

FRISCO HIGH SCHOOL



Choir Handbook 2009-2010

Tracy Bradstreet, Director

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FHS Choir Website: <http://www.friscochoir.homestead.com>

Goals of the FHS Choirs

1. To promote, provide, and encourage interest and participation in choral music.
2. To develop individual vocal technique and an understanding of its relation to the choral ensemble.
3. To increase confidence in creative self-expression.
4. To promote the value of effort, cooperation, teamwork, dedication, and self-discipline.
5. To promote a sense of pride in the school and choir program.

Student Expectations/Consequences

Classroom Expectations:

1. When the director is talking you are silent and listening.
2. Be in your seat, ready to sing when the bell rings.
3. Respect your peers at all times.
4. Exhibit a strong work ethic and a positive attitude at all times.
5. No food (including gum!) or drinks (other than water) are allowed in class unless given permission.
6. Observe all school rules and policies as stated in the FHS student code of conduct.

Classroom Consequences:

If a student fails to follow one or more classroom rules, the director is assuming they have **temporarily forgotten** what the rules are. The director is more than willing to remind students of what they have forgotten. After several reminders, however, it becomes apparent to the director that a student's "I forgot" is really an "I don't care."

Be aware that repeated reminders will be viewed by the director as an "I don't care" and could result in temporary removal from the choir room, parent conferences, detention, disciplinary referrals, removal from choir trips and activities, and permanent removal from the choir program at the discretion of the director and principal.

Grading Policy

1. 50 % - Daily Vocal Technique/Participation Grade (one per week)

Examples for common deductions are as follows, but are not limited to:

- Food, gum, candy, drinks (other than water); No music/folder/pencil; Poor posture or poor effort to achieving proper vocal technique; Inappropriate behaviors or attitudes

2. 20 %- Assignments/Tests

3. 30 % - Performances and Rehearsals

The student will receive a grade for each performance during a grading period. If no public

performance occurs during a grading period, the performance grade will be based upon classroom performances determined by the director. Students are expected to arrive on time to all rehearsals and performances. Students will lose 10 points for every 10 minutes they are late.

Excused Absences:

An excused absence is one that has been approved by the director, preferably ahead of time, and is accompanied by a phone call, a written note, or e-mail from a parent. Please inform me of school conflicts ahead of time, so that I may talk to the sponsor to work out a compromise.

Examples of some excused absences: Illness; Family Emergency/Death in the family; Weddings/Religious events; Other extenuating circumstances (determined by the director)

Unexcused Absences:

If a student does not provide proper documentation for their absence, it is automatically unexcused.

Examples of some unexcused absences: Lack of transportation (except in extenuating circumstances); Forgot; Homework; Doctor's Appointment; Work conflict (please ask off ahead of time)

Make-Up Work:

If a student misses a rehearsal or concert and it is excused (unless school related), they will need to pick-up a make-up assignment from the director. For this assignment, the student will write in the solfege syllables for ALL THE VOICE PARTS on one (missed rehearsal) or two (missed concert) songs. Students will be graded on accuracy of the solfege syllables. This assignment must be completed by the end of the current six weeks.

Uniforms and Fees

When we have a performance, you are expected to be in full uniform from the time you arrive until the time you leave the performance site. We want to take pride in our organization, and our appearance is one way to show a classy attitude.

Formal Choir Uniforms

Ladies:

- Black formal dress (issued by school)
- Off-Black hose
- Black close-toe dress shoes

Guys:

- Black tuxedo (all parts issued by school)
- Black socks
- Black dress shoes

Jewelry:

- No guys may wear jewelry

- Ladies must wear school issued earrings and necklaces

Cleaning Formal Uniforms:

Students will be issued a clean uniform. All students are expected to keep their uniform in good and clean condition.

- Ladies: Dresses can be washed at home or dry-cleaned. If you are washing the dress at home, please either wash the dress by hand or use the delicate cycle of your washing machine. Dresses should be turned inside out and washed in cold water only. Dresses can be put in the dryer on low heat for a short period of time to get the wrinkles out, but please be careful not to overheat them.
- Guys: Please either wash or dry-clean the white tuxedo shirts after every concert. Tuxes should be dry-cleaned throughout the year as needed.

Hemming of Uniforms:

- Ladies: Please hem the dress to where it falls one inch from the floor with dress shoes on. Do NOT cut the dress as it may need to be altered for the next person.
- Guys: Please make sure your pants hit the top of your shoes and are no longer or shorter. Please hem them without cutting the pants as they may need to be altered for the next person.

Cost of Replacing Lost or Damaged Formal Uniforms:

FORMAL DRESS	\$65.00
TUX PANTS	\$45.00
TUX SHIRT	\$20.00
TUX JACKET	\$55.00
BOW TIE	\$7.00
LINKS/STUDS	\$4.00
CUMMBERBUND	\$12.00

Informal Choir Uniforms:

- Choir t-shirt (tucked in)
- Jeans (no holes!)
- Tennis shoes

Choir Uniform Fee

All choir members will be required to pay a uniform/supply fee of \$40.00. This fee will cover the cost of the t-shirt, uniform rental and cleaning, and choir supplies. Checks may be made out to FHS Choir. **This to be turned in by Wednesday, September 9th.**

Payments

Students may pay using either cash or check. When paying with cash, please put all cash or checks in an envelope with the student's name, amount, and what the money is for. Often the parent's name is not the

same as the students name; please put the student's name in the memo part on ALL checks.

Eligibility

Certain activities are classified as eligibility activities. The FHS staff will enforce all eligibility policies. TEA has a specific list of activities that are eligibility activities which include competitions, activities that charge an admission fee, and pep rallies. For more information about eligibility see UIL-TEA side-by-side which can be viewed through the TEA website or the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) website (www.tmea.org). Students must have a grade of 70 or above in all classes, including P.E., athletics, electives and academic classes on both their progress reports and report cards. Students who are ineligible will continue to rehearse during their choir class, before and after school, and participate in curricular performances to earn their choir grade. *Ineligible students may not travel with the choir or participate in extracurricular activities.*

Supplemental Activities

All-Region/All-State Choir Competition: Students will have the opportunity to audition for the All-Region Choir in October. Interested students will receive a practice CD and printed music of the selections they are required to learn. Students will then audition with a short “cut” of the music and sightread for judges. If a student is selected for the choir, they will participate in the All Region Clinic and Concert. Students that earn a high enough place in the choir will also have the opportunity to continue on to Pre-Area, Area, and possibly make the Texas All-State Choir! Selection to the Texas All-State Choir is one of the highest honors a choir student can achieve! The cost to audition is \$15.00. Please turn this in by Wednesday, September 9th so that we know how much music to order.

Solo/Ensemble Contest: This is an opportunity for students to sing a solo or an ensemble in front of a single judge for a rating. Either their private voice teacher or I will help students to select solos or ensembles that will be appropriate for their voices.

Private Voice Lessons: Students will have the opportunity to take private voice lessons during their class time, before school, or after school. An information sheet about private voice lessons (including cost) is included at the end of the handbook.

Choir Officers

Choir officers are elected by their classmates on the basis of leadership, service, and participation in the choir program. Officers will be expected to attend regular meetings before school. These students are expected to exhibit outstanding behavior, excellent leadership, and a positive attitude at all times. Failure to do so could result in the removal from office. Each class will have the following officers:

1. President-

- supervises and delegates the activities of the officers
- serves as a representative for their class
- helps the Director accomplish tasks to help the choir program run smoothly
- helps the Director plan social events

2. Vice-President-

- helps the Director and President accomplish tasks to help the choir program run smoothly
- serves as a representative for their class if the president is unable to
- helps publicize the choir around the school and community

3. Historian-

- responsible for taking pictures of choir, which means attending all choir functions
- help prepare a scrapbook, to showcase our year

5. Section Leaders- chosen by the Director

- leads sectionals as needed
- acts as a leader during any contest/competition for their section

Lettering in Choir

FHS choir students will be subject to a points system. Any student who is able to accumulate 8 or more points will be eligible to purchase a FHS letter jacket. This policy is designed to reward commitment and high achievement. Excessive behavior problems can result in a student losing their lettering privileges.

- **2 points:** completion of a full year in choir (at FHS or another school). Seniors will receive their final two points during the fall semester of their senior year.
- **2 points:** auditioning for the All-Region Choir
- **2 points:** being selected to the advance to Pre-Area in Choir
- **2 points:** being selected to advance to Area in Choir
- **5 points:** being selected to the All-State Choir
- **2 points:** participating in UIL Solo/Ensemble Competition

Choir Website/Charms

FHS Choir Website: <http://www.friscochoir.homestead.com>. There is also a link to it from the Frisco High School Website under “Booster Club Organizations.”

Charmsmusic.com is a wonderful new software program that the FHS choirs will be using regularly this year. Through this website, you can access the most up-to-date choir calendar, access audio practice tracks, access this handbook and forms, see what forms or fees your student owes, and access letters or other handouts sent home. There is even a link to email the teacher. Charmsmusic.com will also be where you can update your and your student’s personal information. (So, if you move, or have a change in phone numbers or email addresses, please log in and update this page ASAP so I can make sure to keep in contact with you.) The email feature will be used regularly, so please make sure I have a correct email address for you so that you don’t miss out on important choir information.

To login:

1. Go to www.charmsmusic.com or access it from the FHS Choir Website.
2. Under “parent/ student login” enter the school code:
FriscoHSChoir
3. To log into your student’s account, enter his/her password. This should be the student ID#, unless the student has changed it. If they have changed it, and “forgot” to tell you, email me, and I can reset it to the ID#.
4. Click on the box that says “Personal Information” to input or update all of your personal information. Be sure you click “update” after entering in your information.

******We are requesting that all students enter in their personal information into Charms before Wednesday, September 9th. If a student is unable to access the internet at home, they may use our computers before or after school. We will be checking that all students have entered in their information by that date and giving them a grade. Ten points will be counted off of the student’s grade for each day this is late.***

FRISCO HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR STUDENT BEHAVIOR CONTRACT 2009-2010



Participating in choir should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience. In order for this plan to have its greatest effect, I need your support. Please discuss the choir expectations with your child. Please take some extra time to be sure your child understands all of the choir eligibility guidelines and how they affect participation in choir activities. **Please return this signed form along with the \$40.00 Choir Fee no later than Wednesday, September 9th.**

Sincerely,

Mrs. Tracy Bradstreet

Mrs. Barbara Williams

I have read and understand the choir handbook and classroom rules. My child will abide by the choir class rules and understands all eligibility requirements. My child will abide by all policies listed in the choir handbook. I understand that all consequences concerning eligibility, rehearsal, and performance requirements stated in the handbook will be applied to my child if their standards are not met.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

I have read and understand the choir handbook and classroom rules. I will abide by the choir class rules, and I understand all eligibility requirements. I will abide by all policies listed in the choir handbook. I understand that all consequences concerning eligibility, rehearsal, and performance requirements stated in the handbook will be applied to me if I do not meet their standards.

Student Name Printed

Ensemble

Student Signature

Date

**Frisco High School Choral Department
Voice Lessons 2009-2010**

Celebrating and Creating Traditions of Excellence in Vocal Music

The choir student benefits from private lessons in the following ways:

*The student receives *individual attention* from a professional voice instructor and has his or her individual needs met.

*The private instructor helps students develop *correct posture, proper breathing technique, and beautiful tone quality*.

*The private voice instructor also helps each student *extend the vocal range, increase vocal flexibility, and produce a healthy tension-free sound*.

*Private lessons provide the choir student with *specialized instruction* beyond what can be provided in the choral classroom. This is an advantage, since no pre-AP, AP or remedial classes are offered in music.

*Private lessons offer students opportunities for *future musical success*.

**Individual performance opportunities* are encouraged through Solo and Ensemble Contest, All State auditions, and Studio Recitals. Students can develop *self-confidence and poise* through these experiences.

As the private voice instructor at Frisco High School, I am privileged to guide and encourage young singers to grow and achieve their potential in vocal music.

Melissa Ross, Frisco ISD Private Voice Instructor

Tracy Bradstreet, Choral Director, Frisco High School

Dear Choral Students and Parents

Welcome to a new year at Frisco High School and welcome to choir! Let me take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Melissa Ross and I am the Private Voice Instructor for Frisco High School. This is my Ninth year teaching private voice, and my second year in Frisco ISD. I have a Bachelors' degree in Vocal Performance from Texas Womans University and I pursue an active Opera and Musical Theater performance career in the DFW area.

Private voice lessons will be offered in the choir room during the school day and after school hours. Lessons begin the week of August 31st. Availability is limited and times will be reserved on a first come first served basis. To reserve your place please **return this form** and payments payable to Melissa Ross no later than **Friday August 28th**.

Tuition for the 2009-10 school year is \$18.00 per lesson and payable in Semester or Yearly payments. Parents needing to work out a payment plan please contact me directly to reserve a place. Scholarships may available to those needing financial assistance.

I look forward to working with you this year and if you have any questions please call or email.

Sincerely,
Melissa Ross, Frisco Private Voice Instructor
Melissa_Ross_Studio@yahoo.com
(214) 693-3352 –Cell
www.MelissaJayneRoss.com



Please circle and include with this form: \$630 Full Year \$315 Semester

Date _____ **Grade** _____ **Choir Class** _____

Students Name _____ **Parents Name** _____

Student Email _____ **Students Cell** _____

Parent Email _____ **Parents Cell** _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____ **Other Phone** _____

After School Availability: Monday ___ **Tuesday** ___ **Wednesday** ___ **Thursday** ___ **Friday** ___

I have read and agree to the information presented in this letter and Studio Policy.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Melissa Jayne Ross

Studio Policies

Goal of the Music Studio

It is the goal of the music studios to provide excellent music instruction taught by professional instructor who strives to meet the needs of all students. It is to be a place where students can develop their musical talents in a safe environment and achieve their personal best.

Registration and Fees

Enrollment is always open for private music lessons. Each student will receive a total of 33 lessons per school year. Tuition fees are paid directly to the private music instructor.

Payment Policy

Students taking private lessons can choose from two payment options.

1. Pay in full for the year with the application \$630
2. Make two payments of \$315. First is due with application, Second on December 1

Sibling Discounts

There is no discount for siblings.

Enrollment

Please submit the application, contact information and payment. Please fill out all forms entirely. Once the completed application, form, and payment are received, the student will be notified by the teacher to confirm a lesson time.

Attendance

Lessons will be given over the course of the school year. If a student wishes to discontinue his/her music instruction, a 30 day written notice will be required. The student will be financially responsible for the remaining lessons for that semester.

Make-up Lessons

If a student cannot make their scheduled lesson it is the student's responsibility to swap lesson times with another student. If a student cannot arrange a swap it is the student's responsibility to contact Ms. Ross by telephone or text message before the lesson begins to see if she has another possible time available for lessons. Ms. Ross makes no guarantees that she will be able to accommodate a makeup.

Obviously a lesson that is forgotten missed without notice will not be made up by. Emergency situations will be handled on a case by case basis. If a lesson should be canceled by the instructor a make-up lesson will be scheduled in a timely manner.

School Closings

The Music Studio follows the inclement weather policy of Frisco ISD. Please listen to local radio and TV broadcasts for information concerning closings. When inclement weather develops in the afternoon, Ms. Ross reserves the right to cancel lessons for the remainder of the day.

Recitals & Performances-

The studio will host recitals during the year to serve as a testimony of their hard work, and diligence. We consider it vital that each student participate in the recital, therefore, it is a requirement as part of a student's overall musical experience to participate in these events. Other performance opportunity may arise during the school year. It is highly encouraged that all students participate.

Expectations of Student Practice

Students are expected to follow the teachers practice suggestions. Our lives are very busy, but practicing even for 20 or 30 minutes four or five times a week will gradually increase skill and confidence. With more practice time, comfort and ability will increase more rapidly. Regular 15 minute practice sessions will make music study much more fun and rewarding.

Grievance Procedures

Please discuss with your instructor any difficulties that your student might be experiencing with the lessons. If a problem cannot be resolved with the instructor, please contact the Choral Director immediately. If possible, put your concerns in writing.

Summer Lessons

Summer lessons are highly suggested for all students. Summer lessons begin in June and continue through August.

Contact Information

Melissa Ross
(214) 693 3352 – Cell/Text
Melissa_Ross_Studio@Yahoo.com
www.MelissaJayneRoss.com

Frisco High School Choir Booster Club

Frisco High School is fortunate to have booster clubs supporting our athletics and fine arts departments. The Choir Booster Club this year will be an important and integral part of our success. Our goal is that each and every parent joins the Choir Booster Club. In addition, we need several parent volunteers who would be willing to take control of some of the Booster Club responsibilities. Our desire is to have a complete board- this would include a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The booster club will have meetings on the third Tuesday at 7:00 pm of every month that officers are required to attend. We encourage non-officer parents to attend these meetings however, joining the booster club does not mean that you are committing to attending. The first meeting of the year will take place on Tuesday, September 16th at 7:00 pm.

If you would like to join the booster club, please indicate below. This year you can also show your support by making a donation to the booster club. Please make all checks payable to **FHS Choir Booster Club**.

Please check any areas you are interested in:

I would like to become a member of the FHS Choir Booster Club (Free!).

I am interested in becoming an officer for the FHS Choir Booster Club.

I would like to make a donation to the FHS Choir Booster Club in the following amount:

\$10.00 \$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 other amount \$

In addition, we will need support from parent volunteers throughout the year. Please check any areas you are interested in volunteering for. You will not be called for every event.

Availability:

During school day

After school/evening

Volunteer Opportunities:

Decorating choir events Chaperoning various concerts and activities

Helping the booster club with fundraising Chaperoning the Choir Spring Trip

Fitting students in uniforms and distributing during class

Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

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