Cy Falls Choir

2026 - 2027
Choir Handbook

Cy Falls Choir

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WEBSITE FOR CY FALLS CHOIR

www.cyfallschoir.com

CHOIR GOALS
AND
EXPECTATIONS

I. GOALS

A. **To improve vocal technique, sight-reading skills and knowledge of music theory**
B. **All performances exhibit standards of excellence in musicianship, showmanship and etiquette to properly represent Cypress Falls High School**
C. **To create music with as little drill as possible**

II. STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

A. **Follow the established Daily Procedures and Regulations.**
B. **Maintain eligibility (passing grades) in *all* classes.**
C. **Maintain a positive attitude and team spirit daily.**
D. **Commitment to personal growth in the areas of vocal production, sight reading skills, and music theory.**
E. **Be present at all required rehearsals and performances.**
F. **Participate in fund-raisers and optional activities.**
G. **Maintain excellent school attendance and discipline – "Eagle SOAR".**
H. **Meet <u>ALL</u> deadlines/due dates.**

III. CLASSROOM RULES

The following rules/guidelines have been established to create a safe, positive and structured learning environment. *Please note that the following rules encompass the daily procedures.

1. **Be in your assigned seat with all class materials when the bell rings.**
   - ✔ The better prepared everyone is for class; the more we get done as a group.
   - ✔ Many instructions and vocal procedures are covered at the beginning of the class.
2. **Leave all food items, books, and personal items on the shelves. Cell phones should be powered off and stored with your personal items.**
   - ✔ Absolutely no drinks on the shelves or in any place in the main room or practice rooms. Any drinks found will be disposed of immediately.
   - ✔ You may have water in a standard water bottle with the label. No other containers will be acceptable.
3. **Raise your hand and wait to be recognized before you speak.**
   - ✔ Social talking and blurting out are distractions that prevent others from learning
4. **Listen and follow all instructions the first time they are given.**
   - ✔ Listening to instructions the first time saves time.
   - ✔ Instructions may be given orally or written, so be aware.
   - ✔ **Remember: Listening is a skill that requires conscious effort.**
5. **Respect each person and every item in the room.**
   - ✔ Positive attitudes, courteous acts, and supportive actions help create a positive and successful environment.
   - ✔ If it doesn't belong to you, don't bother it.
   - ✔ Cell phones plugged in outlets or not properly stored are at your own risk.

**Remember: You are to follow all additional District and School Rules/ Policies.

Consequences

Generally, if a student fails to follow one or more of the rules the first time, it might be considered a mistake and a reminder or warning might be given.

If there are repeated reminders, it will then be considered a behavioral problem and a disruption in the learning process. At this point, it is obvious that more stringent actions are needed.

Behavioral problems and/or disruptions will result in a student conference and any of the following:

- removal from the class activities
- completion of a Behavior Response form
- parent phone call
- alternate assignments
- a parent conference
- office referral
- removal from the choir program.

III. DAILY PROCEDURES

A. **Dispose of gum or any foreign objects out of your mouth upon entering the room.**
B. **Place personal items on the shelves. This includes earbuds and cell phones.**
C. **Put money in the drop box before the tardy bell <u>or</u> at the end of class.**
D. **Get your folder, pencil, and pick up any class materials from the supply table.**
E. **Read the announcements and take out everything needed for the daily agenda.**
F. **Be in your seat and working on the warm-up when the tardy bell rings.**
G. **Remember that the director dismisses you from class, not the bell.**
H. **At the end of the period, put your folder in its slot and dispose of empty water bottles used during rehearsal.**

I. **Off-limits areas are pianos, library, uniform room, and choir office. Please ask permission to use any practice room.**
J. **Absolutely no eating or drinking in the choir room. <u>Bottled water is acceptable.</u>**

CHOIR REGULATIONS

I. MEMBERSHIP - Membership in the Cypress Falls High School Choir is open to those students who have basic skills in music and/or those students who are willing to learn necessary skills to enhance the success of the group. The choral department is made up of the following performing ensembles:

A. **A cappella Choir** (Varsity Mixed) is an auditioned group of men and women, primarily juniors and seniors, along with a select number of sophomores. Each student is expected to demonstrate well-developed vocal and sight-reading skills on a daily basis, maintain eligibility, and remain clear of all choir fees and fines. **Each member is also expected to participate in one of the following: TMEA Auditions, Solo and Ensemble *or* private voice lessons.** The music literature for this group is advanced and requires application of all musical skills acquired in the non-varsity choirs.

B. Concert Women is an auditioned group made up of sophomores to seniors with past high school singing experience. They are expected to demonstrate good vocal and sight-reading skills, and maintain eligibility. Those planning to audition for the Varsity choir in the future should pay close attention to the Varsity choir requirements. The music literature for this group will challenge and broaden their knowledge and vocal skills in preparation for the Varsity choir.

C. Men's Choir is comprised of men from all grade levels –those with past choir experience and those who are in choir for the first time. The goal is to establish and develop the vocal, sight-reading and/or academic skills of some, while reinforcing and sharpening those same skills for others. The music literature for this group is geared toward developing the skills necessary for learning and performing more advanced literature.

D. Treble Choir is comprised of women from all grade levels – those with some past choir experience to those who are in choir for the first time. The variance in vocal, sight-reading skills and academic success is usually greatest amongst this group, so music literature is usually geared to strengthen and properly develop the skills necessary for healthy musical and vocal growth and for learning and performing more advanced literature.

E. **Chamber Choir** is an auditioned group from the A cappella Choir only.

1. All members must remain eligible. The first failing grading period may result in permanent expulsion from the group.
2. The director reserves all rights to remove any singer who is having a negative impact on the group.
3. Any member missing a performance may be removed from the group; the director will make that decision based on the circumstance.
4. Members can be removed if they fail to fulfill the requirements of the group. Inability to make a scheduled appearance may result in that member being replaced.

II. ATTENDANCE

A. A student is **expected** to check with the choir calendar before scheduling any driver's education lessons, doctor or dental appointments or work schedules to avoid any conflicts.
B. Absences
    1. Any student who is absent from class on the day of a performance may be asked not to perform.
    2. Any member with an unexcused absence from dress rehearsal may be cut from the performance. That student is responsible for making up the grade(s) for the concert.
    3. Any student failing to make a concert performance is responsible for making up the grade(s) for the performance.
C. Each member shall attend all **required** performances scheduled by the director. For UIL and extracurricular events, ineligible students are allowed to attend rehearsals and will be graded on the performance material.
D. Singers are advised that concert dress rehearsals, Pizazz Pop Show rehearsals and UIL Concert & Sightreading rehearsals occur after school. **These are graded rehearsals.**
E. A cappella Choir **obligations** include participating in either: the All-State process, Solo and Ensemble, or Voice lessons **and** the *UIL Varsity Treble or Varsity Men's Choirs*. These require extra rehearsal time after school. Varsity Treble and Varsity Men's Choir rehearsals **are graded.**
Any A Cappella Choir member having a direct conflict with UIL rehearsals (ex.UIL One Act Play, drill team, cheerleading, sports, etc.), will need to discuss his or her situation with the director.

As a general rule, we use the following guidelines with regards to conflicts:

Practice vs. Rehearsal = Split time
Practice vs. Performance = Performance takes precedence
Game vs. Rehearsal = Game takes precedence
Game vs. Performance = Case-by-case basis

III. Grading Criteria

Grades that reflect a student's mastery of performance skills shall carry the greatest weight in the calculation of six-week averages. Curricular and extracurricular performances are part of the expectation for choir. A student's participation in both curricular and extracurricular activities may be considered when assigning the grade for the grading period during which the activity occurred. Grades also reflect the mastery of the Music TEKS.

Summative Assessments (Major Grades) 40%

Singing/Playing/Performance Tests

Written Tests
Performances

*Absence from a clinic or dress rehearsal: failure to make this type of rehearsal may prohibit a singer from performing in the concert. The student will be graded on the performance material.

Relevant Applications (Assessments) 35%

Written Quizzes
Worksheets/Skillbuilder Quizzes
Rehearsals/Sectionals

Checking for Understanding (Daily Grades) 25%

Class Participation
Skillbuilders

Redo/Retest

A student who receives a failing grade on a test may have the opportunity to re-do the test with the following stipulations:

-A tutorial session may be required to re-do the assignment.
-The opportunity to re-do an assignment must be requested before the last week of the grading period.
-The format or order of the assignment may vary from the original.

* Any assignment given is due on a **SPECIFIC DATE ONLY,** that will be communicated to the student. **No late work is accepted.**

Procedure for make up work due to absences follows CFISD "Make up Work Procedures" as noted in the District Student Handbook.

IV. SUSPENSION AND LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

A. Any member from the A cappella choir who makes an F in any course in a grading period for the **SECOND** time during the school year will be removed from that group and placed in a choir of lesser responsibility
B. Choir members will be dismissed from the group for the remainder of the year for the following violations of the student handbook:
    1. Violation of the alcohol and drug policy
    2. Violation of the tobacco policy
    3. Any infraction(s) that the director and principal deem detrimental to the organization.

C. (*quote from CFISD district handbook*)"Membership in a performing organization is a privilege. Each member...has a responsibility to attend all rehearsals and

performances of the group....an unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance is a demonstration of a lack of dependability in accepting the responsibility of group membership. This can be grounds for moving the student to a non-performing class if a change is possible....The person in charge of an extracurricular activity may regulate the dress and grooming of students who participate in the activity. Students who violate those standards may be removed or excluded from the activity...or may be subject to other disciplinary action."

V. CHOIR FEES

Annual Choir Fees

Choir Fee (required)	$50.00
Choir T-Shirt (required)	$20.00
Total:	$70.00

All students

Optional Fees*
Booster Club Membership
Audition fees (District, Region, Pre-Area, Area)
Solo & Ensemble fees

Private Voice Lessons (optional)

Registration Fee: required to enroll in the Private Lesson program

- New students only
- Separate check made payable to Cypress Fairbanks ISD
- Complete private lesson form
- **Former students** return only the private lesson form – no fee required.

VI. School District Authority and Jurisdiction

The District may impose campus, classroom, or club/organization rules in addition to those found in the Student Code of Conduct. These rules may be listed in the student and campus handbooks or posted in classrooms, or published in extracurricular handbooks, state or national organization bylaws, and/or constitutions, and may or may not constitute violations of the Student Code of Conduct. Additional rules or requirements, not part of the Student Code of Conduct, are adopted and approved by the sponsor, campus principal, and/or district administrator.

Sponsors and coaches of extracurricular activities may develop and enforce standards of conduct that are higher than the District's general standards and may condition membership or the student's participation in the activity on adherence to those standards. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on or off school

property. However, no provision of an extracurricular behavioral standard shall have the effect of discriminating based on gender, race, disability, religion, or ethnicity.

Organizational standards of repetitive behavior of an extracurricular activity are independent of the Student Code of Conduct. Violations of these standards of behavior that are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in separate, independent disciplinary actions. A student may be removed from participation in extracurricular activities or may be excluded from school honors or activities for violation of organizational standards of behavior of an extracurricular activity or for violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

All students are expected to maintain the highest level of discipline and decorum at all school functions. Failure to comply with administrative directives promoting order and respect may result in the student being removed from participation in school activities, including, but not limited to, commencement exercises.

III. LETTER JACKETS (DISTRICT POLICY)

A. To qualify for a letter jacket, a student must earn a minimum of 10 points in one school year. These points must be earned in one area of activity. A student may earn only 1 major letter award during his/her high school career. The student may earn additional letters in additional areas of activity and in subsequent years. This award will be a patch designed to denote the years of service. Points for satisfactory performance are only valid at the end of each school year.

B. Members may earn points on the following basis:
    1. 3 points for obtaining membership and performing in the All-Region Choir.
    2. 2 points for obtaining membership and performing in the All-Region Honor Choir.
    3. 4 points for advancing to the Choir Area audition
    4. 5 points for advancing and performing in the All-State Choir
    5. 3 points for performing a Class I, II or III solo at UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest with a Superior (1st division) rating
    6. 2 points for performing a Class I, II or III solo at the UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest with an Excellent (2nd division) rating
    7. 3 points for performing in a Class I, II or III ensemble at the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest with a Superior (1st division) rating. MEDIUM ENSEMBLE EVENTS MAY NOT BE USED TO GAIN POINTS.
    8. 2 points for performing in a Class I, II, or III ensemble at the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest with an Excellent (2nd division) rating.

C. Members may earn participation points in the following manner:
    1. 2 points at the end of the first year of satisfactory participation. A student who is ineligible for any extra-curricular activities during the year will forfeit these participation points.
    2. 5 points at the end of the second year of satisfactory participation. To receive credit for this level of participation points, the student must have completed five six-weeks of eligible participation in that division prior to this year. A student who is ineligible for any extra-curricular activities during the year will forfeit these participation points.

3. 10 points at the end of the third year of participation.

IX. UNIFORMS

A. The district furnishes formal performance uniforms. However, the men will be responsible for purchasing a tux shirt, black dress shoes and black dress socks. Women will need black flat shoes (closed toe **and** closed heel).
B. Each member is responsible for the care and return of his or her uniform. Any damaged uniform or any uniform not returned at the end of the year shall be paid for by the member issued the uniform. Women are always to use the black shoulder straps to secure their dresses to the hangers so that they are secure. **Dresses are always to be hung properly. Men are to hang their pants, folding them by the crease only--not like blue jeans**.

C. No one is to wear any fragrance or jewelry on stage. A cappella Women wear purchased pearl earrings and an issued pearl necklace to wear with the formal uniform. Any necklace not returned at the end of the year shall be paid for by the member issued the necklace.
D. Information will be given on purchasing pearl earrings to be worn with the formal uniform.
E. Garment bags are assigned with the formal uniform and are used for transporting uniforms to and from school, and when we travel. Any bag lost or damaged shall be paid for by the member issued the bag.
F. The casual uniform is provided by each student. It will consist of the choir shirt, khaki pants (Dockers-style), brown shoes and a brown belt.

X. FUNDRAISING

A. Students will be allowed to earn money toward the spring trip. The student may do so through several fundraising events scheduled during the year. The amount may vary from year to year and must be re-earned each year.
B. All funds contributed to the choir through fundraising will become part of the choir, i.e. a public trust. Trip expenses are determined by the number of students attending the trip. These costs are fixed, even if a few students do not actually go; therefore, participating students who do not attend the trip will forfeit any funds they have contributed if the determined criteria regarding refunds is not met.

XI. CHOIR TRIPS AND SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS

A. Expenses for choir trips or special engagements must be covered by each individual choir member. Any funds raised specifically for trips will be evenly distributed amongst all students participating on the trip to offset the overall cost per student.

B. Members of the advanced performing choirs are expected to participate in the choir trip, since that trip is most often a contest or performance.

XII. CHOIR BANQUET

A. Organization
    1. The choir officers will be an aid in organizing the banquet with the Booster Club Banquet Chairperson and the approval of the directors.
    2. All details including the theme, decorations, menu, and location will be handled by the Booster Club Executive Officers and may vary from year to year.
B. Expenses
    1. All decorations and programs will be paid for by the Choir Booster club.
    2. All choir members and guests (parent(s) or date) will pay for their own tickets. **You will be allowed one guest (not including your parents). Your guest cannot be over the age of 18.**

XIII. TMEA AUDITIONS

A. District, Region, Pre-Area and Area (All State) Choir auditions are sponsored by the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA). In order for a student to participate in auditions at any level, the choral director must be a member of TMEA and certain eligibility requirements must be met.
B. Anyone selected to the Region Mixed, Region Treble Choir, and Region Honor Choir **is required** to participate in the same. Each student will know in advance the Region Choir dates, and must assume he or she will advance to that level and leave those dates open.
C. Students are encouraged to attend a summer preparatory camp.
D. Any student may audition provided they follow the procedures and standards as set forth by the membership of TMEA and pay the non-refundable entry fee. In addition, the student must demonstrate a good knowledge of the audition material prior to each audition. Failure to do so may prevent the student from auditioning.
E. Freshmen also have the opportunity to audition for the Region Honor Choir. An entry fee and purchase of music is required to audition.