



# PEARLAND JUNIOR HIGH EAST CHOIR

Laura Sammons – Choir Director

Welcome back to another exciting year with the Pearland Junior High East Choir! I'm thrilled to join the PJHE Choir Department this year. Pearland ISD Fine Arts has a proud tradition of excellence, and at PJHE we are committed to building on that success while setting even higher standards for the future. We are grateful for the support of our parents, teachers, campus leadership, and school board in maintaining a strong music education program.

Our mission is to develop young voices through quality literature from diverse genres while building music-theory fundamentals, healthy vocal technique, and music literacy. Through rehearsals, performances, and contests, students grow in self-esteem, self-discipline, and self-motivation. Beyond developing skilled performers, the PJHE Choir promotes music appreciation and concert etiquette, prepares students for high school choir, fosters responsible citizenship, and nurtures strong personal character.

Choir is more than a class, it's a family and a meaningful outlet for creative expression, purposeful use of free time, and a supportive community of lasting friends. Together, we learn teamwork, discipline, and the language of music, performing works from a variety of genres and cultures. As members of this choir, students represent a school and community that are proud of them and invested in their success; their conduct should be exemplary in and out of choir activities.

This handbook outlines our goals, opportunities, expectations, and key information to ensure our choir's success now and in the years ahead. As a PJHE Choir member, each student is expected to take pride in our accomplishments and contribute to our continued growth. Please note that choir concerts and after-school rehearsals are required and graded. A schedule is included in this handbook. If you see a conflict, let me know no later than Friday, August 29. The final page of the handbook includes links to all PJHE Choir forms that must be completed, by a parent or guardian, by Friday, August 22.

**The PJHE Choir thrives because of strong parental involvement. Please join us on Thursday, August 21, at 6:30 PM for the Mandatory Choir Parent Meeting, where we will cover all things choir.**

I look forward to working with you and your students this year. If you have any questions, please call 281-485-2481 or email [SammonsL@pearlandisd.org](mailto:SammonsL@pearlandisd.org).

## CHOIR EXPECTATIONS

Choir is different than any other class at PJHE. To be successful, we must work as a team in class every day. The following rules are for your benefit. ***YOUR SUCCESS IN THIS CLASS DEPENDS ON YOUR COOPERATION WITH THESE EXPECTATIONS.***

- 1) Students will follow all rules and policies stated in the PISD Student Handbook and Code of Conduct, as well as in the Pearland JH East Student Handbook. Remember that students represent the PJH East Choir program, our school, our school district, community, and their parents.
- 2) All students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times. Display of profanity, temper, flagrant violation of rules, etc. will not be tolerated. Individual behavior during a choir function is a reflection of the group.
- 3) Any behavior, which is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the choir/PJHE staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the choir activity as well as permanent removal from the choir program. This applies to the actions of all students and student leaders in both public and private events.
- 4) Any student who misbehaves consistently will not be able to perform in concerts/contests or attend trips until their behavior improves. In the event that a student loses his/her performance privileges, they will be given an alternative assignment to make-up the grade. A student may not participate in any PJH East Choir event or activity while in ISS, serving school suspension, or attending ALA.
- 5) Any student in an upper-level choir (Tenor Bass, Varsity Treble, JV Treble) who misbehaves consistently, or who earns ISS, school suspension, or assignment to ALA will be considered for removal from that class at director discretion.

"Misbehavior" is generally defined as behavior that contradicts the school or class rules and policies (this includes, but is not limited to failure to participate, talking, yelling, horse playing, disrespect, inappropriate use of language, use of prohibited devices, fighting).

"Consistent" is defined as follows:

- 3 or more infractions during class time, or
- 2 or more infractions during rehearsal time, or
- 2 or more infractions during concerts, or
- 2 or more combined infractions

## **CHOIR CLASSROOM RULES**

- 1) Follow directions the first time they are given – no arguing.
- 2) Keep hands, feet, and all objects to yourself. “WE WERE JUST PLAYING” does not exempt you from this rule. ALL FIGHTING, even “play fighting” will result in a discipline referral.
- 3) For your safety, absolutely NO gum or candy is allowed in the choir room. It is a dangerous choking hazard to have ANYTHING in your mouth while singing.
- 4) No backpacks, purses, toys, electronics, or personal items are allowed on the risers at any time.
- 5) You need permission to do the following:
  - leave the room
  - touch sound equipment, whiteboards, tech equipment, piano or any other instrument in the classroom
  - retrieve items from backpack/purse during class
  - speak during rehearsal
  - enter the choir office or any practice room/storage area
- 6) Be in the room when the tardy bell rings – be in your assigned seat with your choir folder and sharpened pencil within 30 seconds of when the tardy bell rings.

### ***Consequences for misbehavior:***

1. Warning.
2. Conference with director.
3. Conference with director and parent contact.
4. Restorative Behavior Assignment/Lunch Detention.
5. After School Detention/Office Referral.
6. Exclusion from Choir Events or Activities.
7. Serious offenses will be dealt with as outlined in the PISD Student Code of Conduct.
8. Serious offenses warrant an immediate office referral and may result in removal from the band program.

### ***Rewards for good behavior:***

1. Positive comment and/or note to the student.
2. Positive comment and/or note to the parent.
3. Prizes and Privileges.
4. Performance Opportunities.

## CHOIR CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

- 1) HALL PASSES: I am actively teaching for the entire class period every day. Students are permitted two restroom passes each week. Students who do not follow class procedure for the restroom, or use any restroom other than the Fine Arts restroom, or go to any part of the school other than the restroom will have privileges revoked for the remainder of the grading period. If a student has a medical issue requiring more frequent trips to the restroom, please contact me.
- 2) PERSONAL BELONGINGS: All books, binders, backpacks, electronics, toys, grooming items, purses, etc. are to be placed on the shelves in the classroom at the beginning of the period. The only things allowed on the risers are the students' folder, music, sharpened pencil, water bottle, and the student.
  - If a student has any other item on the risers, it may be taken up and can be retrieved after school.
- 3) ENVIRONMENTAL: To protect students with allergies and sensitivities, scented sprays and lotions are never to be used in the choir room.
- 4) FOOD/DRINK: **Nothing is ever allowed in your mouth in the PJHE choir room except your tongue and teeth and water. Everything else is a choking hazard.**
- 5) FIELD TRIPS/CHOIR EVENTS: All school rules and policies are in effect when we go on field trips and at all choir events. If you break the rules while on a field trip or at a social event, you do not attend the next field trip or social event.
- 6) SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS: If you misbehave while a substitute teacher is in the room, you will not attend the next field trip or social event. I must be able to trust you when I am not looking at you.
- 7) SUPERVISION: No students are permitted in the choir room unless an adult is present.
- 8) LUNCH PERIODS: Students are not allowed in the choir room during lunch periods.

## GRADING

The PJHE Choir program is based on excellence in all we do, Choir is not an easy 100. Your grade is calculated in this way:

**60% is a daily average.** Daily grades come from oral and written work, attempting skill demonstration, having necessary materials every day, weekly sightreading quizzes, and occasional general before or after school rehearsals.

**40% is a test average.** Test grades come from sightreading tests, written tests, dress rehearsal attendance, concert attendance/punctuality and concert behavior and performance. Every concert counts as 2 major test grades. If you attend the concert, arrive on time, show great singing behavior onstage and behave with proper concert etiquette offstage, those 2 grades will be 100.

## ELIGIBILITY RULES

### **“No Pass No Play” Texas State Law**

Choir students are ineligible (suspended from participating in extracurricular activities) for a nine-week period immediately following a period in which they earn a grade of 69 or less. All off campus events are considered extra-curricular, except UIL Concert and Sight-reading Evaluation. Choir rehearsal, sectionals, and on-campus concerts are an extension of the classroom and are required attendance by a choir student unless otherwise specified. Students who are not eligible may not attend social events. All students have a responsibility to pass all classes and be eligible for choir performances and contests. Students failing classes place an unwelcome burden upon the other students in the choir and the choir director to compensate for their absence from an important event. **ALL STUDENTS PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN OUR SUCCESS!**

## OFFICERS

Choir Officers will be elected in each class at the beginning of the school year. We will have a president, vice president, and secretary, and each choir will elect one or more representative (based on choir size). These officers, along with Section Leaders appointed by Mrs. Sammons, will make up the PJHE Choir Council. Students must complete an officer application to run for office/representative.

## **CONCERTS and REHEARSALS**

Concerts and rehearsals are a vital part of any performing organization's activities. Attendance at after-school concerts and rehearsals is **required and graded** for all students. Dress rehearsals for major performances are test grades. Concerts are weighted as 2 major test grades each. One is for attendance/punctuality, and the other is for concert performance/etiquette. Points are earned for punctuality, good audience behavior, and performance. Skipping a concert will result in 2 zero test grades.

Emergencies and illnesses happen and will be excused with a written note or email from a guardian within 24 hours of the concert. If transportation is an issue, please let Mrs. Sammons know at least a week BEFORE the concert so she can help you find a ride. You are not automatically excused with a note, but the absence is automatically unexcused without one. In either case, you are required to make up the concert. Just as you make up a math or social studies test that you miss. You will be given the choice of either a written report or singing the concert for Mrs. Sammons.

Participation in the PJH East Choir Program includes out-side-of-school time commitments. These rehearsals and performances are considered Co-Curricular by PISD and the TEA state board of education and are subject to our classroom grading policy. Most before/after school rehearsals and performances are major grades for the choir class. Because you are given a calendar on the first day of choir in August and you sign the choir permission slip agreeing to attend concerts, the following events are not excused and are not considered emergencies: transportation, babysitting, doctor's appointments, vacations, attendance at campus clubs, tutorials, and off-campus sports.

Occasionally, there will be a conflict with an event at PJHE. It is the student's responsibility to communicate this to the director/coach(es)/teacher(es) involved. In that event, Mrs. Sammons and the teachers/coaches involved in that event will work out the solution for you. You will not be penalized if you follow our solution.

However, notification after an event is missed because a student was attending a sporting event or practice will be considered an unexcused absence. ALL ABSENCES from any choir rehearsal, practice, or performance must be made up in order to be eligible for remaining performances and competitions for that term/semester. Multiple absences, excused or unexcused, from rehearsals or performances will result in the loss of eligibility for all competitive events for the remainder of the school year.

**Please let me know NOW if you have already found a conflict with a date on the choir calendar.**

## FEES AND EXPENSES

Choir fees are in your Skyward account. Please pay these through Skyward Fee Management. If you have an issue with payments, please contact me privately.

General Choir Fee – All Choir Students	PRICE
- (Includes band binder, classroom supplies, music, contest/clinician fees and the choir spirit t-shirt)	\$25.00
Region Choir Audition Fee	\$10.00
- Required for Varsity Treble	
- Optional for Tenor-Bass, JV Treble, and Concert Treble	
Optional Trips and Activities	varies
- Optional trip in April/May	
- Social events	

## UNIFORMS

Students must wear the correct and appropriate concert attire for all performances. **Any student who is not dressed in the appropriate uniform for specific events will not be allowed to perform and will be required to complete an alternate assignment.**

**Informal Uniform:** (worn for Region Auditions, Fall Concert, Pop Show, Travel, and Mixed Choir)

ALL SINGERS: Pearland JH East Choir shirt (provided), Jeans, closed-toe shoes (clean tennis shoes, casual shoes, or flats - no Crocs, slides or sandals)

**Formal Uniform:** (Region Choir Concert, Holiday Concert, Pre-UIL Concert, UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest)

Varsity and JV Treble: *School-provided* Black Concert Dress (provided by East Choir), Black closed-toe formal shoes (black ballet flats are perfect, but shoes with a heel are also fine; sandals, slides, athletic shoes or Crocs are not acceptable for formal concerts).

Concert Treble: *Student-provided* all-black dress. Black closed-toe formal shoes (black ballet flats are perfect, but shoes with a heel are also fine; sandals, slides, athletic shoes or Crocs are not acceptable for formal concerts). The Choir has a limited number of dresses available, if needed, on a first-come, first serve basis.

Tenor Bass Choir: *Student-provided* SOLID black long-sleeved dress shirt (no logos or markings) and SOLID black dress pants (NO JEANS), black dress shoes (athletic shoes will work if they are completely black – no visible white logos), black SOCKS, black belt (if belt is needed or worn), and *school-provided* bow tie.

**REPLACEMENT COST FOR DAMAGED UNIFORM: Black Concert Dress \$75, General Black Dress \$65.00, Bowtie \$10.** Students are liable for any damage to dresses.

If you are unable to provide any required portion of your uniform, please contact Mrs. Sammons privately no less than one week before you need the item.

## **CHOIR CALENDAR**

Students who skip a **required** event for an unexcused reason will not be eligible to attend the next choir social event. Please contact Mrs. Sammons at 281-485-2481 or [SammonsL@pearlandisd.org](mailto:SammonsL@pearlandisd.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

### **Required Concert/Rehearsal Dates**

- Region Choir Auditions (required for Varsity Treble, optional for Tenor-Bass, JV Treble, and Concert Treble)
  - Tenor Bass – Friday, October 3, evening, Fairmont JH Deer Park (time TBA)
  - Treble - Saturday, October 4, all day, Fairmont JH Deer Park (time TBA)
- Fall Concert Dress Rehearsal and Concert – Monday, October 20, Parkway Church Pearland
  - Rehearsal – 5:30 PM
  - Concert – 7:00 PM
- Region Clinic and Concert (For students who make Region), Friday November 14, all day.
- Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal – Monday, December 8, 4:00 – 6:00 PJHE Cafeteria
- Winter Concert – Tuesday, December 9, Parkway Church, 7:00pm (choir arrive 6:30)
- Concert/Mixed Choir Showcase – Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 6:30 PM PJHE Cafeteria
- Pre-UIL March 17/18 – PJH South – evening (specific date//time TBA)
- UIL at Deer Park HS North March 25-27 (specific date/time TBA)
- Spring Show Tech Week (rehearsals after school) – Monday-Thursday, May 4-7 – 4:00-7:00 PM
- Spring Show and Awards Reception – Fri, May 8, 6:30 PM PJHE Cafeteria (choir arrive 5:45)

### **Additional Activities/Events:**

- Pearland ISD Treble Region Bootcamp – Saturday, September 6, 7:30-11:00, Berry Miller JH
- Pearland ISD Tenor Bass Region Bootcamp – Saturday, September 6, 12:30-4:00, Berry Miller JH
- Fall Choir Lock-in – Friday, September 26, 5:00-8:00, PJHE
- Winter Tour – TBA (During School Day in December)
- Girls Night – Friday, January 23, 5:00-8:00 PM PJHE
- Boys Night – Friday, January 30, 5:00-8:00 PM PJHE
- Shadowcreek Choral Festival – April 10/11
- Solo and Ensemble – April 25, Berry Miller JH
- Spring Field Trip – May 16, TBA

Stay tuned for updates on other opportunities throughout the school year!