September 21, 2020

Dear Choir Parents,

We are thrilled to have your sons and daughters in our choral program this year. Amarillo High School has a rich history of choral excellence dating back almost a century. We believe we have the very best students in the entire school in our choirs and we look forward to working together with you to ensure the success of our students. Although this year will look different, our choir Mission has not changed: "Building a safe community of singers who strive to spread joy and achieve musical excellence." It's just that this year there's more emphasis on "safe!"

The Amarillo High School Choir program pledges to create an organization that produces quality performances in an enjoyable and cooperative atmosphere. The ultimate goal is to help students:

- Become total musicians: "1) A well-trained ear; 2) A well-trained mind; 3) A well-trained heart; 4) A well-trained hand. All four must develop together, in constant equilibrium." *Zoltan Kodály*
- Enjoy positive, successful experiences and opportunities at all ability levels
- Create memories that will be cherished for a lifetime
- Appreciate a variety of music styles so that they will seek out opportunities in their adult lives as music performers and music consumers

This packet includes the following:

- Choir Expectations

- Charms Office Instructions

- Academic Eligibility Guidelines

- Choir Calendar (available on www.sandiechoir.net, Dates are all subject to change this year!)

- Booster Club Membership (available on www.sandiechoir.net)

- Volunteer Form (available on www.sandiechoir.net)

- Medical Form (student and parent will complete and return as assignment)

- Choir Contract Page (student and parent will complete and return as assignment)

  Must be signed and submitted by October 1 via Canvas assignment

Please sign and submit electronically via Canvas the Choir Contract Page/Medical Form by October 1. Both you and your student will need to sign, acknowledging that you both have read and understand the information contained in this handbook.

Thank you in advance for your support of the choral program at Amarillo High School. If we can be of assistance, do not hesitate to call us or email us.

Choir Expectations 2020-2021

Daily Procedures
-Use the restroom, get a drink, etc. before you come into the choir room.
-Put your things on the floor under your chair. Phones should be in backpacks, not pockets, and in airplane mode.
-**Bag, Phone, Binder, Chair**: Follow this procedure every day!
-Absolutely no gum and no food in choir. Only water in closed containers in the choir room and auditorium.

Folders
-You will be assigned a folder with pencil, highlighter, and dry erase marker.
-If you do not take your folder home, it goes into the assigned folder cabinet.
-Your folder is your textbook. Bring it to class **every day.**

Grading Policy
-Students will be given grades for participation in all performances, extra rehearsals or meetings, and participation grades for daily class work.
-All performances and most rehearsals are mandatory. The group's success depends on each individual's contributions. Only emergency situations or extenuating circumstances will be excused, at the discretion of the director. **Because dates are on the calendar weeks in advance, work and transportation issues are not excuses.** An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a grade penalty and may result in dismissal from the choir. A make-up assignment may be assigned for an excused absence.

Uniforms
-Each choir member will have a uniform that will be worn for most concerts and other times that the directors will announce.
-Uniform rental is included in the Choir Fee.
-Uniformity of appearance is one of our performance goals. If a student draws attention to himself individually at a performance, the student will not participate and will be asked to leave the performance. Students are expected to follow these guidelines for any choir performance:
      -no facial piercings or gauges in ears
      -no unnatural hair color or conspicuous hair styles
      -no excessive jewelry of any kind
-Each choir member is responsible for the condition of the uniform for the entire school year.

Choir Fee –Due to Restrictions/Alterned Expectations from COVID-19 Choir Fees are temporarily reduced.
Each choir member will pay a choir fee. *If necessary, you may pay monthly installments until the fee is paid.*
Non-Varsity: $40 Choir Fee.
Varsity Choir (Bel Canto): $60 Choir Fee
Make checks to AHS Choir and return your choir fee payment to the Choir Room. We will have an online pay-by-card option but it will not be set up until September 25. Choir fees pay for student binders and supplies, music, sound system needs, classroom equipment, choir t-shirt, accompanists, clinician, etc. The fee does NOT pay for entry fees for Non-Varsity choir members, UIL Solo & Ensemble, and extra activities.

Social Media
-Any choir member who attacks another choir member or director on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat or any other social media may be removed from choir. We support and celebrate each other and the directors at all times.

Behavior
-Choir is an elective course. Students will be held to the standard contained in the AISD Student Code of Conduct. Each student has chosen to be a part of our choral program. If any student becomes a consistent distraction to the choir, that student will be removed from choir. Any student who displays an attitude of disrespect toward the directors will be removed from choir.

How to access parent/student information

CHARMS

- Log on to www.charmsoffice.com, and click the "ENTER/LOG IN" link at upper right.
- Locate the "PARENT/STUDENT/MEMBERS LOGIN" section of the web page.
- Login to your child's program account using the following School Code:

AmarilloHSChoir (case sensitive)

- This will bring up the main parent page. This will allow you to look at the "public" **calendar** for your organization, event list, handouts and other files.
- Clicking on an event on the calendar brings up the details for that event, such as times, attendance requirements, volunteer opportunities, and other event details.
- When you enter your child's ID NUMBER (on your child's schedule) as a **Student Area Password**, another more detailed screen appears with even more options to view your student's uniform assignments, music assignments, financial records, forms and inventory. Once you have first entered this ID number, you may create your own, unique password by clicking on the "lock"   (*Change Password*) icon.
- Two areas in which you can help the director maintain his/her records:
  - o **Update Personal Information** – if the director has allowed it, you may help make changes to your child's student information page (such as updating phone numbers and email addresses if they change) to help the teacher communicate with you more effectively. Click the *Personal Info* button.
  - o **You can make check on payments for fees, trips and deposits to your student's account**.
- You will also see links to view *Grades* and use the *Recording Studio* if the teacher has enabled these options.
- Most importantly, the parent page assists both you and the teacher to <u>communicate</u> with each other. Stay up to date on what's going on with your student!

Academic Eligibility

To be eligible for any six weeks period after the first six weeks, a student must not have recorded a six weeks average lower than 70 for the preceding six weeks. Any student who has an average lower than 70 in ANY course at the end of a six weeks will be suspended from participating in extra-curricular activities for the coming six weeks. However, a student who is passing ALL courses at the end of the three-week grading period may regain eligibility seven calendar days after the three-week report. Ineligible students will continue to participate in daily rehearsals, but may not participate in any activity that is considered extra-curricular. Pre-AP, AP, and IB courses do not count against eligibility.

We will check grades regularly. We are required to enforce the guidelines set forth by the TEA and the AISD.

Events requiring eligibility:

District/Region, Pre-Area, and State Auditions

Men's Workshop and Women's Workshop

Sandie Revue

UIL Solo & Ensemble

UIL Choir Contest

AHS Choir Boosters

Please see www.sandiechoir.net for information about how to volunteer, join the Boosters, buy Sandie Revue ads and dvds. You may join online and pay by card at www.sandiechoir.net

Thank you for your support of AHS Choir!

Booster (Virtual) Meeting Dates 2020-2021
Links to meetings will be sent the afternoon of the meeting.
September 22—7:30pm
October 20—7:30pm
January 5—7:30pm
March 23—7:30pm
April 27—7:30pm

Student Name:_____   **Choir Period:** _____

<u>MEDICAL FORM</u>   Amarillo High School Choir Trips
Complete BOTH SIDES

_____has my permission to participate in the Amarillo High School Choir trip. I hold harmless and release the school and sponsors of all liability in connection with the trip. It is understood that students will be supervised and normal precautions will be taken in the interest of students' safety and well-being.

Should a medical emergency occur, every effort will be made to contact the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s). It is required, however, that if you can not be reached in a medical emergency, your **written consent** for medical treatment must be given:
I, _____, grant my permission for my son/daughter,_____ _____, to receive emergency medical treatment.

HEALTH HISTORY
My son/daughter has the stated medical condition that responsible parties should be aware of:
_____
My son/daughter is allergic to (including medications):
_____
If your son/daughter has any physical limitations that might require additional assistance during the trip, please list:
_____

MEDICATIONS:
All **prescription** medications must be in their original pharmacy container and properly labeled by the pharmacist. Prescription medication will be provided by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) with written approval and dispensed by the nurse during the trip. If your child has a need to keep his/her medication with him/her at all times (example: diabetic medication, asthma inhalers) you are asked to make this known in writing to the nurse.

Prescription medications that my son/daughter will need to take on this field trip are:

_____   _____   _____
Name   Dosage   Time(s) to be given

_____   _____   _____
Name   Dosage   Time(s) to be given

_____   _____   _____
Name   Dosage   Time(s) to be given

INSURANCE INFORMATION

_____   _____   _____
Company Name   Policy Number   Policy Holder

_____   _____   _____
Parents Name   Work Phone   Home Phone

_____   _____   _____
Parents Name   Work Phone   Home Phone

_____   _____   _____   _____
Home Address   City   State   Zip Code

In case of **emergency,** please list two other names and phone numbers:

1._____   2._____

PARENT PERMISSION SIGNATURE _____

Amarillo High School Choir Department
Choir Contract

*** Please read this page in its entirety***

1. Go to www.charmsoffice.com and enter the student parent area. The code for our choir department is **AmarilloHSChoir**. (case sensitive)
2. Login to the student area with your school ID# as a password. If that doesn't work, contact your director to have your password reset to the default, which is your school ID#.
3. Go to **Update** Information:
   A. Update address, home phone, birth date, height, email, cell phone
   B. Update and add parents same info: especially emails, cell phone numbers
   C. With this information we can send free texts for reminders & department information.
   D. Don't forget to click the green update button!
4. Go to www.sandiechoir.net.
5. Join the **AHS Choir Boosters** via the website! Joining the Boosters is optional, but the Boosters are a huge reason why we are so successful in AHS Choir.
6. Sign up to **volunteer** via the website! Our program of almost 300 students needs lot of parent help to successfully do all of our activities.
7. Buy **Choir Gear** and **Sandie Revue** ads, sponsorships, and DVD/Blu Rays. If you would like to purchase anything by card, use the website. If you would like to purchase any of these items with check or cash, use the attached paper form.
8. **Choir Fees:** $40 for Non-Varsity, $60 for Varsity Choir fees (reduced for 20-21) can be paid with cash or check at this time, with card pay coming soon. Choir Fees are due October 15. Fees may be paid in installments if necessary.
9. Charms is going to be where you will find just about anything about our choirs. Calendars, money due, uniforms, forms to be turned in, assignments, etc. It will be a great administrative help! So, we are getting you involved with charms through our beginning of the year house-keeping.

This will serve as your contract agreement page and will need to be turned in to Mrs. Terrell or Mrs. Cunningham

☐ **I have updated my student information in Charms.**

☐ **I have updated my parent/guardian information in Charms.**

☐ **I have been to www.sandiechoir.net and seen all the information available there.**

☐ **I have located, read, and will abide by the Choir Expectations.**

☐ **Date:**_____

☐ **Student Signature**_____

☐ **Parent/Guardian Signature**_____