding courses is voluntary and a privilege along with obtaining a parking permit. I understand that as part of my child's voluntary participation in school-sponsored extracurricular activities and/or attaining a parking permit, I am consenting to his/her participation in Wortham ISD's Random Student Drug Testing Program for the entire academic school year, 2018-2019.

I understand that if I decline to consent to my child's participation in the Random Student Drug Testing Program, my child will be unable to participate in any school-sponsored extra-curricular activities and will not have the privilege to park a motor vehicle on school grounds. As evidenced by my signature below, I hereby consent to allow my son/daughter named above to undergo random drug testing for the presence of illicit drugs and/or banned substances in accordance with Board Policy. I understand that the urine collection process will be overseen by a qualified vendor and that samples will be sent to a certified medical laboratory for testing, and that samples will be coded for confidentiality. I hereby consent to the vendor selected by the Wortham ISD, its laboratory, doctors, employees, and/or agents to perform urinalysis testing for the detection of illicit drugs and/or banned substances, and to confer with any necessary third parties regarding the results in order, to confirm the results of the urinalysis. I understand that the consent granted herein is effective for the entire 2018-2019 school year.

PRINTED NAME Parent/Guardian/Custodian \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE Parent/Guardian/Custodian \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
STUDENTS PRINTED NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
STUDENTS SIGNATURE

Date: \_\_\_\_\_