

Bowman Choir Department Table of Contents

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August 8, 2005

Dear Choir Parents,

We are pleased that your child will be a part of the Bowman Choir Department this year. Involvement in the choir is not only educational for your child, but choir brings an opportunity to be a part of one of the outstanding fine arts organizations at Bowman. With the privilege of choir membership, comes the responsibility of outstanding citizenship, leadership skills, teamwork, and academic success. Enclosed in the Choir Handbook are several pieces of information that will help you understand the choir department. **Please return the BLUE forms at the end of this packet by Wednesday August 17.** This includes:

- 1) Handbook Acknowledgement Form
- 2) Charms Website information Form
- 3) Travel Release Form
- 4) T-Shirt Form (with \$7.00 attached)
- 5) Guidelines for District Extracurricular Activities Form
- 6) Parent Volunteer Form (optional)

The choir information is also available on the following website: www.charmsmusic.com and the login is BowmanMSChoir. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call or e-mail. Thank you so much for your cooperation and support of the choir at BMS. See you at Open House, Parent Observation Day during choir class, Choir Cookout, and the Concerts!

Respectfully,

Directors: **Ange Defee**
 (469) 752-4908
 adefee@pisd.edu

Vanessa Perez
 (469) 752-4910
 vperez@pisd.edu

Go to our information site at:
www.charmsmusic.com
Parent Login: BowmanMSChoir

Syllabus

Students will learn proper vocal technique for solo and choral singing, sight-reading skills, music history appreciation, music terminology, internalization of beat through movement, and appropriate rehearsal and concert behavior. Using choral music as our subject matter, we will learn how to:

? **PERFORM:** Using proper vocal technique, style, and variety of historical periods

? **READ/WRITE:** With text, music notes, and musical rhythms

? **CREATE:** Improvise, compose

? **LISTEN:** Describe, Analyze, Evaluate

? **BE CULTURALLY DIVERSE:** Learn about other art forms and disciplines

In addition to the study and improvement of the above musical elements, the Bowman Choral Department has the following goals for student development: Ability to work as a team, appreciation for all performing arts, acting responsibly with good citizenship and self-discipline, and building positive self-esteem. If a student wholeheartedly participates in choir, he or she will not only become a great musician, but will gain insight into how music can enrich life and be a medium through which self-expression can happen!

BMS Tentative 2005-2006

6th grade Choir Calendar

August

- 8-12 – School starts, Private vocal lessons sign-up
- 15-26 – **Choir fundraiser starts** (cookie dough and cheese cake)
- 15 – Private Voice lessons start
- 17 – Choir Handbooks due
- 29- Fundraising Money and Forms DUE
- 25 –Open House 6:00-8:30 pm
- 30 – Parent Observation Day during the student’s choir class

September

- 1- **Bob W. Park Choir and Family Cookout** 6:00-8:00 pm
- 23 – Parent/Teacher Conference Day
- 27 - 3:30-4:30 Combined 6th grade Rehearsal on stage QUIZ GRADE (4:30-6:30 you must leave BMS campus for dinner on your own!)
- 27 – 6:30 pm 6th Grade Fall Demonstration Concert TEST GRADE

October

- TBA - Cookie Dough and Cheese Cake Delivered to Bowman Choir Rooms **YUM YUM!!!**
- 14 – 6th grade Honor Choir Auditions (during class)
- 18 – 7:30 am 6th Grade Honor Choir rehearsal (EVERY Tuesday)

December

- 1– 7:30 am Honor Choir Rehearse for Mall Trip in the choir room
- 2 – 6th Grade Honor Choir sings and eats lunch at **Collin Creek Mall**
- 8 – 7:30-8:20 am 6th grade Rehearsal in the choir room QUIZ GRADE
- 9 – 3:30-4:30 Rehearsal on stage QUIZ GRADE
- 9 – Formal Holiday Concert 6:30 pm 6th grade concert TEST GRADE
- 13-17 **Choir Auctions**
- 13-17 **Pizza Party** for Class with the most points on the scoreboard

January

- 27– **Medieval Times** Trip (after school)

March

- 1– 3:30-5:00 pm 6th grade rehearsal on stage
- 2 – 6:30 pm 6th grade show
- 3- 6th grade sight reading auditions start

May

- TBA– **Sandy Lake Amusement Park** Choir Festival for 6th grade students
- 10 – 7:30-8:20 am 6th grade rehearsal QUIZ GRADE
- TBA – End of the Year Concert 6th grade at 6:30 pm TEST GRADE
- 16-20 **Choir Auctions/Pizza Party** for the class with the most points on the scoreboard

BMS Tentative 2005-2006

7th and 8th grade Choir Calendar

August

- 8-12 – School starts and Private vocal lessons sign-up
- 15-19 – Private vocal lessons start
- 15 – Choir fundraiser starts (cookie dough and cheese cake)
- 17 – Choir Handbooks Due
- 25 –Open House 6:00-8:30 pm
- 29 - Fundraising Money and Forms DUE
- 30 – Parent Observation Day during the student’s choir class,
- 31 –Sign up for Solo and ensemble private lessons before and after school

September

- 1- **Bob W. Park Choir and Family Cookout** 6:00-8:00 pm
- 1 – Start before and after school private lessons for solo and ensemble participants)
- 10 – 9:00-2:00 All-Region Choir Camp at Plano West
- 23 – Parent/Teacher Conference Day
- 28 – 3:30-4:30 pm combined rehearsal on stage QUIZ GRADE
- 28 – 8:00 pm Fall Concert on stage TEST GRADE (7:30pm Warm-up)

October

- (Private lessons before and after school for s and e participants)
- 13 –7/8 grade students ONLY with tickets leave for the **Fair Park musical “Wicked”**
- 17 - All Region Sign up and lessons before and after school
- 22 – 7/8 grade ONLY **6 Flags Trip**
- TBA - Cookie Dough Delivered to Bowman Choir Rooms

November

- (All-Region Choir private lessons before and after school)
- 5 – Solo and Ensemble Contest at BOWMAN

December

- 3 – All Region Auditions at Blalack Middle School in Carrollton
- 8 – 3:30-5:00 pm combined rehearsal on stage Quiz Grade
- 9 – 7:30-8:20 am combined rehearsal in choir room
- 9- Formal Holiday Concert 8:00 pm
- 13-17 **Choir Auctions /Pizza Party** for Class with the most points on the scoreboard
- TBA - possible performance at Administration Building

January

- 9 – 6:00-8:00 pm Concert Choir rehearsal at PESH
- 10 – 6:00-8:00 pm, Tenor/Bass Choir rehearsal at PESH
- 12 – Tenor/Bass 5:15 Call at PESH, 6:00 pm Concert
- 12 – Concert Choir 7:15 Call at PESH, 8:00 pm Concert
- 18 – All-Region Choir Members Practice 4:30-6:30 pm at Wilson M. S.

21 – All-Region Choir Clinic and Performance 8:00am Clinic, 5:30 Concert at Lewisville H.S.
27– Medieval Times Trip (after school)

February

6- Demo Concert Day, a grade choir performs for 5th graders during the class day

March

TBA – A choir sings during the international assembly

16 – Pre-PISD Festival at Clark High School (after school)

20-24 Clinicians will work with choirs during class, before, or after school

29-30 PISD Choir Festival during school time and day TBA

April

3 – Start Sight-Reading Auditions for 2006-2007 choir members

May

6 – **Hawaiian Fall Trip** 7/8 grade ONLY

9– 7:30-8:20 am rehearsal on the stage QUIZ GRADE

10 – 3:30-5:?? pm rehearsal on the stage QUIZ GRADE

11 – End of the Year SHOW at 8:00 pm TEST GRADE

16-20 **Choir Auctions /Pizza Party** for the class with the most points on the scoreboard

Classroom Guidelines

Everyday Procedure

1. Enter room in an orderly manner and put belongings on or under the table
2. Get folder, portfolio, and pencil from your folder slot and quietly sit in your assigned seat before the bell rings
3. Work on portfolio questions
4. Rehearsal begins when warm-ups are started
5. Students will be dismissed when instructed by the teacher
6. Dismissal:
 1. When instructed, put folder, notebook, and pencil in correct slot
 3. Return to assigned seat
 4. Wait to be dismissed from the class
 5. Quietly walk out of the room

Everyday Rules

1. Sit in assigned seat with folders and pencil before the bell rings
 - ? Many instructions and procedures are covered at the beginning of class.
 - ? The better prepared everyone is for class, the more we can accomplish as a group.
2. Raise your hand to speak and use secret codes to leave your seat.
 - ? Social talking and blurting out are distractions that prevent learning.
3. Follow instructions the first time they are given.
 - ? Listening to instructions the first time, saves time.
4. Stay in assigned seat unless you have received permission to leave it.
5. Be courteous, positive, supportive, and respectful of fellow choir members.
(Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself.)
 - ? Positive attitudes yield success.
6. No gum, candy, food, or drink are to be in your mouth in the choir room.
 - ? A foreign substance (gun, candy, pen cap, etc.) in the mouth while singing can create a serious health hazard.
7. Participate to the best of your ability everyday.

Consequences

Students begin each week with a 100% participation grade. Failure to follow the rules will result in a **ten-point deduction** *each time* the student must be corrected. Below is a list of consequences based on the severity of the disruption.

1. Name Down/Warning (-10 points)
2. Time Out/Alternate Assignment (-20 points)
3. 30 minute Choir Detention/Parent Call (-30 points)
4. 1 hour Detention/Parent Call (-40 points)
5. Parent Teacher Student Conference/Behavior Contract

Detentions/Referral/Behavior Contract

If a detention is issued, the student will be asked to sign a detention form. Then the teacher will sign the form and the student will take the form home for their parent to sign and bring back the next day. Choir detention will be assigned either before school (7:55-8:25am) or after school (3:35-4:05pm). **If an assigned detention is not served or if a detention slip is not signed by a parent and returned, the detention time will be doubled to an hour.** Failure to serve an hour detention results in a discipline referral to the administrative intern.

? *Being tardy or chewing gum will result in an automatic detention!*

? *Assaulting another student or teacher (physical or verbal) will result in an immediate referral to the administrative intern—Yikes!!*

? *Students who are consistently not on task may be put on a choir behavior contract.*

Agenda Hall Pass

Improving in choir requires 100% participation everyday. As the Bowman Choir Department increases in size, new challenges will occur. One challenge is students who need to leave their seat. When students leave the classroom to: Go to the restroom, get supplies, use the telephone, or any other reason, they are not participating in class and disrupt the flow of learning. To ensure better participation in choir and less interruptions the following system will be used.

Choir student can leave the choir room to get supplies or go to the restroom **ONLY** if they have their Bowman agenda with them. **This is a school policy!!!** **Agendas need to go with you to EVERY class.** Students in the hallway **MUST** have their agendas signed by the teacher. If a student comes to class without their agenda, then they will not be allowed to leave the room unless an emergency occurs. Choir students can leave their seat to go to the restroom only **TWO TIMES** each semester. Any student who chooses **not to use their agenda to leave the room, can earn \$20.00 per choir auction.** (Choir Auctions are described later in this letter) Agendas that are lost or stolen must be replaced by the student.

Leaving your seat

Secret codes will be used to get tissues or sharpen your pencil. You **MUST** get permission to leave your seat or you will get points taken off your grade. This helps insure learning and full class participation with less disruptions.

Supplies

Students need to supply their own pencils to go in the choir folder. The Bowman Choir Department will provide a portfolio folder and a three-ring-binder. All choir supplies are stored only in the choir room. No backpacks will be allowed in class. All supplies are needed daily. Students are responsible for the upkeep of all materials. **Any lost or damaged materials will be replaced by the student.**

During the school year we will have periodic pencil and folder checks for a quiz grade.

Grading Procedure

DAILY GRADES = 25%

Daily Participation, Attitude, and Behavior

TEST and QUIZ GRADES = 75%

Performances, portfolio worksheets, written quizzes/tests, sight-reading, and tests
pencil/folder checks

Major concert performances and rehearsal are the equivalent of a major test grade. They are the culmination of many hours of class rehearsals. They are part of the class curriculum and, therefore, are graded. Extra Rehearsal will count as a **QUIZ** grade and Performances will count as a **TEST** grade. Students who must miss performances or extra rehearsals **MUST** provide the choir teachers with a note, signed by a parent **AND** write an alternate assignment OR they will get a **ZERO** and FAIL CHOIR. We hope the students will sincerely give themselves a chance to be successful by practicing and working toward a common goal. **Have pride in what you do!**

Choir students are expected to display good citizenship on campus at all times. Students who are assigned ISS (In School Suspension) or OSS (Out of School Suspension) on the day of an on campus concert will not be permitted to participate. The student may attend off campus choir trips and performances only after a probation period.

Choir Uniforms

Formal Concert Uniform:

Boys = ? Pressed black or navy blue dress slacks with a belt. (No blue jeans.)
? White buttoned-down dress shirt with collar and long sleeves, tucked in.
? Black hard-soled dress shoes with black dress socks. (No athletic shoes.)

Girls = ? Pressed black or navy blue dress slacks with a belt or a black skirt that is below your knee (No blue jeans.)
? White buttoned-down dress shirt with collar and long sleeves that is tucked in or white blouse with ¼ length sleeve. (No low cut blouses allowed on stage.)
? Black hard-soled dress shoes with a maximum of 1.5 inch heel. (No flip-flops or athletic shoes.)

Informal Uniforms:

Boys and Girls ? One **\$7.00** Choir t-shirt tucked into jeans with a belt or costumes assigned by teacher. (No flip-flops)

****If your child has outgrown or gotten tired of any clothing that fits the description above, please consider donating those clothes to the choir department.*

Fun Stuff During Class

Choir Cash and Auctions

When students are spotted doing the right thing, they may be rewarded with a dollar or more of choir cash. There is two choir auctions scheduled so far, but we could add more auctions depending on how well we do with our fund-raiser in August. During an auction, students can buy all sorts of fun toys, treats, and games. The more cash you have the better your chances of getting goodies in the auction! Students should write their names on their choir cash and keep it in a safe place so that no one steals it! Choir cash that is lost or stolen cannot be replaced!

Pizza Party Scoreboard

Each semester a scoreboard will be posted. Everyday that a class has perfect behavior and 100% participation from all class members, a point will be added to the scoreboard. The class with the most points will earn a free **pizza party** during class at the end of each semester!!!

Choir Super Stars

One student is chosen as a super star each 6 weeks and gets \$10.00 in choir cash. The super star is in charge of asking the teacher at the end of class if the class gets a point on the scoreboard for a pizza party.

Quote Wall

The quote wall is to let students know what people think about the Bowman Choir Department. We invite all parents, relatives, and friends, to e-mail us opinions about our performances so we can post it on our quote wall in the choir room to continue the positive growth and development of these students.

Cookie Dough and Cheese Cake .Fundraiser

Starting this year we have **ZERO** dollars in the choir student activity account. We need **MAJOR** help to defray costs for **contests and festival performances, busing, technical costs, student awards, treats, pizza parties for winning classes, choir auction prizes, and scholarships** for students who can't afford voice lessons or region/solo and ensemble fees. We really NEED to have a successful fundraiser this year. Our fund-raiser this year is selling cookie dough AND cheese cake from August 15-29. This money helps Bowman choir students ONLY!!!

Please do your part and help us meet our fundraising goals this year!!! If you can not participate in selling items for our fundraiser and still want to give money, then DONATE money by writing a check to PISD, we will give you a receipt for tax deduction purposes.

6th Grade

Extracurricular Choral Activities

There are several activities in which choir students are encouraged to take part. All of these activities are considered extra curricular so they are **NOT REQUIRED**; but these activities will enrich the choir experience. **Students must pass all classes and be in good standing with the school to participate in extracurricular activities!!!**

6th Grade Honor Choir – Cost (Lunch money for Mall Trip)

This Choir is an auditioned group make up of the finest 6th grade Bowman Choir members. The audition consists of singing a portion of a song and sight reading using hand-signs. This group will meet on Tuesday mornings from 7:30-8:20 am to prepare new and old songs for concerts at Collin Creek Mall and the Winter Concert in December. If a student is consistently late or misses a rehearsal more than one time, then they will be kicked out of the Honor Choir. A letter signed by the parent is also expected when you enter late or miss a morning rehearsal. Communication is the key to success. All 6th graders are strongly encouraged to audition for this exciting opportunity!

Private Voice Lessons-

Cost: \$16 for weekly lesson

Deposit: \$53 for first month's lessons (\$48) and once-yearly supply fee (\$5)

Megan Coe, an experienced singer and voice teacher, is offering 22 minute private voice lessons during most choir classes. Ms. Coe is a graduate of Austin College with a B.A. in Music and History and is currently finishing her M.A. in Vocal Performance at Texas Woman's University. Ms. Coe has taught privately and at local schools for the past three years and also enjoys a career as a soloist. Students who are conscientious musicians are encouraged to study privately. Those interested in contests and solos are strongly encouraged. If your student is interested in taking lessons, please fill out Ms. Coe's *Voice Lesson Enrollment Form* and return with the deposit to Miss Defee or Miss Perez by Friday August 12. Since there is limited studio room, Ms. Coe will be accepting students on a first come, first served basis. The first students from each class period to turn in their form and deposit will begin lessons the following week. Students enrolled in voice lessons will improve musically and vocally in terms of better basic musicianship, posture and breathing for singing, vocal skills, sight singing, basic theory skills, memorization, and practice and performance skills. Don't miss out on this opportunity. Contact Miss Defee about available scholarships for qualified students.

7th and 8th Grade

Extracurricular Choral Activities

There are several activities in which choir students are encouraged to take part. All of these activities are considered extra curricular so they are **NOT REQUIRED**; but these activities will enrich the choir experience. **Students must pass all classes to participate in extra curricular activities!!! Scholarships are available if needed.**

**Solo/Ensemble Contest – Cost \$5.00 solo fee / \$5.00 ensemble fee
(Possible piano fee for soloists)**

Students will prepare and perform a song for a judge either alone or with a small group on October 29. The judge will give the student a rating (I, II, or III) based on how well the music is prepared. Private voice instruction with one of the Bowman Choir Directors both before and after school is expected for each student to be successful at this competition. All 7th and 8th graders should participate if possible!!! **Students must be passing all of their classes, sign a commitment contract, work before and after school, have their music prepared, and pay for the solo and ensemble fee and the piano accompanist fee.**

All-Region Choir – Cost \$7.00 entree fee and music packet cost if you make it.

This choir is an auditioned group made up of the finest singers in the area. Students will prepare a portion of an audition piece and will sight-read to audition for this choir. There will be two rehearsals and a performance that happens outside of school time for all students who become a part of this group. Students will need to spend some before and after school practice time preparing for this with their choir teacher. All 7th and 8th graders are strongly encouraged to audition!!! **Students must be passing, sign a commitment contract, work before or after school, make the Bowman Audition cut, have the music prepared, and pay for the Region Fee and Region Music Packet.**

Private Voice Lessons-

Cost: \$16 for weekly lesson

Deposit: \$53 for first month's lessons (\$48) and once-yearly supply fee (\$5)

Megan Coe, an experienced singer and voice teacher, is offering 22 minute private voice lessons during most choir classes. Ms. Coe is a graduate of Austin College with a B.A. in Music and History and is currently finishing her M.A. in Vocal Performance at Texas Woman's University. Ms. Coe has taught privately and at local schools for the past three years and also enjoys a career as a soloist. Students who are conscientious musicians are encouraged to study privately. Those interested in contests and solos are strongly encouraged. If your student is interested in taking lessons, please fill out Ms. Coe's *Voice Lesson Enrollment Form* and return with the deposit to Miss Defee or Miss Perez by Friday August 12. Since there is limited studio room, Ms. Coe will be accepting students on a first come, first served basis. The first students from each class period to turn in their form and deposit will begin lessons the following week. Students enrolled in voice lessons will improve musically and vocally in terms of better basic musicianship, posture and breathing for singing, vocal skills, sight singing, basic theory skills, memorization, and practice and performance skills. Don't miss out on this opportunity. Contact Miss Defee about available scholarships for qualified students.

REQUIRED INFORMATION

COMPLETE and RETURN BLUE PACKET

To your choir teacher

By Wednesday August 17

Parent and Student Signatures

I (PARENT AND STUDENT) have read and understand the information in the choir handbook regarding choir grading policy, concert attendance policy, concert dates, and concert clothing. In addition I have read, understand, and filled out the information needed on the FRONT AND BACK page of the stapled BLUE sheets.

Parent Signature

Student Signature

I understand that my child will be videotaped for: Educational use in the classroom, educating parents on what choir class is like during open house, and to promote the Bowman Program around the district. (If you do not agree with the above statement, please call Miss Defee 469-752-4908 so we can make alternate plans.)

PLUS...

I understand that Miss Defee is working on her Masters in Music at TWU and wants to use some students in a video to teach about choral music. My child (circle one)

CAN / CANNOT participate in this educational video about choir.

Parent Signature _____

Choir T-shirt Form

Fill Out and Return with \$7.00 attached
By Wednesday August 17

My BMS Choir t-shirt is for choir performances, off campus trips, and choir spirit days. Enclosed is my check or cash in the amount of \$7.00 per shirt. Make checks payable to **Plano ISD**. The form and attached money are due by August 17. Please put your student's name and student ID number in the "memo" blank on the check.

Student's **PRINTED** Name _____
(*Print First and Last Name*)

Parent's Name _____
Choir Period _____ Payment by check _____ cash _____

Circle your Teacher:
Defee or Perez

Circle an ADULT T-shirt below (These are men's sizes)
Small Medium Large X-Large XX Large

**Please call Miss Defee or Miss Perez if this is of financial concern to you so we may help.*

PARENTS:

State law says that when we have an event we must provide one adult to every ten students. If you would like to volunteer to help support our thriving choir program, please fill out your name and number, then CHECK the ways that you could a difference in another child's life. **If we do not get enough parent support, then events will have to be cancelled. We can not and will not put your children in HARMS way by not having enough adults present at an event. With 300 students and only 2 choir teachers, it is simple to see why we need your help.**

To make an excellent choir program the teachers and the students need your support with attending concerts on and off campus, chaperoning rehearsals and fun events, decorating for concerts, and volunteering during the school day at Bowman. **Thank you for making a difference in the life of 300 children.** Without you we would not be as strong as we are. Thanks for your time and dedication to the arts. We are very proud of our students and want our community to know that the Bowman Choir students are exceptionally talented and dedicated to continuing the "LEGACY OF SUCCESS" at Bowman Middle School!!!

Parent _____ Daytime# _____ Nighttime# _____
Student Name _____ Choir Period _____

Volunteers Needed For: *(Check all that you would consider.)*

FOOD

- Bring food and drink to a choir party
- Cook food for Choir Cookout at Bob W. Park

CHAPERONING

- Chaperone, or set-up food for Choir Cookout at Bob W. Park
- Chaperone a trip
- Chaperone Rehearsal/Concert: Sign-ins and watching students before/after school

CONCERTS

- Video the concerts so that we can watch it in class the next day.
- Decorate for the concert (Stage or costumes)

COMPUTER SKILLS

- Type the choir program with student's names and the songs in it
- Organizing our Music Library for the charms online site
- Entering in information in the charms online site or helping with website

FUND-RAISING COUNTING SKILLS

- Fundraising counting and paperwork, help during school

DONATIONS

- Donating black/white formal concert clothes that your child can't wear.

OTHER TALENTS OR CONNECTIONS _____
