Welcome to a new school year in the Frenship High School Choral Program! The FHS Choral Program has a prestigious tradition of excellence and we are dedicated to continuing this tradition in the coming 2019-2020 school year. We’re thrilled that you have chosen to take part in that continued success!

The following handbook is designed to outline the policies, expectations and opportunities for all FHS Choir students. Memos will be sent to you via Remind and Charms throughout the year as reminders of choir policies and upcoming events along with more detailed rehearsal schedules.

After you have read through the handbook, please complete the handbook form and submit to your assigned choral director by August 23, 2020.

It is going to be a great year! We’re so excited to get to know you all! With your help and support, we will continue the FHS Choir legacy of excellence!

Blessings,

Amy Moss
amoss@frenship.us
806-866-4440 ext. 1027

Angela Bradford
abradford@frenship.us
806-866-4440 ext. 1028

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WEBSITE INFORMATION:
http://frenshiphschoir.weebly.com/
Check out our website for calendar and updates on current events!

SCHOOLOGY:
All forms and handbook will be available through Schoology. Students will have an assigned log-in to Schoology.

Student Username:
first name.last name##@frenship.net
(first and last name and last 2 digits of student ID #)

Password: Network password
(Passwords can be reset in the library)
The study and practice of choral music is a highly disciplined and technically challenging art form. It offers unique opportunities for students to develop self-expression and communication abilities as individuals while contributing to the success of a large group. Our goal is to provide each student with the necessary skills to express himself/herself through music while developing the technical requirements of choral musicianship. This will be accomplished through instruction in the three major disciplines of art.

KNOWLEDGE
- Theory & Sight-reading – Students will be able to read and understand musical notation.
- Music History – Students will learn basic music history as it pertains to the music being prepared for concert.

SKILLS
- Vocal Technique and Development – Students will learn various vocalizes, exercises, solo/ensemble repertoire and a varied repertoire of choral music designed for improving vocal abilities and maintaining lifelong vocal health. Students will learn about the mechanisms of the voice and how to identify the musculature and breath management needed to create a healthy tone for all genres of singing. This includes but is not limited to classical style, contemporary style (Pop), and Broadway style.

EXHIBITION
- Performances – Students will perform as individuals, in small ensembles or with a full chorus. Each performance will exercise the knowledge, skills and expressive demands required of the music.

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR THIS CLASS
1. 1 inch 3-ring binder (any color you wish).
2. Pencils
3. Men: White tux shirt, black dress shoes, black socks
4. Women: Black, flat closed-toed dress shoes

FEES
1. Choir Fee $25.00
2. Solo & Ensemble Fee entry (free)/$15.00 Accompanist (only for those performing UIL Solo)
3. All-Region Fee (Free for those entering the auditions)
4. Spring Trip (if applicable) - Details to follow on trip information
FHS CHOIRS...HOW ARE WE PUT TOGETHER?

VARSITY CHORALE
- Auditioned 10th-12th grade students
- Established history of a strong work ethic and willingness to follow directions
- Established history of maintaining eligibility
- Established history of participation and attendance
- Established ability to sight-sing and read music at an advanced 6A level
- Advanced vocal maturity and technique
- No history of discipline infractions

ADVANCED WOMEN
- 10th-12th grade students working toward auditioning for Varsity Chorale / Director approval required
- Established history of a strong work ethic and willingness to follow directions
- Established history of maintaining eligibility
- Established history of participation and attendance
- Established ability to sight-sing and read music at an advanced 6A level
- No history of discipline infractions

JV CHORALE
- All 10th-12th grade students working toward auditioning for Varsity Chorale
- Previous choral experience not required
- Focuses on the needs of the developing voice and developing sight reader

FRESHMAN VARSITY WOMEN
- Auditioned 9th grade students
- Established history of a strong work ethic and willingness to follow directions
- Established history of maintaining eligibility
- Established history of participation and attendance
- Established ability to sight-sing and read music at an advanced 6A level
- Advanced Vocal maturity and technique
- No history of discipline infractions

JV FRESHMEN WOMEN
- 9th grade students working toward auditioning for Varsity Chorale. Previous choral experience not required.
- Focuses on the needs of the developing voice and developing sight reader

TIGER FRESHMAN CHORALE
- 9th grade men working towards auditioning for Varsity Chorale
- Previous choral experience not required
- Focuses on the needs of the developing voice and developing sight reader

TIGER SHOW CHOIR
- 9th-12th grade students who are interested in more movement, show in performance, competition
- Must be enrolled in one of our three choirs.
- Auditioned course / Director approval required

MADRIGALS
- Auxiliary ensemble
- Auditioned 10th-12th grade students
- Must be enrolled in Varsity Chorale

DUAL CREDIT MUSIC THEORY
- Music Theory and Composition will be studied. Concentration on analysis of music will prep students for college music courses. 10th-12th grade students in Band, Choir, or
previous music or Orchestra experience will benefit from this course. Must be TSI compliant.

MUSIC PRODUCTION I & II
- Auditioned 10th-12th grade students
- Must be enrolled concurrently in an approved choir course
- Established history of a strong work ethic and willingness to follow directions
- Established history of maintaining eligibility
- Established history of participation and attendance
- Established ability to sight-sing and read music at an advanced 6A level
- Advanced vocal maturity and technique
- No history of discipline infractions

CHOIR COUNCIL
- Officers - Must be in Varsity Chorale. Application and interview process required. All Council members are required to attend regular meetings and expected to take an active role in supporting all activities of FHS Choir. Council members are held to an extremely high standard of leadership and conduct as they serve as ambassadors for FHS Choir.
- Section Leaders – To be a section leader, students must audition in class and undergo an evaluation by peers and the director. Section leaders must demonstrate the ability to effectively and positively lead and communicate with peers and adult leadership. Responsibilities include roll check, keep section on task during rehearsal, folder checks, lead sectionals, lead in sight reading, communicate with directors about musical issues. Section leaders are active officers in Choir Council.

THE KEY TO OUR SUCCESS...STUDENTS!

The key to any successful program lies in the students participating in that program. Frenship ISD and the FHS Choral Program have a prestigious history of success and a reputation for excellence. We want to continue the tradition of excellence this year with your FHS Choir student.

Listed below are activities and expectations that all FHS Choir members need to know and understand in order to continue the FHS choral tradition.

- Perform in all major concerts, including: Fall Concert, Christmas Concert, Fine Arts Showcase, Pops Concert, and All School Fall Musical and Spring Choir Musical, and collaborative concerts with our feeder system.

- Perform in the choral contests during the year: All-Region Choir audition (encouraged), Solo & Ensemble (encouraged), UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest.

- Maintain eligibility in ALL classes.

- Attend after- and before-school rehearsals and called sectionals. Advanced notice will be given for you to plan accordingly.

- Develop correct and healthy vocal production for choral and solo singing.
- Develop and maintain sight reading skills.

**GRADING POLICY**

**DAILY GRADES** 40% of six weeks grade  
**QUIZ GRADES** 20% of six weeks grade  
**PERFORMANCES/TESTS** 40% of six weeks grade

**DAILY GRADES INCLUDE:**
- Daily work, written assignments and warm-ups/vocalises  
- Use of correct posture, use of solfege hand signs, pulsing during rhythmic exercises, etc.  
- Active engagement in the rehearsal process  
- Attending before / after school rehearsals  
- Projects

**QUIZ GRADES INCLUDE:**
- Written quizzes—music symbols, rhythmic notation, theory & sight-reading syllabication  
- Rhythm and Sight-reading quizzes  
- Singing quizzes  
- Projects

**TEST GRADES INCLUDE:**
- Written tests—music symbols, rhythmic notation, theory & sight-reading syllabication  
- Rhythm and Sight-reading Tests  
- Singing Assessments and projects

**PERFORMANCES GRADES INCLUDE:**
- Major concerts – REQUIRED FOR ALL CHOIR MEMBERS  
  Students are required to be in attendance for the entirety of the concert (Performance assessment grade / Audience etiquette assessment grade)  
- Major contests – REQUIRED FOR ALL ELIGIBLE CHOIR MEMBERS  
- Various choir clinics – REQUIRED FOR ALL COMPETING CHOIR MEMBERS

**REDO’S**
- Students will have the opportunity to redo assignments/retake assessments for full credit in accordance with District grading policy.  
- Students may complete corrections for ½ credit.

**MAKE-UP WORK**
- See ATTENDANCE POLICY below  
- Students will have two calendar days to complete missing assignments/assessments.

**LATE WORK**
● Students who submit late work forfeit their opportunity to redo assignments/assessments.
● Assignments will not be accepted past one week when the Assignment was due.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Participation in choir is both a co-curricular and extracurricular activity. Co-curricular activities include any outside-of-the-classroom activity that is required by the class (graded). Co-curricular activities that students will be required to attend are concerts and any scheduled after-school rehearsal or clinic. Students do not have to be academically eligible to participate in a co-curricular activity. All Choir students are graded for participation in co-curricular activities.

Extra-curricular activities include any outside-of-the-classroom activity for which academic eligibility is required. Extra-curricular activities may include field trips and competitions.

All Choir members are expected to attend all required rehearsals and performances. Choir is one of the performing arts that is assigned TEKS (Texas Knowledge and Skills). Performances (assessments) are regarded as an extension of what is studied in the classroom. Rehearsals are just as important as the actual performance. Students must participate in both required events. There will be a grade taken at each event for demonstration of rehearsal and performance skills learned in the classroom. Just as a sports team needs all of their athletes to play, Choir needs all of its members to function; Choir is both an individual and team activity.

Tardies and truancy from class will be dealt with according to district policy. Excessive tardies and truancy will prompt an office referral.

Many students are involved in other activities that also demand their time. We understand that Choir may not be the only organization of which you are apart and that you may experience scheduling conflicts throughout the year. Extreme circumstances such as a death in the family or an emergency-type situation will be handled at the director’s discretion. Please understand that an unexcused absence from any required choir event will result in a failing grade. In the event a student does have an unexcused absence from a required choir event, that student will have the opportunity to complete a make-up assignment that will reflect similar expectations to the missed event in accordance with district grading policies (2 calendar days from the date the student returns to school). Failure to complete the make-up assignment at all or in a timely manner will result in a failing grade standing. See GRADING POLICY

In case of a conflict, parents must:

Contact an FHS choir director as soon as you are aware of the conflict:
● amoss@frenship.us / abrardford@frenship.us / skilpatrick@frenship.us
● Choir office at (806) 866-4440 ext. 1027, or ext. 1028, or ext. 1029
BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

As a member of the FHS Choral Program, students are held to a very high standard of excellence. When participating in out-of-school activities, FHS Choir members are serving as ambassadors of FHS and Frenship ISD in our community. FHS Choir Directors take this role very seriously. For this reason, participation in any extra-curricular event is based on both eligibility AND behavior. Directors will work with students, parents and administrators to ensure that every student is given a fair opportunity to participate in all choral activities. Should concerns arise over the course of the year, directors will communicate with all parties involved and work to find solutions that will benefit the individual student and the Choir program as a whole.

TIGER EXPECTATIONS

1. Be on the risers prepared to rehearse before the bell rings (1” 3 ring binder, music, pencil)

2. Keep hands, feet, and objects to self.

3. Be productively involved in the rehearsal process and complete all assignments.

4. Follow directions immediately, with a positive attitude.

5. Respect yourself, others and our learning environment.

OTHER GUIDELINES

☺ DEMONSTRATE TIGER PRIDE IN ALL YOU DO

☺ Keep the Choir room clean and orderly

☺ If it does not belong to you, leave it alone. This includes any equipment, supplies, and instruments that belong to the Choir program.

☺ If you borrowed it, put it back

DAILY PROCEDURAL EXPECTATIONS

A successful classroom is dependent upon daily procedures being established and practiced by every student who enters the room.

Daily procedures are:

● Enter the rehearsal space calmly.
● Place ALL of your belongings in the designated area. This includes all electronic devices!
• Remove all foreign objects from your mouth...including GUM! Because of how actively singers must breathe, there is a risk of asphyxiating gum and choking. CHOEIR IS A “NO GUM ZONE”!
• Pick up any assignments, forms, etc. from the stand as you walk in the room.
• Check / read the board for daily rehearsal agenda and instructions.
• Collect your folder (music, etc.), binder, AND a pencil.
• Be on the risers, ready to rehearse before the bell rings.
• Wait for instructions before turning anything in.
• Raise your hand and wait to be called on before asking questions.
• Ask for permission to leave the rehearsal space.

RESTROOM AND PERSONAL GROOMING POLICY

In an effort to keep students in the learning environment (the Choir room) as much as possible, students will be expected to utilize the passing period between classes to take care of their personal needs, including personal grooming needs. Students are expected to arrive on time and prepared for class. Please plan accordingly.

PERSONAL DEVICE POLICY (includes but is not limited to cell phones)

Students must follow director expectations regarding appropriate usage of personal devices in the rehearsal and performance process. In an effort to minimize disruptions to our learning environment, we respectfully ask that parents be mindful of the personal device policy in place for each ensemble. Ensembles vary in size and design which is why appropriate usage will be determined by the director based on the needs of the ensemble. A written personal device policy for each ensemble will be provided to students and parents and posted on Schoology and our Choir website. Misuse of personal devices is subject to disciplinary action in accordance with FISD Student Code of Conduct.

COMPETITION AND ELIGIBILITY AND EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT

Varsity Chorale, Advanced Women, Freshman Varsity Women, and Tiger Freshmen Chorale are considered competitive UIL Choirs. Students will be expected to uphold these requirements in order to participate in competitions and maintain membership in these competitive ensembles.

1) Attend 90% of all in-class and after-school rehearsals.
2) Meet director’s expectations of ability to be an asset to the choir as a whole.
3) Meet the Frenship ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct and FHS Choir standards of student behavior, conduct and expectations as listed. Any discipline by the school could affect the student’s continued participation. Constant failure to obey rules or show an “advanced” work ethic may cause the student to lose his/her position in these ensembles. DAEP placement for students that are members of Varsity Chorale and Madrigals will result in
automatic removal from these classes to JV Chorale for the remainder of the school year. Students will have an opportunity to audition for these ensembles for the following year. **DAEP placement for all other Choir courses and ensembles** will result in a 6-week probationary period upon returning to campus in which the student will not be allowed to travel or participate in out-of-school activities with the ensemble. Continued infractions will result in removal from the Choir program for all ensembles at the discretion of the director.

4) No Pass, No Play - Grades must be at least a C (70) in every class to be eligible per UIL rules.

5) Student must pass voice testing over a) the music required for competition and b) sight-reading excerpt of director’s choice. Eligibility will be considered at all auditions (See “Auditions”).

**FUNDRAISING POLICY**

1. Students are encouraged but not required to participate in fundraisers throughout the year.
2. Monies raised by the student will be placed in an account for the student.
3. Students may use monies from fundraisers for choir trips and choir activities only!
4. If any parent does not wish their student to participate in fundraising, **they will be expected to cover the student’s cost to attend the annual choir trip in order for the student to attend**.

1. Money that is fundraised **will not be returned** to the student. (UIL eligibility rules and FISD policy)
2. Students who put their personal monies into their account may collect any money left over from their Personal donation.

**TRIPS**

1. Cost and payment schedules will be provided in the fall semester to help students meet trip payment deadlines. Every effort will be made to keep the cost at a reasonable amount.
2. Deadlines for this trip are important to keep in order to maintain trip vendor contracts. It is crucial that students communicate EARLY with the director if he/she cannot meet a deadline.
3. Discipline - The trip is considered an extension of the classroom. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a demeanor that reflects well on Frenship High School and the Choral program. Students are at risk of being removed from trips at the cost of the student and parents if FISD Student Code of Conduct is violated while on a trip.

**BEFORE / AFTER-SCHOOL REHEARSALS**

Top notch concerts, UIL Sweepstakes, Division I ratings, State medals, and musicals take dedication and hard work. To maintain FHS Choirs’ reputation of choral
excellence, extra rehearsals will be required, based on the needs of the ensemble. In the spring semester, Varsity Chorale members will be required to attend Monday night rehearsals for UIL. Each student’s voice is distinctive and helps “flavor” the sound of their respective ensemble. For this reason, it is imperative that every member is present at these rehearsals. If you have a situation that would keep you from attending the extra rehearsals, please visit with your director ahead of time. Let’s see what we can work out together. Consistent lack of attendance and communication from a student member could result in removal from Varsity Chorale for the next semester. Varsity Chorale members are also expected to take an active role in the Choir Spring Musical in some fashion, whether that means performing on stage or helping behind the scenes - the exact type of participation is to be worked out between director and student on a case-by-case basis.

CHOIR CLINICS

Every year, guest conductors will be invited to work with choirs to improve certain areas of our singing. These clinics are mandatory as the conductor will not be able to fix the problem without hearing the full choir. Students will be given advance notice of clinic dates so they may make plans to attend.

AUDITIONS

There are several singing opportunities for which students may audition throughout the school year:

1. Auditioned choir classes (in March / April for following year)
2. Madrigals
   a. You must be in Varsity Chorale to audition.
   b. You must have eligible grades to participate.
   c. You must be able to sight-read at an advanced 6A level and be able to blend with a small group.
   d. You must be able to learn notes and rhythms quickly.
   e. You must demonstrate self-initiative in learning your assigned part.
   f. You must be able to demonstrate independence on a part.
   g. You must be able to demonstrate advanced vocal technique and tone maturity.
   h. This ensemble will have additional rehearsals outside of class time. A rehearsal schedule will be posted in advance.
   i. You must attend rehearsal and actively contribute to maintain membership in the ensemble. Those that do not attend rehearsals or take ownership of their role in the ensemble will be dismissed.
3. All-State Choir - Everyone is encouraged to audition. There are four rounds - District, Region, Pre-Area, Area.
4. Solo & Ensemble – Everyone is encouraged to audition. $15 accompanist fee required.
5. Spring Musical – Any choir student may audition for a leading role. All choir students may participate in the chorus with the understanding that they will attend required rehearsals and performances, and communicate early and often
with the director about conflicts. All students are strongly encouraged to participate in some fashion.
6. Pop Show – solos and ensembles / availability dependent on repertoire chosen.

AUDITION GUIDELINES

1. Students must be prepared! It is up to the auditionee to impress the judges. Never expect a judge to use his/her imagination to guess what it would sound or look like if more prepared.
2. Students will NEVER be allowed to audition with a lead vocal on the track. For instance: Singing on top of Taylor Swift or another singer because student doesn’t have an accompaniment track. (Refer to #1).
3. It is NOT the responsibility of the director to provide material for auditions unless expressly stated for the specific audition.
4. Students must consistently demonstrate a quality work ethic. Students will not be granted a placement if they do not show up regularly for rehearsals, are consistently negative or rude, and/or are consistently ineligible.
5. Auditions that include questionable vulgarity of any kind will not be allowed to continue. Even if the music/moves are approved for another venue, this is a respected school activity and we will show great integrity and class with what we present.

PERFORMANCE DRESS REHEARSAL REQUIREMENT

If you have been selected for a part in the Spring Musical and/or you commit to being part of the chorus, you must attend rehearsals. Choir students that are not performing on stage but are participating in the Spring Musical in some fashion (ie. helping with costumes, make-up, stage crew) must communicate with the director in advance about expectations for rehearsal schedule and how they are to function in the overall format of the musical. At the discretion of the director, based on these reasons, a student who does not attend rehearsals/fulfill their commitment may be prohibited from performing/participating:

1. Safety Issues – Staging for acts such as dances can be dangerous if not rehearsed prior, especially if risers or platforms are being used.
2. Costume Concerns – Without a previous look at a costume under stage lights it leaves only to surprise what the costume will reveal. As the director of the show, I am responsible for everything that happens on the stage. I will not risk an inappropriate situation that could have been fixed or prevented altogether with a dress rehearsal.
3. Stage Size – Unless the performer rehearses on the stage area, we cannot know whether the size of the stage or the number of platforms will accommodate the act. Stage drop-offs are a safety concern when someone is blinded by lights or does not know how to navigate the stage.
4. Technical – A dress rehearsal is called for many reasons, one of them being technical. Our technical crew must see what is going to happen so they can
prepare to make the show run as smoothly as possible. This includes but is not limited to stage crew, make-up team, costume team, etc.

5. Responsibilities - Students who wish to perform are to show responsibility by being at called rehearsals for their safety and success. If a student does not have a ride to the rehearsal it is their responsibility to notify the director ahead of time or find another way. If they chose to not communicate with Mrs. Moss or arrange another type of transportation, they are giving up their right to perform/participate. There is no credible venue in the performance world that would not make a performer/stage crew come to a dress rehearsal before the performance.

UNIFORMS / PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

INFORMAL UNIFORM (all Choir students) CONSISTS OF:
- Choir T-Shirt
- Jeans – plain, blue, (no holes or designs)
- Tennis Shoes or closed-toe shoes (no boots, sandals, slides)

Choir members will wear their informal uniforms for the Pop show and for various choral activities/competitions, with the exception of our formal concerts and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. *The cost of the Choir T-shirt is included in the Choir fees.*

FORMAL UNIFORM

1. Students will be issued a formal uniform by the director. Formal uniforms will remain the property of the FHS Choral Department and are to be returned in the same documented condition as when assigned. The student is responsible for the care and maintenance of all issued items.

2. Uniforms will be returned DIRECTLY to the FHS Choral Department after the final competition in the spring semester. If any item is lost, stolen, or damaged, the student must pay to replace that item. Students will not be able to register for classes the next fall or be allowed to graduate if they have not returned a choral uniform.

**MEN**
- Black Tux Jacket
- Black Bow tie
- White Tux Shirt
- Black Tuxedo pants
- **Dress shoes – black
- **Socks - black

**WOMEN**
- Formal Dress – black
- **Dress shoes – black, flat, closed-toe

**student responsibility**
Parents: We have received and read the Choir Handbook and understand and accept the responsibilities, requirements and rules set forth by the Frenship HS Choral Program. We understand that there are required performances and rehearsals outside of the school day, and will arrange for transportation to and from these events as necessary.

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Printed Parent / Guardian name

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Parent / Guardian signature of acceptance Date

Choir Students: I pledge to be in compliance with the responsibilities, requirements and rules set forth by the Frenship HS Choral Program and fulfill my commitments to the Choir. I understand that failure to adhere to the rules and expectations of Frenship ISD, FHS, and the Choral Program will result in either removal from an advanced choir to a beginning choir or removal from the FHS Choral Program. I will take responsibility for arranging transportation to and from FHS Choral required events.

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Student signature of acceptance Date

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Printed Student name

Choir Dues: $25.00
Includes t-shirt that we will wear for special days and for the POPS Concert.

(Additional shirts will be sold for $15.00 each.)

Please send your $25.00 payment with your student.

☐ I am paying with a check - make payable to FHS CHOIR
   Check number __________

☐ I am paying with cash

☐ I am paying with credit card - www.myschoolbucks.com
   Log into your account or create one. Look for “HS Choir Dues”