

# Corsicana High School Tiger Choir Handbook 2021-2022



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# WELCOME BACK!!!

Hello!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all those who are returning this year and extend a special welcome to our first-time singers. I am very excited to continue the hard work that made the choir program so great last year.

This year is all about rebuilding. The choir program was shook to it's core last year in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, but still we prevailed. This year we intend to return to the best aspects of the choir program, and possibly even add some new, exciting experiences as well.

While we return to normalcy in our choir program, we are also going to strive to reach for greater success. Last year our program was awarded at UIL, and this year we will aim to do even better.

I will strive to make this a very positive and fulfilling time for the CHS Choral Program. We will sing. We will make music. We will grow as musicians, but most of all we will do so together. Remember, we are only a choir when our voices are joined together.

Christopher Wheelock  
Choral Director, Corsicana High School.

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## MR. WHEELOCK'S SCHEDULE

1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>	8:20 am – 11:37 am	Off Campus	
A	11:37 am – 12:07 pm	A Lunch	
5 <sup>th</sup>	12:13 am – 1:19 pm	<b>VARSITY TREBLE</b>	CHOIR ROOM
6 <sup>th</sup>	1:23 pm – 2:08 pm	Conference	
7 <sup>th</sup>	2:12 pm – 2:57 pm	<b>NON-VARSITY TREBLE</b>	CHOIR ROOM
8 <sup>th</sup>	3:01 pm – 3:50 pm	<b>NON-VARSITY TENOR/BASS</b>	CHOIR ROOM

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# CHS CHOIR RULES

## **1. BE RESPECTFUL**

This rule is first because it is the most important. This group should be a positive experience for everyone. As such, be considerate with your words and actions. Additionally, be a family for your fellow choir members. Watch out for them and support them. We are only strong and successful as a team.

## **2. WORK HARD**

Every day. Not participating is not an option. This is a class and refusing to work will result in a zero. Also, our success or failure this year will be a direct result of our effort in rehearsals.

## **3. PAY ATTENTION**

Mr. Wheelock is the director. His job is to lead the group. If you are talking, messing around, or have you focus elsewhere (ex: cell phone), the entire rehearsal will suffer for it. Often, Mr. Wheelock will need to work with a section of the group. In these instances, it is important that the other students remain quiet and pay attention, so they know what is going on and when they are expected to resume singing. In some cases, Mr. Wheelock will give leadership rolls to other adults and students. These individuals are to be treated with the same respect that is given to Mr. Wheelock.

*\*If you believe a choir officer is treating you unfairly or abusing their position, please speak with Mr. Wheelock.*

No Cell Phones or other Devices are to be used (or even out) during rehearsal unless Explicit Permission is given by the director.

## **4. BE ON TIME**

All students will be in their assigned spots, with their materials when the bell rings. Any bags or personal items should be stored in the designated area. Students that fail to meet this expectation can be marked tardy and/or have their weekly rehearsal grade lowered.

## **5. BE PREPARED**

- Bring all required materials to rehearsal.
  - Extra belongings are to be placed along the side or back wall of the choir room.
- Use the restroom before or after rehearsal (not during)
- Bring a bottle of water instead of requesting to go to the water fountain (NOTE: ONLY WATER, NO OTHER FOOD/DRINKS IN THE CHOIR ROOM).
- Managed your schedule so that you can attend all performances and rehearsals. If you have an issue, speak to Mr. Wheelock.

## COVID-19 Related Policy

Due to COVID-19 the following changes have been implemented this year:

- Students are allowed to wear or not wear masks/p.p.e. as they feel comfortable.
- Students are to refrain from touching the pianos in the choir room.

## Discipline Plan

Students are expected to follow the CHS Student Code of Conduct while on campus AND away representing the CHS Choirs. All rule infractions (see class rules) will result in a 10-point loss in the weekly rehearsal grade for each infraction. After the 3<sup>rd</sup> infraction in a row, the student's parents/guardians will be contacted, and they will be referred to the office for disciplinary action.

Any student who is disruptive to the rehearsal or shows disrespect to the director or other students will be removed from the rehearsal and may be referred to the office for disciplinary action immediately. They will also be subject to other disciplinary actions, depending on the severity of the offense.

*Students who cause continual disruptions to rehearsals may be removed from the choir program.*

# Grading Policy

## Daily Grades:

### Participation

Students will be assigned a participation grade each week. The rubric for the participation grade is on the right side of this page. Grades can be assigned between levels to more accurately reflect student classroom performance.

### Turn-In Grades

Students may be assigned a grade for turning in a required form or paper. Each school date after the assigned turn in date 10 points will be deducted from the grade. If there is an extenuating circumstance preventing a student from turning in the assignment on time, Mr. Wheelock needs to be informed in a timely manner.

**100%** - Student is always singing with correct tone and proper hand-signs/posture. Student is always listening attentively during instruction.



**80%** - Student is usually singing with correct tone and proper hand-signs/posture. Student is usually listening attentively during instruction.



**60%** - Student is sometimes singing with correct tone and proper hand-signs/posture. Student sometimes fails to listen attentively during instruction.



**40%** - Student is rarely singing with correct tone and proper hand-signs/posture. Student regularly fails to listen attentively during instruction.



**0%** - Student is not singing with correct tone and proper hand-signs/posture. Student refuses to listen attentively during instruction.

## Test Grades:

### **Formal Concerts**

Formal Concerts (Fall, Winter, Pre-UIL & Spring Show) will be assigned as two test grades. One grade reflects the students' performance on stage at the concert, and the other reflects the students' attendance in the audience. If a student misses a formal concert and does not submit a legitimate excuse either before the performance, or directly after, their grades for the concert will both be a 0. The best way to avoid this is to show up to every performance!

**NOTE:** If a legitimate excuse is given in a timely manner (i.e. for schedule conflicts at least a week before the event, for emergencies no more than a week after the event), the student will be able to make up the concert with a written assignment on a music subject of the director's choice\*. Legitimate excuses are: Illness or death in the family. In the case of illness, I will require a doctor's note or a note from a parent/guardian and a phone call to Mr. Wheelock.

### **Additional Performances:**

Additional Performances will be graded by participation as a single test grade. The same procedures apply for students who have a conflict or emergency situation during that performance.

### **Sight-Reading and Singing Tests:**

Throughout the year Mr. Wheelock may assign in class sight-reading and singing tests as well as sight-reading tests. These will be graded for accuracy as a single test grade.

## **CISD Academic Eligibility for Extra-Curricular Activities**

To participate in Extra-Curricular Activities, students are required to maintain a passing average in ALL of their classes. Students' grades will be checked by the school automatically on the date listed.

Students will then either gain or lose (or retain) their eligibility on the effective date listed. A student's eligibility status will remain until the next listed grade check.

**COMING SOON**

# The Choirs of the CHS Choral Department

## **“Forte” (Non-Varsity Tenor/Bass Choir)**

The Non-Varsity Tenor/Bass Choir is a non-auditioned choir comprised of lower voiced students. Any student may sign up for this choir, pending director approval. It is intended to be a good starting place for lower voiced students. Region auditions and Solo/Ensemble are purely optional for this choir.

## **“Bel Canto” (Non-Varsity Treble Choir)**

The Non-Varsity Treble Choir is a non-auditioned choir comprised of higher voiced students. Any student may sign up for this choir, pending director approval. It is intended to be a good starting place for higher voiced students. Region auditions and Solo/Ensemble are purely optional for this choir.

## **“A Cappella” (Varsity Treble Choir)**

Varsity Treble is comprised of higher voiced students who have passed an audition and have shown dedication to the CHS Choral Department. This Varsity level group is steeped in tradition and entry into this choir is very strict. Varsity Treble will compete in all UIL events. They will also perform all around the community and are the “face” of the CHS Choral Department. **Region auditions and Solo/Ensemble will be required for this choir.**

# Required Materials

## Binders

Students will need to bring to **EVERY** rehearsal the following materials:

- 3-Ring Binder (size 1 inch)
  - It is strongly recommended that you mark your name and folder slot number on your binder so that it can be returned to you if lost.
- Pencil (wooden or mechanical)
  - This needs to be sharpened or loaded with lead and ready to go by the time the bell rings.

## Sheet Music

Throughout the year, students will be given sheet music. This music, both original and photocopies, is the property of the CHS Choir Department. As such, the music should be handled with care. At the end of a concert season, the music will be turned back into the choir director so that it can be used again in the future.

Music needs to be kept at all times in your 3-ring binder. This will help keep the music from being damaged. If a piece of music is lost or damaged, the student will be fined for the cost of replacing the music (including shipping).

It is acceptable and recommended that students mark rehearsal notes into their music during rehearsals. The only acceptable tool for marking music is a **Pencil**. Pens, markers, highlighters, etc. are never acceptable for marking music. Music that is marked this way will not be acceptable to turn back in and will be replaced at the cost of the student.

Copy-right Law is very strict about the photocopying of music. Even so, there are instances where photo-copying music is allowed in the law. As a result, occasionally photocopies will be used in rehearsal. These photocopies are to be treated in the same manner as original copies.

## Folder Slots

Every choir member will be assigned a Folder Slot number. This slot will be a place to store their folder between rehearsals. It is not required that a student leave their folder in this slot. Occasionally, some students will be encouraged to take their music home with them to practice, however it is the student's responsibility to bring the music back to every rehearsal. Under no circumstances should a student take music from another student's folder slot.

## Uniforms

Each student will be assigned a concert uniform (either a concert dress or tuxedo). This uniform belongs to the CHS Choir Department and the students are expected to maintain the uniform items throughout the year. At the end of the year each student will return the uniform items prior to exiting the choir program. **Students will be fined for uniform items that are lost or damaged.**

Uniform pieces may be dry cleaned throughout the year at the student's expense but are under no circumstances to be machine washed. Uniforms that are damaged due to machine washing will result in a fine to the student.

Additionally, students will be required to provide their own uniform accessories. Those wearing a tuxedo will provide **black dress shoes** and **black dress socks**. Those wearing a concert dress will provide and wear **black dress shoes** with no higher than a 2" heel.

NOTE: Under no circumstances will tennis shoes/sneakers be allowed.

## Officers

### Choir Officers:

The choir officers are the students chosen by Mr. Wheelock to assist in leading the choir program. They are serving in a position of authority under the director of Mr. Wheelock.

The officers will act as a leadership team. As a group they will be responsible for the promotion of the choir program and choir events, the planning of events, and maintaining a positive morale for the choir program.



The CHS Choir Dept. uses the CHARMS Office Assistant program to keep track of information and communicate with parents and students. Charms can be accessed through an internet connected computer or an Android or Apple mobile device. The program is paid for by the choir department and is free for students and parents to use. Below are the directions for getting access to Charms.

## How to access parent/student information in CHARMS

- Log on to [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com), and click “ENTER / LOG IN” in the upper right corner.
- Locate the “PARENT/STUDENT/MEMBERS LOGIN” section of the web page.
- Login to your student’s program account using the following School Code: **Corsicana**
- This will bring up the main “Public” page. This will allow you to look at the “public” calendar for your organization, event list, and handouts and other “publicly shared” files, as well as a few other options.
- The first time you go here, enter your child’s ID NUMBER (**CHS Student ID**) into the **Student Area Password** field. You will be directed to the Change Password screen, to set a personal password different from the ID, for future use. You may also be directed to create both a unique Username and Password for the student. There are also mechanisms to recover/reset a lost Username/Password – when you create your new password, create a “hint” as well.
- Whenever you enter using this Username/password, another more detailed screen appears, with various button options for you to access areas in the Charms account. What appears here is partially up to the Account Administrator or Head Director.
- **Update Personal Information** – you can make changes to your and your child’s student information page (such as updating phone numbers / cell carriers and email addresses if they change) to help them communicate with you more effectively. You may also be able to indicate which parent volunteer/resource groups you would like to participate in, if this feature is activated. Click **Update Info** to save changes.
- You may also see links to enter **Practice Logs**, view **Grades**, and use the **Recording Studio** if the teacher has enabled these options.
- The **Calendar** may list events, rehearsals, and volunteer/RSVP opportunities.
- Most importantly, the parent page assists both you and the teacher to communicate with each other. Stay up to date on what’s going on with your student!
- You can also download the Charms App to your smartphone – search your App Store for “Charms Parent/Student Portal” (or “**Charms Blue**”). It’s the way to stay in touch on the go!

# Calendar

The CHS Choir Calendar is available through the CHARMS system. Printed calendars are available upon request. Please be aware that calendar dates are subject to change, so check back with the CHARMS calendar for the latest up to date information.

You can set up the CHARMS calendar to sync with your smart phone! Instructions are included below:

iPhone/iPad:

1. Go into the Settings app
2. Touch "Mail, Contacts, Calendars"
3. (For iOS 10 touch "Calendars")
4. Under Accounts, touch "Add Account"
5. On the Add Account screen, touch "Other"
6. Under Calendars, touch "Add Subscribed Calendar"
7. For the Server value, enter the URL of the public calendar:  
<https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/calsynct.asp?s=Corsicana>
8. Touch "Next" in the upper right corner.
9. It will verify the server then show a subscription page. Change the description if you like.
10. Touch "Save" to save the subscription.

Android:

To sync with Android devices, you will need to use your Google account and have a Google calendar created.

1. Open and log in to Google calendar on a real computer:
2. Under "Other Calendars" click the Add link.
3. Select "Add by URL"
4. Enter the following URL:  
<https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/calsynct.asp?s=Corsicana>
5. Click "Add Calendar"
6. Google will begin to sync your calendar, and it will appear on the screen.
7. Click "Settings"
8. Change the long name of the new calendar to something you will remember such as "Charms Calendar"
9. Your phone should automatically be set to sync with your Google calendar.
10. On your phone: Click on "Calendar", then bring up the settings for the calendar. Click on Calendar Sync. You should see your google account listed already. Make sure Auto-Sync is checked.

Instructions for syncing with Blackberry and Windows Phones are also available upon request.

## Sight-Reading Factory



SightReadingFactory.com makes practicing the important skill of sight reading easy, effective and fun! This cloud-based service allows you to customize and generate unlimited sight reading examples instantly, on-demand for music educators, students and hobbyists of all ages and abilities.

Sight Reading Factory can be used on virtually any device through the web browser or with our free native app for iOS devices.

Each student will be provided with a SightReadingFactory account and will be required to complete assignments via this program. If a student would prefer, they may request to use the choir room computer to complete their assignments after school.

## Remind App (formally 'Remind 101')



Remind is a group communication app designed for school groups, and sports teams. Both parents and students are invited to join the CHS Choir remind to stay in the loop with information and announcements. Remind can be accessed via smart phone/tablet apps as well as via the internet. The class code is @chschoir2

## Choir Supply Fee

Every choir member is required to pay a choir supply fee to cover the cost of materials. This fee pays for the choir t-shirt, student sight-reading factory accounts and other individual student supplies. The choir supply fee is **\$20**. More information will be sent home soon regarding the choir supply fee. If you have concerns about the supply fee, please have a parent/guardian speak with Mr. Wheelock.

# **Requirements for Lettering in Choir**

In order to receive a varsity letter in choir, a student must accumulate at least 10 points (see point scale below), be a member of an auditioned choir AND have been in choir for at least 2 semesters. Points are tallied in the CHARMS system. **You (the student) are responsible to make sure you receive credit for completed points. Speak with Mr. Wheelock if you believe that your point tally is incorrect.**

Letters will only be awarded in March, not when the point total has been reached.

Letter jackets are the property of CHS Choirs. All students who earn letter jackets must stay in the choir program through their entire senior year in order to keep their letter jacket. Students who get out of choir before their senior year ends will be required to return their letter jacket.

## **Point Scale: (10 points=Varsity Letter)**

- 1 Point – Perform in a CHS Formal Choir Concert (Fall, Winter, Pre-UIL; per concert)
- 1 Point – Audition for All-Region Choir (per year)
- 1 Point – Compete at Solo/Ensemble Contest (per performance)
- 3 Points – Earn a Class II/III Medal at Solo/Ensemble Contest (per medal)
- 5 Points – Earn a Class I Medal at Solo/Ensemble Contest (per medal)
- 5 Points – Perform in the 9-10 All-Region Honor Choir

## **Instant Lettering for CHS Choir:**

- Earn a rating of a I at Texas State Solo/Ensemble Contest
- Perform in the 9-12 All-Region Honor Choir

**DUE TO COVID-19, MANY POINT EARNING EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED. STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SPEAK WITH MR. WHEELOCK ABOUT ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF EARNING POINTS.**



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

*(Please Print)*

**CHS CHOIR**  
**STUDENT HANDBOOK CONTRACT**

I have read the 2021-2022 CHS Choir Handbook, and I understand what is required. By signing this agreement, I do agree to abide by the rules and requirements for the CHS Choir Program.

Additional copies of the Handbook are available upon request or online at Mr. Wheelock's website as well as via CHARMS.

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form by 8/16/2021**