Tuscaloosa County High Choral Department **Mrs. Ginny Coleman, Director**
Class Syllabus **Mrs. Lauren Pugh, Director**
1st Block Choir 205-342-2670 ext. 6788
gcoleman@tcss.net or lpugh@tcss.net or TCHS_CHOIR@tcss.net
www.tchschoral.com
Office Hours: 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Purpose and Content

The TCHS Choral Department is an organization dedicated to educating young people about music. Each choral class is not only a class, but also an automatic membership into the organization. Therefore, all TCHS Choral Department policies must be followed by all students.

1st Block Choir is designed to develop the capabilities of the student to sing alone and with others in a variety of circumstances, read notated music, listen to and describe music, evaluate music and music performances, and have knowledge of proper concert etiquette as a performer and audience participant. Audition is not required for placement in 1st Block Choir. Knowledge of and mastery of rehearsal and performance skills must be demonstrated for placement in the next level choral class.

Required Materials

- One inch three ring binder
- Loose-leaf paper and staff paper
- Various choral octavos
- Red marking pencil, highlighter, and regular pencil

*All of the above materials are provided by the choral department.

Grading

Choir is a performance-based class. Students will receive a daily rehearsal skills grade and may have major performance grades as well. Students may also be given written theory tests throughout the year. In order to receive full credit for rehearsal skills in a choir class, a student should do the following:

- Attend class each day
- Actively participate in rehearsal each day
- Refrain from disturbing the rehearsal process
- Have only required materials at seat
- Attend required performances, on time and in the correct uniform

Points will be deducted from the daily rehearsal skills grade if students fail to meet the above requirements.

For performances, students will receive deductions for unexcused absence, tardiness, incorrect uniform, and improper concert etiquette. Please be aware that students who do not attend required performances may receive a failing final grade.

Performance Dates and Absences from Performances

Performance dates will be sent home via email and text throughout the year. In order to receive a passing grade for a performance, students must attend the performance. If a student can not attend a performance, he/she must notify the director in writing no later than two weeks prior to the performance date. After the director receives the written communication, the absence will be considered for excuse. If a student falls ill prior to a concert, the student or parent must contact the director via phone or e-mail and then provide a doctor's excuse in order to have the absence excused. Finally, students who are excused from a performance must see the director to schedule make-up work, which may include written work or an aural exam.

Performing with the choir is a privilege. Students with excessive absences (excused or unexcused), discipline issues, or other issues may be disqualified from performing with the choir.

Performance Attire

1st Block Choir's performance attire will consist of concert black for formal performances, and the TCHS Choir t-shirt for informal performances.

Financial Obligation

School Course Fee	$25 per class (paid at schedule pick-up)
Choral Department Fee	$50 per year

The Choral Department fee includes the choral department t-shirt, field trip costs, costs of classroom supplies, and sheet music. This fee also helps cover the rental of performance venues for concerts, accompanist fees, and many other costs incurred throughout the year.

The Choral Department fee is due by March 1st. Students may pay the amount in one payment, or they may break the amount up into smaller payments. Students will also have the opportunity to pay this amount through fundraising. Students with extenuating circumstances should discuss alternate arrangements with the director. Students who have unpaid financial obligations from previous years will be REMOVED from the class roll if these fees are not paid by the last day of schedule changes.

Classroom Expectations and Discipline Order

There are three classroom expectations that must be followed at all times:

- Be Safe
- Be Responsible
- Be Respectful

Those who are unable to follow the classroom expectations will be subject to discipline. Minor infractions will be dealt with in the following order:

1st infraction -	Verbal Warning
2nd infraction -	Disciplinary Writing Assignment
3rd infraction -	Parent Contact
4th infraction -	Discipline Referral

Other more serious discipline issues (including Class Three Infractions) will be follow the TCSS policy.

Classroom Procedures

Classroom procedures will be outlined at the beginning of each year. Students are expected to follow procedures for entering and exiting the room, storing personal belongings, keeping the classroom clean, asking to be excused from class, turning in money, turning in forms, etc.

Tardy Policy

Students are expected to be in their assigned seat with required materials when the bell rings. TCHS Choir will follow the TCHS Tardy Policy.

Cell Phone Policy

TCHS Choir will follow the TCSS policy. No cell phones are allowed during school hours.

Parent/Student Communication

The TCHS Choral Department uses two services to help communicate effectively with parents and students. ALL newsletters, financial statements, and any other important information will be messaged to parents through the Cut Time platform. Paper copies of these communications will not be provided. Parents and students are responsible for confirming that valid contact information has been entered into the Cut Time system. Additionally, students are encouraged to subscribe to text and/or e-mail alerts using Remind. Parents and students are also encouraged to call or e-mail the director with any questions or concerns throughout the year.

Additional Information

The Acknowledgement Form must be returned to the director by the last day of schedule changes. Students with missing forms will be removed from the class roll. Additional information (concert dates, fundraisers, trip information, honor choir information, etc.) will be e-mailed via Cut Time and posted to the website as the year progresses.