SHARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2021-2022

Tim Watkins, Choir Director

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Introduction

Welcome to another great year at Sharyland High School Choir! We are excited to get the year started with a fantastic group of students. Our choir department has so much to offer all who are a part of it. Music is a vital part of everyone's life, and there is much evidence to support that participating in music stimulates the brain and increases a person's intelligence.

Our choir department offers the following benefits (as well as many more!) to its members:

- Performances of a Lifetime
- Lifelong Friendships
- Competitions
- A Place to "Belong"
- Annual Trips

We hope your experience this year will prove to be fun, educational, and stimulating!

Program Ensembles

Varsity Treble Choir: The advanced treble choir made up of mostly sophomore to senior women. This group will go to UIL Concert & Sightreading contest, as well as participate in all of the individual contests. Director's approval needed in order to participate in this group.

Mixed Choir: The advanced concert choir made up of mostly junior and senior women and men. By participating in this group, it is understood that the students will participate in at least one individual contest during the year. If the ensemble sound is good, then this group will also compete in the UIL Concert & Sightreading contest. Director's approval needed in order to participate in this group.

SHS Vocal Alliance: The SHS Vocal Alliance. It will be made up of a maximum of 8 men and 8 women who survive the audition process. This group will perform frequently throughout the school year. This is a show choir. The rehearsals are on Tuesday and Thursday from 4:05-5:30. The audition process for this group consists of the following:

- sing an unaccompanied (a cappella) solo – any song of your choice (please no curse words)
- sing an accompanied solo (bring your own background music)
- submit your written statement of experience and why you want to be in the group
- have the audition packet filled out with references from teachers

Officers

Choir President:

The responsibilities of this office consist of helping to oversee the outside activities of the choir, and assisting Mr. Watkins in day to day operations. The president must be someone who sets a good example for the choir students, is comfortable with people, will help to take up the responsibilities of those officers who are absent at an activity, and can delegate the responsibilities assigned to them. Specifically, the president will be responsible for attending student council meetings, coordinating officer meetings, various service projects, and the end-of-year banquet.

Vice President:

The vice president will be an extension of the president and will preside in the office of the president in his/her absence. In the same way the president must portray certain qualities, the vice president must be someone who sets a good example for the choir students, is comfortable with people, and will help to take up the responsibilities of those officers who are absent at an activity.

Secretary:

The secretary is responsible for taking care of the daily and extra rehearsal attendance and paperwork (ie. parent permission forms).

Treasurer:

The treasurer is responsible for assisting the directors in handling money and making sure that all money is tracked.

Reporter-Historians:

The reporter/historian is responsible for taking pictures at all events, coordinating the officer video at the beginning of the year, communicating with the school newspaper and the yearbook about choir events, communicating with the website manager, and compiling a scrapbook/slideshow at the end of the year.

Parliamentarian:

The parliamentarian is responsible for order in choir meetings. The parliamentarian will work together with the secretary during elections to determine vote count.

Librarians:

The librarians are responsible for processing and filing new music, making sure each student has a copy of each piece of music, and keeping the library in proper order.

Chaplain:

The chaplain must be a student of high moral conduct, set a good example for the students in the choir program and be in charge of the mindset of the program throughout the year.

Choreographer:

This person will work up dance routines and movements for all the choirs, including Vocal Alliance to improve the overall concert effect.

Audio-Visual Managers:

The AV managers are responsible for assisting the directors in setting up and maintaining the sound equipment in the main rehearsal hall, as well as the practice rooms and sound room. They are also responsible for keeping the sound room organized and clean. They are responsible for burning CDs, updating existing recordings to current media type, and helping the directors in keeping the recordings logged, checked and organized.

Dues

There is no official charge to participate in choir, however, there are a few items that will cost a nominal fee:

1. Choir T-shirts – approximately $10
2. Spring Trip – (if intending to go) approximately $100, any more should be covered by fundraising
3. Lost or destroyed music – the cost to replace the music.
4. Lost or destroyed choir outfit – formals (girls) tuxes (boys)

Choir Festival Information

Choirs - in planning stages now. Anyone planning on participating in this trip must be passing all classes. If possible, we might try to go to another festival in the Spring, but that's only if we have success with our fundraisers.

1. **Students and chaperones must bring a down payment by the due date, and everyone must return a signed "Letter of Intent" even if you do not plan to go on the trip.**

2. **Total cost =** approximately **$100.**
   Student must supply any additional spending money. Fund-raising profits will go to pay for transportation.

3. **We welcome chaperones** to join us for the Spring Trip! We will have a 1 chaperone per 10 students ratio. Please indicate your interest to chaperone on your student's "Letter of Intent" and return the form with the indicated deposit. Being a chaperone is work, but there is a lot of fun involved.

Fundraising

All students are expected to participate in all fundraisers. Money raised from the fundraisers will be used for festival, contest trips, and choir scholarships for seniors.

Contests

If a person wants to compete, he/she must pay $10 as a down payment, which will be returned at the competition. This requirement is here to prevent students from taking the contests lightly. If the person is unable to attend the contest (due to class failure, missing the bus, etc.), then the down payment is forfeit and will not be returned.

UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest

The Solo/Ensemble Contest is a very prestigious contest that all students should take part in at some point in their Sharyland Choir experience. This spring semester event provides students an opportunity to select a song from the UIL Prescribed Music List, memorize it, and perform it for an appointed judge. The judge gives a rating to the student based on musicality, interpretation, knowledge of the song, memorization, vocal technique, etc. In addition, the judge gives a brief clinic/coaching session to each student. After learning the pitches and rhythms of the song, students should request assistance from their voice teacher and/or choir director in refining the music for the best possible performance.

This year's Solo & Ensemble Contest will be held on Saturday, January 22, 2022 at Edinburg Economedes High School.

TMEA Audition Process

The Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) sponsors the All-Region Choir (Mixed and Treble) in November and the All-State Choir (Mixed, Treble, and Tenor-Bass choirs) in February. The entire process is based on individual effort and is an individual accomplishment. Singers must be personally motivated to make time and effort to learn the music, pitches, and rhythms as well as work on sight-reading skills. Our department offers many opportunities to learn the music, including the summer workshop (Rowe Choir Camp), after school rehearsals, class rehearsal time. It must be stressed that this is optional for all Sharyland Choir members, except Advanced Choir and Contest Choir. However, everyone is encouraged to participate in this worthwhile process.

The various levels and events in the process are:

Lettering Requirements

Students may only receive one school-purchased award jacket during their high school careers.

To receive an award jacket (letterman) for choir, a student must:

A. Be active in choir all 4 years (receive at least 1 credit in choir per year). Or
B. Audition for TMEA All-State and advance to Region Choir (minimum). Or
C. Perform for UIL Solo and Ensemble contest with a class 1 solo or ensemble and advance to the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest in Austin.

If a student transfers to Sharyland from a different school and desires to receive an award jacket, the student must have been active in choir at the previous school and have received at least 1 credit in choir per year.

Choir Dates
2021-2022

Sep. 25 - District Choir Audition

Oct. 16 - District Treble Choir Audition

TBA - SHS Musical (SHS Auditorium

Oct. 14 - SHS Fall Folk Concert (SHS Auditorium)

Nov. 13 - Region/Pre-Area Auditions

Nov. 19-20 - District-Pre-Area Clinic & Concert

Dec. 16 - SHS Christmas Concert (SHS Auditorium)

Jan. 8 - Area Choir Audition

Jan. 22 - UIL Solo & Ensemble

April 19-21 UIL Concert & Sightreading

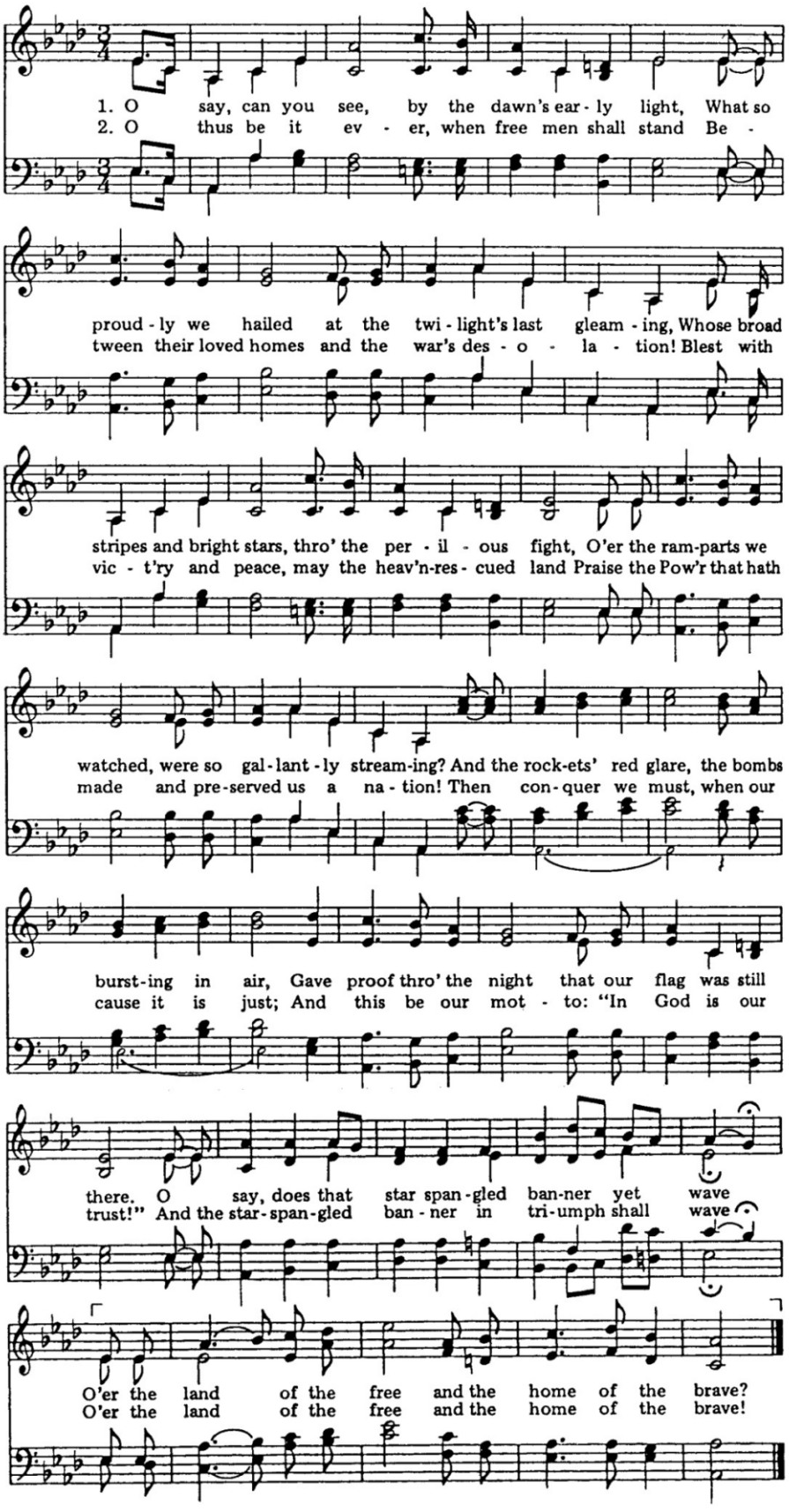
April 28 - SHS End-Of-Year Concert (SHS Auditorium)

TBA - Choir Banquet

TBA - UIL Texas State Solo & Ensemble Contest

The Star-Spangled Banner

The Star-Spangled Banner



Sharyland High School Alma Mater



Signed Choir Contract – Due Friday Sept. 3, 2021

Membership in the Sharyland Choir Department offers many valuable and personal learning experiences. Therefore, it requires that each student accept a large amount of responsibility.

I hereby agree to uphold my responsibility as a member of the Sharyland High School Choir Department by following the rules and guidelines of this organization.

- I will arrive at rehearsal on time with my music, a pencil, and a good attitude. Gum chewing will NOT be allowed at any time in the choral music building while I am supposed to be rehearsing.
- I will be responsible for keeping all dates, as given to me by the directors open and clear of other responsibilities, unless I have already discussed **in advance** an absence with my director and filled out and handed Mr. Watkins a "Pink Form."
- I will attend all scheduled performances, rehearsals and sectionals unless excused in advance by my director. I understand that I will always be given at least one week advanced notice before any required activity, and that most rehearsals and performances will be announced far in advance. Therefore, it is understood that jobs and work are not acceptable excuses.
- I understand that my grade in choir will be determined by the following:
    - Daily participation (attitude, cooperation, attentiveness, alertness, punctuality, and preparedness).
    - Attendance at sectionals, special rehearsals, and performances.
    - Behavior during rehearsals, concerts, special trips and activities.
    - Tests and music assignments.
- I will assume responsibility for maintaining academic eligibility in order to participate in the extra-curricular activities. (Note: The scheduled concerts are "co-curricular" and do not require eligibility.)
- I accept that on the first violation of any of the above guidelines notification to this effect may be sent to my parents, and that any subsequent violation may be grounds for my dismissal.

Student/Parent Handbook Contract

I, _____(print name) _____ (period), **have received the Sharyland High School Choir Department *Handbook*, *Contract,* and *Calendar*, and I understand the responsibilities therein.**

____Please feel free to use my/my student's photo on the Sharyland High School Choir web page. (I understand that no last names will be used to identify any student).

____Please use my/my student's photo in large group photos only on the choir web page.

____Please do not use any photo of me/my student on the choir web page.

_____ _____
Student's Signature Date

_____ _____
Parent's Signature Date

2021-2022 SHARYLAND RATTLER CHOIR

TRANSPORTATION AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION

I give my son/daughter (a choir member) permission to travel on Sharyland ISD school buses and/or charter buses to and from concerts, contests and other choir activities during the 2021-2022 school year. I expect that all drivers will be certified personnel.

Should an emergency arise, I give permission for Mr. Watkins, Mrs. Garza, or any other school administrator/sponsor to authorize emergency room treatment until I can be contacted by emergency personnel.

STUDENT NAME: _____ S.S.#: XXX-XX-_____

GRADE: _____AGE: _____

PARENT(S) NAME: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE/S: _____

WORK PHONE: _____ _____

RELATIVE TO CONTACT IN EMERGENCY:
_____

RELATIVE'S PHONE: _____

REGULAR PHYSICIAN:
_____

PHYSICIAN'S PHONE: _____

INSURANCE COMPANY: _____

INSURANCE POLICY NUMBER:
_____

PLEASE LIST ANY ALLERGIES THAT YOUR CHILD HAS AND/OR ANY MEDICATIONS THAT ARE NEEDED:

_____

_____ | _____

Parent Signature **Date**