



2024-2025

Sara Proodian- Director

Roland Rodriguez- Assistant Director

Welcome to the Paetow High School Choir!!

Welcome to the Paetow High School Choir!! Membership in this program provides many privileges and opportunities for choir students as well as responsibilities and expectations. This Choir Handbook is for reference throughout the school year. *The hand book will be available online through Canvas and the NEW PHS Choir Web Page. If you would like a hard copy, please submit a request via e-mail to the choir office and one will be sent home with your child. saraoproodian@katyisd.org*

Our Program Objectives are:

...to develop individual potential in the use of music as a means of self-expression and communication.

...to learn vocal technique and how to apply its use to a wide variety of repertoire.

...to learn to use the solfege system of sight-reading as well as basic music history relevant to the music prepared for a concert.

...to offer the opportunity to perform as an individual, in small ensembles, and as a full chorus.

...to provide one of the most enjoyable activities of the high school experience.

How do we communicate?

CANVAS

Canvas will be vital for all students to use this year in all classes. We will use Canvas frequently. If you are new to Katy ISD your child will receive their login and password at the beginning of the year and most classes will show each student how to access their portfolio. Please check the Choir Canvas Page often.

Most Announcements, Assignments, Rehearsal tracks, the calendar as well as communication will all be handled through Canvas.

TAC/HAC

I will send e-mails through the TAC every once in a while as needed. I much prefer to use Canvas. If you are not following or monitoring your child on CANVAS, please do so!

If you are not receiving emails through the HAC- you need to check with the PHS Registrar to find out what is happening!

Remind

All choirs will have an individual REMIND group that students need to join. This will be used for quick reminders and/or changes to posted plans! Parents are encouraged to join the REMIND as well!

PHS Choir Website

The PHS Choir website is where you can find the most up to date information about the choir program all in one place! It has information about concerts, social events, the booster club, and updates about the great things happening in Paetow Choir. Please take some time to visit the website and learn more about PHS Choir.

www.paetowhschoir.com

CHOIR CLASS STRUCTURE

Concert Women

This Choir is primarily 9th grade female students as well as students who are new to choir and are still developing independent reading and singing skills. Students in this choir will be strongly encouraged to participate in Solo and Ensemble. This class will have the opportunity to participate in the TMEA Path to All State, UIL Concert & Sight-Reading, as well as Coffee and Carols and the Spring Trip!

Concert Men

This Choir is primarily 9th grade male students as well as students who are new to choir and are still developing independent reading and singing skills. Students in this choir will be strongly encouraged to participate in Solo and Ensemble. This class will have the opportunity to participate in the TMEA Path to All State, UIL Concert & Sight-Reading, as well as Coffee and Carols and the Spring Trip!

Varsity Women

The Varsity Treble Choir is for our most advanced treble singer. Students in this class have a solid grasp on music theory, are confident sight readers and have a well-developed vocal tone and ear. This class will move at a very quick pace. Students in this class must be independent singers who possess a high sense of maturity. This class will participate in the TMEA Path to All State, UIL Solo and Ensemble, UIL Concert & Sight-Reading, Coffee and Carols, as well as recruitment concerts to our feeder junior highs and elementary schools.

Varsity Men

The Varsity Men's Choir is for our most advanced tenor/bass singer. Students in this class have a solid grasp on music theory, are confident sight readers and have a well-developed vocal tone and ear. This class will move at a very quick pace. Students in this class must be independent singers who possess a high sense of maturity. This class will participate in the TMEA Path to All State, UIL Solo and Ensemble, UIL Concert & Sight-Reading, Coffee and Carols, as well as recruitment concerts to our feeder junior highs and elementary schools.

Chorale

Chorale is the UIL Mixed Varsity Ensemble. Students in this class have a solid grasp on music theory, are confident sight readers and have a well-developed vocal tone and ear. This class will move at a very quick pace. Students in this class must be independent singers who possess a high sense of maturity. This class will participate in the TMEA Path to All State, UIL Solo and Ensemble, UIL Concert & Sight-Reading, Coffee and Carols, as well as recruitment concerts to our feeder junior highs and elementary schools.

Because this group is a Mixed group of men and women, the balance is of utmost importance. We can not have 47 sopranos and 2 tenors. There must be a balanced number of singers in each section. Selection for this group is based on maturity, singing ability, attendance, attitude, ability to work with others and of course Balance and Blend.

Please know that placement in the Chorale requires a Monday Night Rehearsal. This is standard practice across KISD for Varsity Mixed Ensembles. Rehearsal times will be set in the fall once we all have our schedules. Normal time will be 5:00- 6:30 PM Attendance will be graded. Students will be allowed 2 excused absences PER CONCERT SERIES.

FORTE

Forte is the Specialty Vocal Ensemble. Students in this ensemble are required to be in Chorale AND Forte. Students in this ensemble go through a rigorous audition process in May of the previous school year. FORTE will have its own Fall and Spring Show, will participate in Coffee and Carols, all Coffee Houses, as well as the TMEA Path to All State process, Solo and Ensemble and performances with our feeder elementary and junior high programs.

CONCERT DESCRIPTIONS

Please look for more detailed information to come home regarding each of these events.

Fall Concert: All Choir Students will perform in this concert. At this concert, all choirs will perform a minimum of 2 prepared pieces. **Estimated Length: 1 hour**

Veterans Day Concert: This concert will be for the Varsity Groups. We will combine with the Varsity Band and Orchestra Ensembles to perform a variety of Patriotic Music to honor the Veterans within our community and beyond. **Estimated Length: 1 hour 30 minutes**

Winter Concert: All Choir Students will perform in this concert. At this concert, all choirs will perform a minimum of 2 prepared pieces. **Estimated Length: 1 hour**

Spring Concert: All Choir Students will perform in this concert. This is a “practice run” for our performance at UIL and Katy Choral Festival contests. Students will perform 3 prepared pieces and the Varsity Treble Choir will do a sight reading presentation to demonstrate the UIL procedure. **Estimated Length: 1 hour**

Spring Show: All Choir Students will perform in this concert. This is a fun-filled revue of pop-style music complete with costumes and choreography. *End of Year Choir Awards will be presented at this concert.* **Estimated Length: 1 hour 30 minutes.**

All students in the choir program are required to attend scheduled concerts as listed on the calendar. Students earn 4 grades as detailed below.

1. Attendance – Major grade

2. Uniform – Minor grade

3. Etiquette – Major grade – this includes ON stage behavior and performance

4. On Time Arrival- Other Grade


· *Choir concerts are a TEKS graded event and as such, a concert takes first priority over extra-curricular activities. A non-school activity is not a valid excuse for missing a choral program or contest. Students are expected to stay until the end of all choir concerts. Please notify your other coaches and teachers (dance, piano, voice, team sports, etc.) of your choir schedule. If there is a conflict with another school activity, the Choir Director will work to solve the issue with the other teacher/coach, as long as timely notification of the conflict has been given.*

· *Please understand that Choir is a Performance Based class. There are no make up's for missed concerts. It is impossible for a written assignment to take the place of a group performance. Much like a team sport, you cannot re-play an entire game because someone was gone. There is no way to recreate a concert experience with a written assignment. The experience of the live group performance is the lesson.*

· **Grading for missed concerts:** *A student who presents a valid reason for missing a concert with proper and timely parental communication will receive EXEMPT grades for the concert. This will not impact the overall average for the grading period. Students who miss a concert with non-valid reasons with or without parent communication- the grade entered will be a 60 for the major grade. Please remember, there are no make ups for a missed concert.*

Commitment to the Choir Schedule: Choir activities are group events that require the participation of all students. Like spokes on a wheel, each student is important to the group. Rehearsing or performing with missing choir members is comparable to playing the piano with missing keys. For this reason, curricular performances and section rehearsals are graded events and require mandatory attendance from each student (refer to section on Grading System).

Conflicting Activities: According to the current school calendar, there are very few conflicts between choir and other Paetow HS events. However, calendars can change. When there are two school events scheduled at the same time, the student must notify the Choir Director at least a week prior to the event in writing before the conflicting school activity. The sponsors of both groups will communicate to assist in resolving the conflict. OUTSIDE events not sponsored by Katy ISD are not excused events for missing a concert.

 **PHS Choir 2024-2025** - This is a live link to the Choir Calendar for the 2024-2025 School year. It will be posted in numerous places as well as sent out via all communication avenues. I personally have this calendar tabbed to the top of my home page as well as linked to my personal google calendar for easy access.

When changes are made, notifications will be sent out as well as reflected in the live Choir Calendar.

CLASSROOM GUIDELINES

- Respect everyone and everything all the time.
- Follow directions the first time they are given.
- Think before you speak.
 - *Is it kind?*
 - *Is it important?*
 - *Is it relevant?*
- Play on our team, not against it.
 - *We are a team, and everyone is important on that team. Do your best to support your team and your teammates.*
- Be ready and set so we can GO!
 - *Have your supplies and be in your assigned seat by the bell so that we can make the most of our time together.*

Consequences

- 1st offense: Verbal Warning, student conference, and entry on discipline form
- 2nd offense: Verbal Warning, student conference, parent contact, and entry on discipline form
- 3rd offense: Verbal Warning, student conference, parent contact, entry on discipline form and office referral

Students may not chew gum at any time in the choir room or on a choir sponsored event. Gum is a choking hazard.

Continual disruption, inappropriate behavior, defiance of authority, or other disregard for school or choir guidelines and policies could result in a parent conference and removal from field trips, social events, or, in extreme cases, the choir program. ****ISS assignment within 3 weeks of a choir trip will exclude a student from traveling with the choir. If payment has been made for said trip, no refunds can be given. This includes all contests as well as spring trips.*** Suspension from school and other serious discipline assignments are reviewed on a case by case basis. These students may be excluded from trips.

Please understand that Mrs. Proodian, as well as a few other students are HIGHLY allergic to certain smells. This includes hand sanitizer, lotions, body sprays, cologne, and perfume. Using such products in the choir room can cause Mrs. Proodian to not only have an asthma attack, but it can also trigger a migraine. It is quite severe and can be devastating. Please refrain from using these products while in the choir room or during a choir function.

Practice Room Guidelines

In order to facilitate a safe environment in the choir room, the following guidelines will be put in place for the 2024-2025 School Year.

- Students will only be allowed to use the practice rooms with director permission.
- Absolutely no food or drink allowed in any practice room.
- Students in practice rooms without permission will lose all practice room privileges for the remainder of the semester.

Our practice rooms are a privilege. They are not a social hang out spot, a napping room, a lunch or snack room.

If you do not have express verbal permission from a director to be in a practice room- DO NOT BE IN A PRACTICE ROOM.

The Booster Closet is completely off limits for any student for the entire year.

Daily Procedures

1. Enter the room quietly.
2. Place your backpack on the floor behind the risers.
3. Turn in any forms or fees due.
4. Get YOUR folder, pencil, and any other required materials. There will be no shared materials. You need to have a pencil with you at all times.
5. Be seated and prepared for class to begin. Complete any pre-bell Warm-up activity.

Cell Phones/Smart Watches

As per Katy ISD and our new 1:1 ChromeBooks, personal electronic devices are NOT allowed in the classroom.

This includes

Cell Phones

Smart Watches

Personal LapTops or computers

We will follow the KISD and Paetow HS Discipline Management Code of Conduct regarding personal electronic devices in the choir classroom.

DO NOT HAVE THEM OUT AND VISIBLE. These should be off and in your back packs at all times.

If we need technology for class, we will let you know as you are walking into the room that you will need your district issued ChromeBook.

ATTENDANCE & GRADING POLICY

Choir is a performance-based class. **It is an easy “A”. However, it is not a LAZY “A”.** You must participate. You must participate with a positive attitude and minimal disruptions. You are never expected to be perfect. You are expected to try! Students earn grades by performing in rehearsals as well as concerts. Students will earn grades in the following areas.

1. Major Grades – Weekly Participation 50%

Student attitude is a major factor in this grade. Students who are disruptive or refuse to participate will see a low weekly participation grade.

2. Minor Grades – Worksheets/ singing tests/ Sight Reading tests 35%

This includes ongoing performance grades, Short/minor written and performance projects/quizzes.

3. Other Grades – Having Materials, Binder checks... 15%

How should I view my child's grade?

95-100	Student actively participates in class; has a positive attitude; prepared and on time to class every day; attempts all work; actions contribute greatly to rehearsal.
94-90	Student actively participates in class; has a good attitude; prepared and on time to class every day; attempts most work; actions contribute positively to rehearsal.
80-89	Student sometimes participates in class; has a fair attitude; sometimes prepared for class; attempts some work; actions do not contribute to rehearsal. Excessive talking and continued disruptions will result in a lower grade.

79-70 Student rarely participates in class; has a poor attitude; is not prepared for class; does not attempt work; actions detract from rehearsal.

69 and below Student conduct in question; student progress in question; attitude is poor.

Students with excessive unexcused absences from school will be precluded from participating in choir events. This is evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

Pencil: Required in class every day.

Folder: For music and papers (provided by Director) – *students must keep binders neat and in good working order. If binders deteriorate, new ones can be purchased from the choir office for \$2.00*

Uniform: Includes PHS Choir Spirit shirt; Detailed information about uniforms follows.

Kleenex: Please bring a box of plain Kleenex. NO LOTION. We use quite a bit in the choir room! And what I can order from the warehouse is the rough scratchy kind.

UNIFORMS

Choir Shirt: All students will receive a PHS Choir Shirt as part of their course fees.

Students will be issued either a choir dress and pearl necklace or a 3 piece tux plus a black shirt and Paetow Blue Tie.

Students will need to provide BLACK DRESS SHOES that are closed toed and closed heeled. Tennis shoes and boots are NOT black dress shoes. If you chose to wear a heel, it must be less than 2 inches.

Black socks must be worn with the tux.

Our goal is to look uniformed and professional! We want to look our best! This is not a fashion show. We will be uniformed in our appearance.

Hair will be neat and tidy for all performances. It does not have to be pinned back. However, it can not fall in your face. If we need to assist you in keeping your hair neat and out of your face for a performance, we will be happy to do so.

The PHS Choir Boosters will have the uniforms professionally cleaned at the end of the school year. If you wish to have your uniform cleaned in between performances

Tux jackets, pants, and vests -MUST BE DRY CLEANED

Black dress shirts and dresses- may be washed on a COLD gentle cycle and HUNG to dry.

MEDICAL & TRAVEL FORMS

The school district requires that each student traveling with the choir have on file Medical/Travel Form. This form is in Rank One.

This video will help you find the RANK ONE site, forms and fill them in.

These MUST be on file before students can participate in ANY social activities, including Choir Olympics!

<https://www.loom.com/share/42014061bc564e5b9fd0d1e00f3f600d>

We take these forms with us on all choir trips.

CHOIR CODE OF CONDUCT

The success of all choir classes is determined by individual and group efforts. The discipline required to achieve this success must be of the highest standard. Proper student behavior is expected at all times. One student's poor conduct affects the entire class, and it will not be tolerated.

Continual disruption, inappropriate behavior, defiance of authority, or other disregard for school or choir guidelines and policies by a Paetow HS Choir member during rehearsals, choir functions, or trips may result in the suspension of that individual from extra-curricular choir activities for the remainder of the school year, and possible dismissal from the choir program. The Director reserves the right to make these decisions.

Paetow HS Choir Operational Costs

Below is a breakdown and explanation of the choir's required fees.

REQUIRED OF ALL STUDENTS UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED

Yearly Operational Cost: \$100.00 – Due on or before September 19, 2024.

\$50- The Course Fee- will be paid through the Pay and Go Tile Program fees for choir are not eligible for fee waivers per KISD.

\$50 - Program Fee- will be paid through the PHS Choir Booster Club Site

You MAY pay in cash or check as well

Every Fine Arts and Athletic program across the district has a Course Fee. Your PHS Choir Course Fee covers the following: Choir Spirit Shirt, Uniform cleaning, repair and replacement, classroom supplies, accompanist for concerts and rehearsals, district, TMEA and UIL travel, required fees and all required activities, sheet music, socials and so much more. The district does give us a small budget, but there is no way it can cover all that it takes to provide a highly successful Choir experience.

Please make checks payable to: PHS Choir Booster Club

If you would like to make payments, please do so. But also please understand that students who do not have payments in the system cannot receive their Choir T-shirt or any part of their Choir Uniform.

Financial Situations should not be a reason a child does not participate in Choir Activities. If you are in a financial situation that we need to be aware of, please contact the choir office so that we may discuss options and solutions in private.

Choir Spirit Shirt: Included in Yearly Operational Cost

This shirt will be new every year and required of all students. It is worn as our travel shirt, and every student must have one. Students will only receive their spirit shirts once their course fee is either paid in full, or an acceptable payment plan has been discussed by the parent to the director.

Items NOT covered in the Operational Cost- These are optional events and have a separate fee.

As these events come into play, we will send home information along with costs.

Solo and Ensemble	Anticipated \$20 per event + accompanist
TMEA Path to All State	Anticipated \$30
Spring Trips	Anticipated \$2500- NYC
Choir Banquet	Anticipated \$30 with Choir Seniors Free

DONATIONS & REFUNDS

We respectfully ask that all payments to the choir in cash are made with exact change, by check, or via CC to the PHS Choir Booster Club. The Choir office does not hold petty cash to make change. **Any overpayments will be considered a donation to the choir program.**

Refunds will only be issued if the vendor has not been paid and/or if the vendor is willing to issue a refund to the choir program. The choir department will not issue refunds for missed events due to academic eligibility or discipline consequence

WHY SING? WHY CHOIR?

Over the course of this year, you will hear a lot about why your child should stay in choir. There are many reasons that choir is beneficial, and you will see it come to fruition in your child. There are numerous studies that conclude that music is a fantastic tool for those who want to achieve.

Music lessons have shown to improve a child's performance in school. Students with coursework or experience in music performance scored an average of 51 points higher on the verbal portion of the SAT than students with no course work or experience in the arts.

“Music is a more potent instrument than any other for education,” _ Plato

Scientists find that music has the ability to train the brain for higher levels of thinking: problem solving, inference, arriving at conclusions, comparing and contrasting, analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating information. **These are some of the same skills that are tested on the STAAR test!!**

Most students do not become professional musicians, but all students remain lifelong lovers of music.

Music is an avenue that prepares students for future professional endeavors. Music makes students competitive in the job market and the global economy. It is something we all need. In 1991, the US Department of Labor issued a report urging schools to teach for the future workplace. The skills and traits recommended (teamwork, self-esteem, communication, creative thinking, imagination, invention) are exactly those learned through the study of music in choir.

A Duke University Admissions Director said “ Please don’t take every AP class your school offers. That won’t help you get into Duke. Make sure you participate in music at your school and show leadership. We want well-rounded human beings here”

Students who are involved in a quality choral program, such as this one, develop the following skills:

- Problem solving
- Communication
- Goal setting
- Coordination
- Self-Confidence
- Self-Discipline
- Critical Thinking
- Teamwork
- Self-expression
- Memorization
- Concentration & Focus
- Conceptualization
- Appreciation of cultural diversity
- Perseverance
- Determination
- Responsibility
- Sensitivity
- Appreciation & love for the Arts

FINAL THOUGHTS

We believe that choir is a seven year process that teaches discipline, responsibility, individual achievement, team spirit, and an appreciation for music that will continue throughout middle school, high school, and into adult life.

We believe that open communication between students, parents, and directors is critical in achieving our common goal of student success. If you ever have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the choir office.

Musically,

Sara O. Proodian

Head Director

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