



## VOCAL MUSIC HANDBOOK

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Cheryl Blankenship, Director of Vocal Music

[Blankenshipc@tecumseh.k12.ok.us](mailto:Blankenshipc@tecumseh.k12.ok.us)

405-598-5022 (Vocal Music Office)

Office Hours: M-F 2:30-3:45

Courtney Phillips, Assistant Director

[phillipsc@tecumseh.k12.ok.us](mailto:phillipsc@tecumseh.k12.ok.us)

Jo Lewis, Accompanist

Facebook page: Tecumseh (OK) Vocal Music  
Remind: For High School, text @thschoi to 81010

For Middle School text @tmscho to 81010

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**Please read the following information and return the attached form and choir fee to the vocal department by Friday, August 23, 2019.**

This Handbook belongs to: \_\_\_\_\_

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Introductions.....2
- Objectives and Materials and Fees.....3
- Expectations and Consequences.....4
- Grades, Attendance and Ineligibility.....5-9
- Contest Attire.....10
- Contest Opportunities & Trips.....11-12
- How to stay informed.....13
- Calendar.....14-15
- Forms.....16-17

# VOCAL MUSIC HANDBOOK

*This handbook contains a detailed explanation of the requirements for Tecumseh High School and Middle School Choirs. In essence, it is a contract between Vocal music teachers, the students, and the parents/guardians. Our hope is that together we can create an excellent experience musically, educationally, and socially. The handbook provides the “nuts and bolts” to create a structure in which such an environment can be fostered. We will go over the handbook together in class, but it is also important for parents/guardians to read.*

*To students and parents/guardians; if there are any specific issues or concerns regarding the expectations listed in this handbook, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will always listen to your concerns. If every student tries his/her very best to meet our expectations, not only will they be rewarded academically, they will be rewarded with a once-in-a-lifetime experience.*

*~ Ms. Blankenship, Ms. Phillips, and Mrs. Lewis*

## Objectives

Through collaboration, members of the choirs will strive to create and present artistic performances that are musically and educationally excellent.

## Learning Outcomes

Choir is a performing art. This class will give students the opportunity to sing a variety of music from many historic periods, perform on stage before an audience, and improve individual musical abilities. Students will work to develop their skills to meet the following National Standards in music education:

- Singing a varied repertoire of music alone, and with others.
- Reading notated music.
- Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
- Evaluating music and music performances.
- Understanding relationships between music, other performing arts, as well as disciplines outside of the Arts.
- Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

## Materials

- Pencil needed everyday!
- Choir Folder with music (provided)
- *Students will be responsible for paying for lost or damaged folders and/or music (\$2.25 per octavo x 10, plus \$2.00 folder=\$27 replacement folder)*

## Fees

The fees are due 2 weeks after school starts so that we can place a t-shirt order. Please pay fees by August 23rd.

7th-12th Grade Choir Fee is \$30

6th Grade Choir Fee for single semester enrollment \$15

## **Expectations**

1. **Be on time!** Be in your seat with your folder and pencil at the beginning of your class period.
2. **Respect others and yourself.**
3. **If it is not yours, do not touch it.**
4. **No cell phones during rehearsal!** This is your only warning. If I see it, I will take it and will hand deliver it to your principal.
5. **Rehearsal is dismissed by the director, not a clock!** If you waste my time by me having to ask the class to be quiet, I reserve the right to take time away from you, therefore making you late to your next class.
6. **Absolutely NO food, gum, or drinks in the choir room!** You will not eat in the choir room. If you bring food, you will eat it outside before entering the room. Only clear plastic water bottles will be allowed into the choir room.

## **Consequences for choosing to not meet our expectations:**

1. Verbal warning
2. Phone call or email to parents
3. Parent/Student meeting with Ms. Blankenship
4. Referral to the principal's office

I know that each one of you is more than capable of exceeding my expectations. Please do not choose to disappoint me.

## Grading

<b>Grade Composition</b>	
<b>*Performances/Concerts</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Daily Rehearsal Participation</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>Singing Tests</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Grading Scale

A (100-90%)

B (89-80%)

C (79-70%)

D (69-60%)

F (59-0%)

## Attendance Policy

“To be early is to be on time; to be on time is to be late; to be late is unacceptable.”

- Eric Jerome Dickey, 2007

Choir is a performance art. To do well in this class, students must come to class on time, with a positive attitude, ready to sing. Students are expected to follow directions immediately. Choir is a class that relies on each student’s willingness and ability to collaborate well with other students. Students are expected to actively participate in rehearsals and in every scheduled performance with a positive, respectful attitude.

All students are required to be at all performances (concerts, contests and other performances). Students will not be allowed to make up missed performances, unless they fill out an Exemption Form. Exemption Forms must be submitted to Ms. Blankenship 14 calendar-day in advance of the performance. Exemption forms can be found in the front of the classroom and online. An example is given on the next page. A parent/guardian must contact Ms. Blankenship if there is an emergency or sudden illness.

TECUMSEH VOCAL MUSIC

Exemption Request for Excused Absence from Performance Attendance

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Activity in Question \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Activity \_\_\_\_\_

We are requesting that the student(s) listed above be excused from the above activity on the date requested due to the following circumstances:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We understand that this form must be turned in at least 14 calendar-days prior to the date in question, in order for an absence from any activity listed on the 2019-2020 choir calendar to be considered.

We understand that requests do not guarantee approval, and that requests will only be considered and granted for major, unavoidable conflicts which cannot be scheduled at another time (ie.death of immediate family member).

Parent Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received by Ms. Blankenship: \_\_\_\_\_

PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE EXEMPTION RESPONSE  
**To be returned to the student after application for exemption is received  
and considered by Ms. Blankenship.**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your request for an exemption has been received and based upon the information you provided your request has been:

\_\_\_\_\_ Approved

\_\_\_\_\_ Not approved

Your request was not approved because of one or more of the following reasons:

\_\_\_\_\_ Failed to meet request deadline (14 calendar-days prior to event date).

\_\_\_\_\_ Did not meet the criteria described above.

Below is an explanation:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. Blankenship, High School Choir Director



## **Make Up**

\*In the event a performance is missed: Students who are given permission to make up a missed concert grade must do a written assignment assigned by Ms. Blankenship. This must be completed no later than 3 school days after the concert/contest or, in case of illness, after the student returns to school. A grade of 75% is the highest possible grade that can be given for a make-up assignment. If the student chooses not to make up the missed performance a 0 will be given as a performance grade. Absence due to ineligibility will not be an excused absence and a written assignment must be completed.

*HS attendance policy also states. “ if a student misses more than 6 absences, his/her grade will automatically drop to a 59%. If the student is already failing, then his/her failing grade will be kept.”*

## **Eligibility**

*According to Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association Rules:*

### **Student Eligibility During a Semester**

a. Scholastic eligibility for students will be checked after three weeks (during the fourth week) of a semester and each succeeding week thereafter. Schools may choose to run eligibility checks on any day of the week. The period of probation and ineligibility will always begin the Monday following the day eligibility is checked. Methods should be devised to check weekly grades of Career-Tech students and all concurrently enrolled students. For block scheduling, scholastic eligibility will be checked after two weeks (during third week) of the first and third blocks and each succeeding week thereafter and at the end of the first week of the second and fourth blocks and each succeeding week thereafter. Schools may choose to run eligibility checks on any day of the week. The period of probation and ineligibility will always begin the Monday following the day eligibility is checked.

b. A student must be passing in all subjects he/she is enrolled in during a semester. If a student is not passing all subjects enrolled in on the day of the grade check, he/she will be placed on probation for the next one-week period. If a student is still failing one or more classes during the next week on the grade check day, he/she will be ineligible to participate during the next

one-week period. The ineligibility periods will begin on Monday and end on Sunday.

c. A student who has lost eligibility under this provision must be passing all subjects in order to regain eligibility. A student regains eligibility under Rule 3 with the first class of the new one-week period (Monday through Sunday).

d. "Passing grade" means work of such character that credit would be entered on the records were the semester to close at that time. (Trimester Eligibility – Refer to Board Policy XXXVIII)

*Excerpt from the OSSAA Rules Manual, which can be found here:*

[http://www.ossaa.com/manual\\_rules.aspx](http://www.ossaa.com/manual_rules.aspx)

## **Concert Attire/Performance Attire**

**High School:** Students are assigned choir robes that belong to the Tecumseh Vocal Music Department. In order to ensure future use of the choir robes, students cannot take these robes home. Students are expected to hang the choir robes neatly on hangars when they are finished and place them back on the choir robe racks in the correct order. If the robe is damaged during wear or becomes dirty, the student issued that choir robe number will be responsible for the cleaning or replacing of that choir robe.

### **What to wear under choir robes:**

**Men** will be expected to wear a collared shirt, black dress pants, black socks, and black dress shoes.

**Ladies** are to wear either dresses or skirts and blouses, or black dress slacks and blouses accompanied by black sock and black dress shoes. It is important that, for performances, students dress their best.

**No jeans, t-shirts or tennis shoes.**

\*In the case that the student misplaces his/her robe, appropriate dress will still enable him/her to perform. If dressed inappropriately, the student cannot perform. We want to represent our school with the best presentation possible.

### **Informal high school performance attire and Middle School Ensembles**

**ALL CHOIR MEMBERS** will wear the current Tecumseh Vocal Music T-shirt with black slacks, black socks, and black shoes. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** How you look while you perform matters. We are representing our **SAVAGE PRIDE**.

No hoodies, jeans with holes, hats, or any clothing which violates the TMS Dress Code.

## CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES AND TRIPS

### Required Choir Contests:

#### Little Dixie Group Contest

This contest is held Wednesday, October 23rd, 2019 at ECU in Ada. Each choir will prepare two songs and perform them on stage for judges to receive a ratings and critiques.

#### District Choir Contest

This contest will be March 10th, 2020 at Western Heights, OKC. We will perform two pieces for judges as well as sight read to receive ratings and critiques.

### More Contest/Festival Opportunities (not required):

Students are encouraged to audition for All-District and All-State choir, but auditioning is not required. These are honor choirs that students from all over the state of Oklahoma audition to join.

#### ECOCDA District Festival (HS and MS)

Auditions will be Monday, October 7, 2019 at Rose State College. If students make this choir, the festival will be in Guthrie, OK in November.

#### All-State (OCDA for grades 6-9)

Students audition in 2 rounds. Round 1 is Saturday, October 28, 2019 in McAlister, OK. Students who make it to Round 2 will audition Tuesday, November 14, 2019 at Rose State College. The festival will be held in January in OKC.

#### All-State (OMEA for grades 10-12)

Students audition in 2 rounds. Round 1 is Saturday, November 2nd in McAlister, OK. Students who make it to Round 2 will audition Saturday, November 16th at UCO, Edmond. The festival will be held in January in OKC.

#### Solo and Ensemble

Singers can volunteer to prepare a solo or ensemble piece for ratings at District Contest, Wednesday February 19, 2020 at ECU, Ada. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to improve their individual talents. Students will be

required to learn, memorize and perform either alone or in a small group. Also, every solo and ensemble will be required by Ms. Blankenship to perform in a pre-contest “Recital” in the choir room before performing at district solo/ensemble contest.

## **Trips**

**Tecumseh High School Choir is going to Branson, MO with Heartland Music Fest in April 2020!** <https://www.heartlandmusicfest.com/home.html>

Additional information and fundraising opportunities will be provided at the first HS trip meeting on Thursday, August 22nd, 2019 at 7:00pm in the choir room.

**Tecumseh Middle School Choirs** will attend the Heartland Music Fest held near Frontier City, OKC in the Spring of 2020! The event includes a short musical performance and a fun day in the park. More details available next spring. Fundraising opportunities during the school year will cover the costs of this trip.

## **Chaperones**

We always need parent/guardian volunteers to go on trips with us, especially when traveling with middle school students. Forms will be sent home with students before trips to give information about being a chaperone.

**Both students and their parent/guardian need to read this handbook.** Please keep this handbook. After reading the handbook, please fill out the forms on page 13 and 14. Your first assignment is to have this form signed and returned to me by Friday, August 23, 2018. It is worth 100 points. Please do not receive a zero. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Ms. Blankenship [blankenshipc@tecumseh.k12.ok.us](mailto:blankenshipc@tecumseh.k12.ok.us). We are looking forward to a year of excellence in the Tecumseh Vocal Music Program!

If you have any questions or concerns please email me any time.

## Staying Informed

For regular updates on upcoming events, join at least one of the following:



Facebook Page:  
Tecumseh (OK) Vocal Music  
(answer the three questions for acceptance)



Remind:  
For High School Choir text @thschoi to 81010  
For Middle School CHoir text @tmscho to 81010

I'm using Remind to help keep you informed about important news and updates. Remind is a free service that allows you to get messages directly on your phone. Joining my class on Remind is easy.

### Signing up for text messages

1. Text my class code @[CLASS CODE] to the phone number 81010 or [REMIND PHONE NUMBER].
2. Reply to the text messages from the Remind team.

### A few other things you might like to know:

- Our personal contact information (like cell phone numbers) will not be visible on Remind.
- All of our messages will be recorded in communication logs that you can access and download.
- I may choose to receive messages on Remind.

## CHOIR CALENDAR 2019-2020

### **AUGUST**

- \*August 8 First Day of School
- August 19 Professional Development
- August 23 Forms and Fees Due
- \*August 22 HS Parent/Student Branson Trip Meeting in choir room @ 7:00pm.
- August 28th-September 11th Great American Opportunities Fundraiser

### **SEPTEMBER**

- September 2 Labor Day (No School)
- September 3 Professional Development (No School)
- September 10 and 12 Parent Teacher Conference
- September 13 No School
- September 14 High School All-State Workshop, Edmond Memorial HS, 9am-2pm.
- September 20 HS Sing at First Home Game

### **OCTOBER**

- October 1 \$50 Trip Deposit Due (non-refundable)
- October 7 (Monday) ECOEDA Auditions, Rose State
- October 15-October 29th Century Resources Fundraiser
- October 17-18 Fall Break
- October 21 Professional Development (No School)
- \*October 23 LITTLE DIXIE, ECU

### **NOVEMBER**

- November 2 (Saturday) -All-State-First Round, McAlister
- November 4th and 5th (Monday/Tuesday) ECOEDA Festival, Guthrie
- November 8th Sing at Last Home Football Game Senior Night
- \*November 11th Veteran's Day Assemblies (TBD)
- November 12 November 29-Okarche Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser
- November 15 1st Trip payment Due
- November 16 (Saturday) All-State-Second Round, UCO, Edmond
- November 19 (Tuesday) OCDA-Jr High 2nd round, Rose State
- November 25-29 Thanksgiving Break

### **DECEMBER**

- \*December 6 TECC and (MS?)
- \*December 13 MS choirs sing for CT and Barnard
- \*December 10 Winter Concert 7:00 in the Alumni Building
- December 15- 2nd Trip payment Due
- December 20 Last Day of Classes
- December 23-Jan 3 Christmas Break

## CHOIR CALENDAR 2019-2020

### **JANUARY**

January 6 Professional Development (No School)  
January 7 First Day of Second Semester  
January 9-11 OCDA  
January 14- 3rd Trip payment Due  
January 15-18 OKMEA All-State/Conference  
January 20 MLK Day (No School)

### **FEBRUARY**

February 4 All solos and ensembles memorized and practiced with accompanist (twice)  
\*February 13/14 Recital for all solos and ensembles, Choir Room  
February 17 Presidents Day (No School)  
\*February 19 (Wednesday) District Solo and Ensemble ECU  
February 21 Final Trip payment Due

### **MARCH**

\*March 10 (Tuesday) District Large Group and Solo and Ensemble Contest Western Heights  
March 10 and 12 Parent/Teacher Conference  
March 13 No School  
Mar 16-Mar 20 Spring Break

### **APRIL**

\*April 3 (Friday) State Choir Contest OBU  
\*April 16-19 HS Branson Trip  
\*April 23/24 (Thursday/Friday) State Solo and Ensemble Contest OBU

### **MAY**

May 1 Unused Snow Day (No School)  
\*May 2 (Saturday) MS to Frontier City for Heartland Music Festival  
\*May 8 MS choirs sing for TECC and MS  
\*May 15 MS choirs sing for CT and Barnard  
\*May-12 (Tuesday) Spring Concert 7:00 in Alumni Building  
\*May-17 (Sunday) Baccalaureate, Sharon Baptist Church 3:00 (Tentative date)  
\*May 19 (Tuesday) Graduation, Firelake Arena, 7:00  
May 19 Last Day of School  
May 20 Professional Day  
May 21 Unused Snow Day  
JULY 9-11 OBU All-State workshop (Tentative dates)



**TECUMSEH PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Tecumseh Vocal Music Parent and Student Acknowledgment Form**

By signing and dating below, I am stating that I have read and understood all of the Vocal Music Handbook contents, and will personally commit my support to the Tecumseh Vocal Music Department by consenting and abiding to those contents. I understand that serious, or repeated violations of such rules will result in the immediate and/or permanent loss of traveling privileges.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student signature) (Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian signature) (Date)

**Vocal Music Travel Agreement, Data Sheet, and Consent Form**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
Student's T-shirt Size circle one: S M L XL XXL XXXL  
Student Height (for robe fitting and performance placement) \_\_\_ feet \_\_\_ inches

I agree to let my child participate in all THS/TMS Vocal Music related trips for the 2019-2020 school year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student signature) (Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian signature) (Date)

**Authorization for Emergency Care**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
Family Doctor's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred Hospital \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Authorization for Emergency Care (cont.)**

Is student covered by Health Insurance? YES / NO

Is precertification required for emergency care? YES / NO

Name of Policy Holder:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Insurance Co.:

\_\_\_\_\_

Policy/Membership #:

\_\_\_\_\_

Group #:

\_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Co. Phone Number for Pre-certification:

Please list any medications the student may be taking regularly:

Medication	Dosage	Frequency
------------	--------	-----------

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Allergies or other vital information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Authorization for Emergency Care to a Minor**

I/We, the undersigned, are the legal parents/guardian of the minor listed above and therefore authorize any medications, x-ray examination, anesthetic, dental, medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment by any licensed physician, dentist, or hospital that may be rendered to the said minor under the general, specific, or special consent of Cheryl Blankenship and/or Courtney Phillips, Choir Directors, Tecumseh Public Schools.

Whether such diagnosis or treatment is rendered at the office of the physician or dentist or at a hospital, I/We authorize the physician or dentist to call in any necessary consultants at their discretion. It is understood that this consent is given in advance of any specific diagnosis or treatment being required, but is given to encourage those persons who have temporary custody of the minor, and said physician, or dentist to exercise their best judgment as to the requirements of such diagnosis of medical or dental treatment.

This consent shall remain effective until 12:00PM of the 31st day of July, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_

(Parent/Guardian signature)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Date)