

*MCE Choir*

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*Handbook*

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2023 - 2024







# McC Choir Handbook

2023 - 2024

## McCullough Choir Core Beliefs, Mission, and Goals

### **McCullough Choir Core Beliefs**

The McCullough Choir is a community in which our members have.....

A safe place to be themselves.

A place where they are accepted for who they are.

A place where they feel valued and loved.

A place to belong.

### **Mission Statement**

The McCullough Jr. High Choir will provide opportunities for each student to develop artistic expression, individual responsibility, personal integrity, and a sense of community through the teaching of lifetime musical skills.

### **Program Goals**

Membership in the McCullough Choir will:

Help students learn to work together to achieve a goal

Help each student derive a sense of accomplishment

Help each student feel a sense of pride

Help each student develop self-discipline

Enrich each student's musical knowledge

Develop each student's musical talent

Help students learn to appreciate all kinds of music



# Meet the Directors



*Mrs. Quintana*

**Head Choir Director**

**Kelsie Quintana is a summa cum laude graduate of Sam Houston State University where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Music Education, as well as her Masters Degree in Choral Conducting with an emphasis in Vocal Pedagogy. Before teaching, she was a member of the TMEA All State Mixed Choir, as well as a UIL Solo Outstanding Performer. Mrs. Quintana is in her 6th year of teaching in Conroe ISD and her fourth year at McCullough Junior High. Before teaching at McCullough, she was the director at Stewart Elementary in CISD. While teaching at Stewart she was named Teacher of the Year in 2020. Choirs under Mrs. Quintana's direction have received consistent sweepstakes at UIL, as well as over twenty choral awards through various festivals.**



# Meet the Directors

Ms. Eaton

Assistant Choir  
Director



Alison Eaton graduated *summa cum laude* in May from Sam Houston State University with her Bachelor's degree in Music with a teaching certification. She studied voice under Christopher Michel and was a member of the top choir, the SHSU Chorale, for 2 and half years under the direction of Dr. Joshua Bronfman. Ms. Eaton was also a member of the SHSU opera program for 3 and a half years where she performed a multitude of roles under the direction of Dr. Nicole Asel and Dr. Rebecca Renfro. She student-taught in Conroe ISD at Grand Oaks High School and Bradley Elementary School. She could not be more excited to begin her teaching career at McCullough as she grew up in the Woodlands feeder system where she attended Coulson Tough Elementary School, McCullough Junior High School, and graduated from the Woodlands High School in 2018.



# Meet the Directors



*Ms. Brill*

**Assistant Choir  
Director**

**Angela Brill is excited to begin her 45th year of teaching. Prior to teaching at McCullough Junior High, Ms. Brill taught at Collins Intermediate and Powell Elementary in Conroe ISD. She also taught at St. John's School in Houston, for 30 years before moving to Conroe ISD in 2015. Early in her career she taught music in Barbers Hill ISD for 6 years.**

**Ms. Brill holds a Bachelor of Music from Hardin Simmons University and Master of Music from Sam Houston State University with a certification in Kodaly Music Teaching. She has had Intermediate and Elementary choirs perform at the TMEA annual conference in San Antonio. She has taken many students to perform in ACDA National Honor Choirs and the Organization of American Kodaly Educators National Honor Choirs.**

**Angela is the proud mother of her daughter Laura (32) of Chicago, and son, Wade (28) of Houston.**



# Rules, Expectations & Consequences

## **Rules**

Follow directions and procedures.

Use appropriate words and tone.

Keep hands, feet, and all objects to yourself.

Cell phones must be secured in student backpacks and in their assigned cubby during class.

Gum chewing is prohibited in the choir room.

Strive to do your best work.

## **Expectations**

Show respect for the director, peers and rehearsal time.

Actively participate with a positive attitude.

Have good posture, energy, and enthusiasm.

Raise your hand to be called on or to leave your seat.

Please do not bring gum, food, drinks, or candy into class without permission.

Please leave all backpacks, binders and books in the storage area.

Bring only the required materials to your seat.

Please be in your assigned seats with your choir folder and other required items when the bell rings.

Please ask for permission to play the piano, use the phone, or enter the directors' office.

## **Consequences**

Verbal Warning

Parent Contact

Office Referral

Any serious offense, such as defiance or fighting will result in an immediate office referral. Serious/persistent violations or CISD Student Code of Conduct violations may result in removal from Choir.



# Grading Policy

## Grading Policy

Choir members will receive a grade in choir each nine-weeks. Grades will be based on the following criteria:

- Major Grades: Participation in class, Participation in Concerts, written and digital activities and assessments, and projects
- Quiz Grades: Sight reading tests, song checks, after-school rehearsal attendance, and written assignments
- Daily Grades: Posture, supplies/folder checks, turning in required forms, etc.....

\*Concert performances are required. They fulfill the performance requirement for the TEKS. Therefore, those performances are graded assignments.

## Concert Attendance Policy

- If a choir member must miss a concert performance, notification must be sent to one of the directors via email or written note PRIOR to the day of the performance or the student will receive a zero.
- Only the directors will decide if the absence is excused or unexcused.
- Alternate assignments will be given to students who have been granted an excused absence by the directors.
- If no notification is given or the absence is not excused, students will receive a major grade of a zero.
- Excused Absence: \*CISD events, illness (Student was absent from school.), death in the family.
- Any other absence will be excused solely at the discretion of the directors.
- Depending on the nature of the absence, students MAY be able to complete an alternate assignment for a grade of 70.
- Examples of unexcused absence resulting in a grade of 0: no notification, private P.E. practice or game, private dance or drill team rehearsal or performance, birthday party, taking a family member to dinner, relative in town, private team/league practices, etc....
- \*The choir directors and the school sponsor/coach work together so that the students can participate in both events. However, if there is no solution and the student must be absent from a concert/rehearsal, they will be given an alternate assignment.

## Concert grading criteria

- Students will be assessed on their performance efforts, behavioral concert etiquette and overall mastery of the content prepared.
  - Points will be deducted if students are found to be lacking in any of the specified aspects above. Deductions will be assessed by the directors and related specifically to the elements students lacked in.
  - Referrals may also be written for behavioral issues if deemed necessary by the directors.



# Student Code of Conduct

## **Standards for Student Conduct Each student is expected to:**

- Demonstrate courtesy, even when others do not.
- Behave in a responsible manner, always exercising self-discipline.
- Attend all classes regularly and on time.
- Prepare for each class; take appropriate materials and assignments to class.
- Meet District and campus standards of grooming and dress.
- Obey all campus and classroom rules.
- Respect the rights and privileges of students, teachers, and other District staff and volunteers.
- Respect the property of others, including District property and facilities.
- Cooperate with and assist the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.
- Adhere to the requirements of the Student Code of Conduct.
- Refrain from language that is discriminatory in any manner to others.

## **Conduct Before and After School**

Teachers and administrators have full authority over student conduct at before and after school activities on District premises and at school sponsored events off District premises, such as play rehearsals, club meetings, athletic practices, and study groups or tutorials. Students are subject to the same rules of conduct that apply during the instructional day and will be subject to consequences established by the Student Code of Conduct or any stricter standards of behavior established by the sponsor for extracurricular participants.

## **Extracurricular Code of Conduct**

Extracurricular Codes of Conduct Sponsors of student clubs, performing groups such as band, choir, and drill team, and athletic teams may establish standards of behavior, including consequences for misbehavior, that are stricter than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the Student Code of Conduct or by Board policy shall apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization's standards of behavior. Students can be removed from extracurricular organizations, such as Mixed Choir or Region Choir if the code of conduct is not abided by.





# McC Choir Calendar



## 2023 - 2024

### *Required Events*

#### September

25 & 26 : Pep Rally at McC  
(Mixed Choir ONLY)

#### October

5 : Fall Concert (ALL CHOIRS)  
10 : Fall Feeder Concert  
(Chamber, Highlander & Mixed  
Choirs ONLY)  
23 & 24 : Pep Rally at McC  
(Mixed Choir ONLY)

#### December

1 : Winter Concert (ALL CHOIRS)

#### January

30 : After School UIL Rehearsal  
(All Choirs)

#### February

13 : After School UIL Rehearsal (All Choirs)  
20 - 23 : Pre - UIL (All Choirs)

#### March

6 - 7 : UIL (All Choirs)

#### May

15, 16 & 17 : Pop Show (All Choirs)

### *Optional Events*

#### September

8 : Choir Games (All Choirs)

#### October

24 & 25 : Coffee House Auditions

#### November

4 : CISD Solo Contest  
14 : Coffee House

#### December

8 : Feeder Winter Social

#### March

REGION WORKSHOP TBD

#### April

12 & 13 : Region Choir Auditions  
26 & 27 : Region Choir Clinic & Concert

#### May

3 : Six Flags  
9 : Banquet



# Academic Eligibility Guidelines

## **Academic Eligibility Guidelines**

According to the UIL no pass, no play guidelines, a student must be passing classes with a 70 or above in order to participate in events that are competitive, require a fee, or take students out of class. Determining eligibility can be confusing for many parents.

Please read the statements below to help you determine if your child is eligible

- Eligibility can be gained or lost according to the child's report card
- If your child passed all classes with a 70 or higher on the report card, they are eligible for the entire nine-weeks.
- If your child did not pass all classes **on their report card, they have the opportunity to gain eligibility on the next progress report**
- In order to gain eligibility with a progress report, they must be passing ALL subjects
- Eligibility can be gained on a progress report, but it cannot be lost on a progress report.
- Once a student gains eligibility through a progress report, they are eligible until the next report card.
- Eligibility rules apply to events in which there is a fee or a competition.
- Please note that students WILL participate in **all required concerts regardless of academic eligibility.**

A CISD Progress Reports and Eligibility calendar is included in the choir handbook.

Please refer to it as needed. All activities that fall under the UIL guidelines have been marked on the choir calendar. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us. We will let your child know if they are unable to participate in an event due to eligibility.



# Academic Eligibility Calendar

## Conroe Independent School District Eligibility Calendar Progress Reports and Eligibility Dates 2023-2024 UIL Participation

Grading Period	First Day of Grading Period	Last Day of Grading Period	Grades Due	Progress Report Issued	Eligibility Status Change@ 2:35	Students Eligibility Lost or Gained
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### 1<sup>st</sup> Semester

1 <sup>st</sup> Grading Period						
End of 1 <sup>st</sup> 3-weeks	08/09/2023w	08/25/2023f	08/28/2023m	08/31/2023r	N/A	N/A
End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3-weeks	08/28/2023m	09/15/2023f	09/18/2023m	09/21/2023r	09/22/2023f	Lost or Gained
End of 1 <sup>st</sup> 9-weeks	09/18/2023m	10/5/2023r	10/10/2023t	10/13/2023f	10/12/2023r	Lost or Gained

2 <sup>nd</sup> Grading Period						
End of 1 <sup>st</sup> 3-weeks	10/10/2023t	10/27/2023f	10/30/2023m	11/02/2023r	11/03/2023f	Gained
End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3-weeks	10/30/2023m	11/17/2023f	11/27/2023m	11/30/2023r	12/04/2023m	Gained
End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> 9-weeks	11/27/2023m	12/15/2023f	01/02/2024t	01/05/2024f	01/10/2024w	Lost or Gained

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

3 <sup>rd</sup> Grading Period						
End of 1 <sup>st</sup> 3-weeks	01/03/2024w	01/22/2024m	01/23/2024t	01/25/2024r	01/29/2024m	Gained
End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3-weeks	01/23/2024t	02/09/2024f	02/12/2024m	02/15/2024r	02/16/2024f	Gained
End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> 9-weeks	02/12/2024m	03/08/2024f	03/18/2024m	03/22/2024f	03/25/2024m	Lost or Gained

4 <sup>th</sup> Grading Period						
End of 1 <sup>st</sup> 3-weeks	03/18/2024m	04/08/2024m	04/09/2024t	04/11/2024r	04/15/2024m	Gained
End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3-weeks	04/09/2024t	04/29/2024m	04/30/2024t	05/02/2024r	05/06/2024m	Gained
End of 4 <sup>th</sup> 9-weeks	04/30/2024t	05/23/2024r	05/23/2024r	05/31/2024f	NA	NA

m = Monday  
t = Tuesday  
w = Wednesday  
r = Thursday  
f = Friday



# Uniforms

**ALL choir members are required to wear formal performance uniforms during formal performances.**

## Choir Dresses

- DO NOT CUT OFF MATERIAL to hem your dress. A deep hem is fine.
- Dresses should be hemmed by hand with black thread only. Please hem by hand, then press the hem. DO NOT use staples, tape, pins, iron-on material, or glue to hem the dress.
- The dress hem should cover the top of the foot, but not touch the floor.
- Remove the hem before you return the dress at the end of the year.
- DO NOT remove any tags from the dress.
- DO NOT WASH the dress.
- Uniforms must be returned the week after UIL (unless otherwise specified)

## Wearing your dress:

- Wear black DRESS shoes every time you wear your choir dress. Black hose or knee-highs are also expected.
- Hair should be pulled back off the face, worn "half up", or pulled completely back in a ponytail. This is at the director's discretion.
- The pearl necklace (purchased through the choir program) should be worn with the dress at every performance. Small stud earrings are acceptable but are not required.
- Eating or drinking in your uniform is only allowed with permission from the director.
- If you outgrow your dress, contact your director as soon as possible to arrange for a replacement.

## Choir Tux Pants and Vests

- DO NOT CUT MATERIAL to hem pants. A deep hem is fine.
- Pants should be hemmed with black thread only. Please hem by hand, then press the hem. DO NOT use staples, tape, pins, iron-on material, or glue to hem the pants.
- The pants hem should cover the top of the foot, but not touch the floor.
- Remove hem before you return the pants at the end of the year.
- DO NOT remove any tags from the pants or vest.
- DO NOT WASH the pants or the vest.
- Uniforms must be returned the week after UIL.

## Wearing your tux:

- Wear Black DRESS shoes and black socks every time you wear your choir uniform.
- Hair should be combed and off the face.
- Eating or drinking in your uniform is only allowed with permission from the director.
- If you outgrow your uniform, contact your director as soon as possible to arrange for a replacement

**Uniforms are the property of CISD. Failure to return a uniform or returning a uniform in damaged condition will result in being assessed with a replacement charge. Uniforms, like textbooks, must be returned in order to clear student records.**



# Financial Responsibility

## Required Costs

All students pay a \$80 activity fee to pay for their required items (choir tee, pop show tee, choir binder, and a uniform maintenance fee) and to help cover costs throughout the year. These costs include sheet music, classroom supplies, accompanist fees, instrumentalist fees, transportation costs, facility rental fees etc...

## Optional Costs

\*Vocal Solo and Ensemble Accompanist Fee - \$25

\*Region Choir Audition Entry fee - \$10

Spring Trip - TBA

\*These fees may change

## Making Payments

All payments for choir are made through our school financial system: School Cash Online.

If you must pay by check or cash: All check and cash payments must be made to the school secretary before school.

Please follow the guidelines listed below...

- Check: Student's first/last name must be written in the memo line. The check should be submitted in a sealed envelope with the student's name and purpose for the check written on the envelope.
- Cash: Student must submit the exact amount. We do not have change. The cash should be submitted in a sealed envelope with the student's name and purpose for the cash written on the envelope.

## SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

School Cash Online provides you with the convenience of paying online for school items such as class fees, school trips, club/athletic fees, and spirit wear. We really want to save you time when paying for school expenses, so we can't wait for you to take advantage of this opportunity. School Cash Online is a great way to pay without the need for cash or checks!

If you have not already registered your child for an account, please visit the website below to register online (it takes less than 5 minutes!). Once you have registered your child/children, you will be able to see when they have a new item posted online for purchase. You also have the option to be notified whenever your child has a new school expense due, so you don't have to worry about missing the deadline.

**To set up an account and explore the system, please follow the instructions below. Register Online:**

**Step 1: Visit the website <https://conroeisd.schoolcashionline.com/>**

**Step 2: Register by selecting "Get Started Today" and following the steps.**

**Step 3: After you receive the confirmation email, select the "Click Here" option, login in and then add each of your children to your household account.**

**If you have any questions during the registration process or while shopping online, please select the SUPPORT option in the bottom right hand area of the screen.**

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