

# **Spring Independent School District High School Choir Constitution & Code of Ethics**

## **Article I: Name and Purpose**

- Section 1: This document serves as the official Constitution for ***Spring ISD High School Choirs***.
- Section 2: The mission of the high school choral program shall be to promote school spirit, strive for excellence in performance, and to set an academic and behavioral example for fellow students. Choir singers will strive to develop and perfect choral technique as they relate to standard TEA and UIL requirements. They will represent Spring ISD appropriately at athletic events, school/community sponsored functions and trips, competitive events, and performances. The demonstration of good sportsmanship and excellence in conduct are pillars of the high school choir's etiquette and will be stressed at all times.
- Section 3: The vision of the high school choir strives to be a versatile, innovative, and uplifting program that will propel the Spring ISD choir legacy forward into the future of the art form. The high school choir envisions fusing the old and the new to create a culture of great technique, creativity, honor for traditions, and excellence in performance quality shaping the 21<sup>st</sup> century singer for global competency.

## **Article II: Choir Membership Eligibility**

- Section 1: Singers are expected to abide by the rules and regulations as stipulated in the Spring ISD Student Handbook.
- Section 2: Membership shall be composed of high school students enrolled on a full-time basis and who have been auditioned by a high school choir director.
- Section 3: Singers transferring from another varsity high school choir may be accepted into the receiving high school varsity choir pending they meet all requirements listed below.
1. Transfer students must have previous team singership verified by their past director.
  2. Transfer students would also need proof of their scholastic average.
  3. Students must complete an audition with the receiving high school director.
  4. Receive approval from receiving campus administration for transfer and acceptance into the varsity choir.
- Section 4: Returning singers must audition each year and must be in good standing with all fees, fines, equipment, and uniforms turned in by the last day of the school year.

## **Article V: Choir Placement**

- Section 1: Singers for auditions will follow the district prescribed audition procedure.
- Section 2: Placement will be based on pitch matching, theory understanding, aural skills, sight reading, vocal technique, and director recommendation.
- Section 3: Students are placed in ensembles based on their audition and are placed in the ensemble that they will experience the most success and musical growth. The decision of the head director is final.

## **Article VI: Maintaining Membership**

- Section 1: All grade averages will be checked and recorded immediately after the close of each nine-week period. Any member who makes an "F" (below 70%) in a nine-week period cannot participate in extracurricular performance activities for the period of time defined by the "No Pass/No Play" guidelines from the state (1st 6 weeks and 9 week checks are used in eligibility). **The UIL concert and sight-reading evaluation is a state assessment that is exempt from "No Pass/No Play."** An academic waiver for failure in an exempted course as defined by state law may be granted by the administration for a one time use only. A special education student may also obtain an academic waiver through the administration should the member fail a particular class through an IEP established at an ARD.
- Section 2: Singers are encouraged to be enthusiastic and positive. Singers must be courteous and respectful to fellow choir singers, faculty singers, and other adults. The singer must accept constructive feedback in a gracious manner. Poor attitude will result in the singer being dismissed from practice, event, or performance.
- Section 3: Singers must be reliable, responsible and dependable.
- Section 4: Dues, fees, or communication of financial hardship must be made by the date indicated by the campus head director.
- Section 5: Members who resign or are dismissed from the high school choir have to re-audition for the high school choir and reinstatement is at the discretion of the head director.
- Section 6: Members must represent their organization, in and out of uniform, with class, respect, and dignity.
- Section 7: Students are placed in an ensemble based on their skills

## **Article VII: Non School Day Rehearsals**

- Section 1: Rehearsals outside of daily instructional time will be held at the discretion of each campus head choir director with advance notice.
- Section 2: For each unexcused co-curricular absence, singer's grade will be reduced in alignment with campus grading policies.
- Section 3: All rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Parent-director communication is required in advance of an absence. Failure to communicate in a timely manner will result in an unexcused absence.

## **Article VII: Transportation**

- Section 1: Transportation
- a. Transportation to and from all rehearsals and performances is the responsibility of the singer and/or parent/guardian.
  - b. Members must ride the bus to and from an event when a bus is provided. The director must approve any exceptions prior to the event.
  - c. Bus transportation is provided for all football games, contests, and some additional performances throughout the year.
  - d. The bus will leave promptly and not be held for late arriving singers.
  - e. Roll call will be taken before the bus departs and again before it returns.
  - f. When riding a school bus all singers are expected to conduct themselves properly and abide by all school rules governing use of school buses.
  - g. Members must have a Spring ISD Field Trip Parent/Guardian Permission & Medical Information form on file with the choir program to travel.
- Section 2: Members must arrive at rehearsal on time. Members who do not arrive on time will receive disciplinary action to be issued at the directors' discretion.
- Section 3: Members must be picked up within 30 minutes of the end of practice/performance/ event or when buses arrive after an event.

## **Article VIII: Practice and Performance**

- Section 1: If a member misses the instruction of a piece, it is the singer's responsibility to learn the material so that they will be prepared.
- Section 2: Each high school choir member will be required to attend all performances, practices, and competitions. Discipline problems, unexcused absences, excessive tardiness, failure to respect teammates and the directors, failure to pay fees or communicate a hardship, as well as failure to execute songs adequately, will justify the directors to remove any singer from any performance, and, in the case of serious and chronic problems, dismissal from the high school choir.
- Section 3: All singers are expected to attend and participate in all activities unless they are on academic/disciplinary probation. ***If a member is on probation, the singer will not be allowed to attend performances and/or events as a high school choir member.***
- Section 4: All choir students will be issued formal concert attire. Formal concert attire is the property of Spring ISD, and students who lose or damage the choir's uniforms will be responsible for the cost of repairing or replacing them.
- a. Uniforms and costumes must be clean and in performance condition.
  - b. Black **DRESS** shoes (no tennis shoes or crocs) are required.
  - c. Students wearing tuxedo pants will wear black socks.
  - d. Hair must be pulled out of the singer's face.
  - e. No jewelry that individualizes the uniform should be worn
  - f. No perfume, cologne, scented lotions or strong-smelling body products should be applied.

## **Article IX: Absences**

- Section 1: All singers are required to attend all practices unless unforeseen or unusual circumstances arise which prevent the member from being able to be present. Absence from any high school choir activity is unexcused *except in the following circumstances*:
- a. Personal illness or accident
  - b. Illness, death or funeral in the family
  - c. Special school activities that are *approved in advance* by the director. Advanced written notice may merit special situations excused at the director's discretion.
- Section 2: Members must contact the director(s) immediately if they are going to be absent due to illness or extreme emergency.
- Section 3: Due to the practice schedule being announced in advance, routine doctor appointments, dental appointments, hair appointments, and nail appointments should be scheduled so that there are no conflicts. *These appointments will result in unexcused absences.*
- Section 4: Any member missing a mandatory pre-concert dress rehearsal that does not have a permitted excuse will be removed from the upcoming choir concert.
- Section 5: Work conflicts will not be considered an excuse for not attending practices, events, or performances. Calendars will be given in advance so that work schedules can be arranged to avoid conflicts with high school choir activities.
- Section 6: A phone call or email should be made to the choir director in the event of a singer being absent or arriving late to a practice, performance, or event due to an emergency. Singers arriving unexcused after required 'Call Time' may have performance grades lowered.
- Section 7: All injuries and illnesses over 3 days must be documented with a physician's note stating limitations and recovery time.
- Section 8: All singers must notify the director of any major health changes that may prohibit them from performing assigned duties or constitute a safety concern.

## **Article XII: Letter Jacket Requirements**

Letter jackets will be awarded for participation in choir activities based on the following award criteria:

- After completion of two years of choir while in good standing.
- After completion of extracurricular participation requirements.

# **Spring Independent School District High School Choir**

## **Constitution & Code of Ethics Signature Page**

Participation in the Spring ISD high school choir is a privilege, and not a right. In order for the high school choir member to maintain and retain this privilege, the policies and procedures contained in the constitution must be adhered to in the spirit of discipline, education, and the overall goals and objectives of Spring ISD.

The policies and enforcement procedures are relative to the Spring ISD high school choir program and will be administered accordingly. The rules, regulations, and policies are outlined in the Spring ISD high school choir Constitution and Code of Ethics.

***I have read the Spring ISD Choir Team Constitution and Code of Ethics in its entirety and fully understand the time, expense, and discipline that will be required of me as a choir member. I agree to abide by all provisions of the High school Choir Constitution and Code of Ethics.***

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

***I have read the Spring ISD High School Choir Constitution and Code of Ethics in its entirety and fully understand the time, expense, and discipline membership in the Choir Team will be required for my singer. I support my singer in this endeavor.***

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/ Guardian's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**