



2015-2016

Wortham ISD Vocal Choirs and Recorder Groups
Curricular & Extracurricular Handbook:

3rd-6th Grade Elementary Show Choir

3rd-6th Recorder Ensemble

4th-6th Grade NTCC Ensemble

6th-8th Grade Performance Choirs

9th-12th High School Choir

TCDA Honors Choir

UIL Region MS & HS / TMEA Region & All State Choir

Texas Federation of Music Clubs Participants

WORTHWHILE VOICES

A small town. . . energies and drive are many, energies and drive producing experiences beyond the small town, changing perspectives, opening minds, creating a love for the world.

We do this while teaching our voices to be good, to speak out, to carry the tune of life . . . worthwhile voices.

Linda Ferris

BEYOND THE WALLS

"...one of the most direct ways of praying and meditating is through singing, and singing in community is exceptionally powerful. You get people together in a room and get them singing, and you instantly knock down all the walls, the creeds, the gender, age and race differences, everything. You're all one at that point, lifting your voices."

Bobby McFerrin



WORTHAM ELEM/MS/HS CHOIRS HANDBOOK

Weekly Calendar (Subject to adjustment as necessary in the school year)

Mornings 6:45-7:30am – Elementary Choir Groups Rehearsals/UIL Music Memory

Mondays and Wednesday – Show Choir / NTCC Choir
 Tuesdays and Thursdays – Recorder and Pre-Band Instrumental Instruction
 Fridays – 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th Grade Music Memory Teams

Afternoons 3:30-4:30pm – Supplemental Choir Rehearsals as Needed by Programs

Fall Semester

Mondays – Group MS – Sightreading Clinics
 Tuesdays – Men's Sectionals MS Choir
 Wednesdays – Ladies Sectionals MS Choir
 Thursdays – Combined High School and MS UIL Choir Rehearsals
 Fridays – Combined Rehearsals – all performance groups (Seasonal)

Congratulations on being part of Wortham's continuous growing choir and extracurricular performance program!

The following information is provided to help us all work together to produce excellence in these music programs at Wortham ISD. Please take time to read it carefully with your family. Addendums will be posted at later dates.

REHEARSALS

Wortham Show Choir (3rd-6th grade)

Auditions for this ensemble will be held in August and early September. Each student will perform one selection in their range memorized and be able to match pitches to certain criteria. Stage presence, movement, vocal projection and energy are required to be accepted.

Rehearsals will be on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 6:45-7:30am and begin the week after audition results are announced. Students should report directly to their homerooms after the bell rings to begin school.

North Texas Children's Choir (4th-6th grade)

Auditions for 13 available permanent slots and five traveler alternates in the North Texas Children's Choir will take place the day of Show Choir Auditions. Both groups will meet together to learn the rigorous repertoire as well as a Christmas concert program for presentation. A clear voice, an attention to diction and vocal clarity, and singing harmony with the director will be part of the criteria for acceptance. For the 2014-2015 school year, thirteen permanent members and five alternates will be selected to learn the selections scheduled for the annual choral performance at the Meyerson in January. Two during-school rehearsals will be scheduled annually in Plano to be announced later.

Weekly rehearsals will be with the show choir on Mondays and Wednesdays 6:45-7:30am. Attendance and proper choir behavior is expected to continue participation.

An immediate fee of \$40 (\$10 music packet that will be donated back to the school library after concert and \$30 for shirt, lunch, etc. for concert day). \$60 will be required for deposit into the Choir Boosters account by each selected NTCC member for expenses if designated fundraiser is opted out for trip expenses.

The NTCC Satellite choir will perform with alternates the Thursday prior to the Dallas field trip for the community as their fund-raising activity for hotel and meal expenses.

Rockin' Recorders (3rd-6th)

This group is an extracurricular instrumental ensemble whose goal is the individual and ensemble advancement with a performance emphasis on recorder. Meeting before school on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:45-7:30am and at special times of the year, this group travels to compete, perform, and study to increase their knowledge of the woodwind solo and ensemble arts. Members of this group must be a student signed up for music classes in school during the day. 3rd grade instruction will begin in class the first semester. Those wishing to become part of the Rockin' Recorders must attain adequate proficiency and begin with permission from the director.

Individuals may enroll to participate in annual festival competitions on memorized selections. Some Saturdays will apply.

Texas Federation of Music Clubs Junior Festivals (3rd-12th Grades)

Vocal Involvement – All students may request selections to advance in points toward a gold cup in the TFMC with an enrollment fee of \$15 for each individual event in February. These selections may be in the Musical Theater or Art Song or Patriotic/Folk Song categories for this annual event. Students receiving a Superior rating at the district level held in Waco may advance and participate on the state level held in San Marcos for All-State Ratings.

Instrumental Involvement – Open to all piano and recorder students who can memorize selections designated through the TFMC Jr. Festivals Bulletin guidelines. State level requirements and information reflect the vocal qualifications above

(Students participating 3 years and receiving 15 points qualify for a Gold Cup awarded by TFMC). State level winners work to become All-State Winners in their classification in each event.

Special and individual coaching and accompaniment rehearsals may require accompanist fees to participate.

6th-8th Grade UIL Honors Choir/Jr. High Choir Class

The 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who have enrolled in the fine arts elective for choir will automatically be included in the UIL Non-Varsity High School performance choir of Wortham ISD. In this class, members will specialize in the vocal development skills, sightreading skills, study repertoire for region and state honor choirs, and be part of two community performance concerts throughout the year.

Students who are part of the band ensemble will not be able to meet during the school hours as above, but will be required to attend two afterschool rehearsals to participate for sectionals to be part. Attendance monitoring will be strict, and failing grades will not enable the student to participate and follow the “no pass, no play” rule in the Wortham ISD Handbook.

The Extracurricular Jr. High group along with the 6th graders (which do not have an in-school class) will meet following these guidelines for the fall semester: All 6th-8th

grade students Mondays 3:30-4:30pm, Mens Ensemble TTB Tuesdays 3:30-4:30pm, and Ladies Ensemble Wednesdays 3:30-4:30pm, combined rehearsals of HS and MS choirs, on Thursdays. Friday may remain free providing attendance at the regular time is met.

Depending on the membership, this group will combine special times of the year for UIL group competitions and other judging events, and members may participate in outside UIL Region events on an individual basis through an audition process outlined by TMEA for Region participation.

Field trips will be scheduled for this group outside and during the school day. Continued Vocal training and performance will determine the curriculum.

A calendar of UIL, Texas Federation of Music Clubs, and the Texas Choir Directors Assn. events will be supplemental material with membership. A lab fee of \$30 for ensemble music, folder, and a uniform fee may apply.

The 7th and 8th Grade and 9th through -12th Grade Choir Classes

These ensemble fine arts class is offered to high school students based on vocal technique, the desire to participate in a fine arts performance ensemble with requirements outlined by UIL and TMEA functions.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will sing proficiently, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music that is of an average difficulty level.
2. Students will compose or arrange short passages of music within specified guidelines.
3. Students will work in unity to produce a cohesive choral sound.
4. Students will be able to read and notate music given in class.
5. Students will listen to, analyze, and describe music using proper musical terminology.
6. Students will be able to articulate the relationship between music and other disciplines.
7. Students will describe music in relation to history and culture.

The Choir Classes will be:

Educating through UIL Participation in Concert and Sightreading in the Choir
 Educating through Individual Vocal Performance through UIL Solo and Ensemble Event and/or Texas Federation of Music Clubs Jr. Festival
 Educating and providing Community and Local Opportunities through performance
 Offering Music Theory and Analysis, Studies in Foreign Language Development,
 Exposure to Significant High School and Secondary School Choir Groups through Judging events and field trips.
 Providing Opportunity to Participate in Cross-Curriculum Events with Vocal Contribution, Theatrically and Artistically
 Helping to Build Confidence for Leadership through Singing and Presentation
 Widening the Knowledge of All Vocal Styles, Group and Individual
 Offering Private Study, Camp Opportunities for Enrichment through TMEA events, All-State Clinics, etc.
 Working closely with Instrumental groups to build “College-Bound” All-Round Musicians.

****Students must have forms on file for travel, medical information, blanket permission to publish, field trip consent, and parent acknowledgment of grading policy and class rules.**

See additional Wortham High School and Middle School Choir Handbook for Procedures, Expectations, and Detailed Policies.

ATTENDANCE/TARDY POLICY

It is essential that every choir member attend all rehearsals and be punctual. Regular tardiness will be addressed and will need a note from parent on file for the date late or missed. **In the instance that Mrs. Ferris may have specially scheduled meetings or duty responsibilities, an adjusted calendar will be sent home with the members.**

All Choir members and their families will try to communicate through Remind app. We depend on everyone to attend ALL rehearsals. If you are ill and miss school, you are excused from choir and should stay home and get well! **A note or email stating the nature of the absence BEFORE it occurs, if possible, is appreciated.**

During competition months special mandatory scheduled afterschool rehearsals may apply.

A supplemental handout for class requirements will accompany the Choir Handbook for detailed instruction requirements, letter-Jacket requirements, concerts, and yearly concert expectations. **(Please see Addition to Choir Handbook, specifically outlining requirements for upper level choir musicians).**

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Choir members are expected to have good citizenship at all times; during the **school day**, during **rehearsals** and during **performances**. We will follow the Wortham Elementary and Middle School and High School Student Handbooks including *Attentive Listening (no talking during rehearsals), * Mutual Respect, *Appreciations, * No Put Downs”, and *Bulldog Best! Failure to follow these agreements may result in dismissal from the choir. Parents and students should keep both handbooks on file.

RESPONSIBILITY

Choir members are expected to turn in all necessary forms/permission slips, etc. within the first week of school term. There is a designated box in the music room for all choir related papers and information. Please **DO NOT** turn in choir forms to homeroom teachers! Choir members are also expected to wear the appropriate uniform for all choir performances. Students who are absent from choir practice are expected to find out what they missed. Choir "business" should be taken care of outside of your daily music time, preferably before or after school. I can be reached by email at lindaferris55@me.com or linda.ferris@worthamisd.org. You can also check the Designated Choir pages at the website: <http://www.WorthamElementaryMusic.com>

Or facebook page: **Wortham All-Honors Choirs**

UNIFORM

The standard uniform will once again consist of a Wortham Choirs polo/Tee rented annually by each member (and stored at the school) and dress **black **NEW** pants. Until a stricter uniform policy is adopted by the music clubs and/or choir boosters, parents should discuss styles with the director before purchasing, if possible. **NTCC Members will need to purchase khaki pants to complete their uniform. All members will need to purchase a plain black belt to complete their uniform. Usually comfortable athletic shoes will complete the uniform. MS and HS students will need to purchase black performance shoes to wear with their slacks and shirts. Cost of uniform shirt varies, and definite costs will be relayed to the parents of each student during the ordering process.

High School and Middle School Concert dress may be required for Region, Honors Choir events. The student will be informed of uniform responsibility, accessories, etc. when notified of event. The choir program will work closely with the Choir Boosters Members for sizing, purchase, and maintenance of any uniform item.

**If you would be willing to assist the acquisition, cleaning, and storage of t-shirts, please let me know ASAP!

Choir I-IV
Wortham High School Choir Policies and Procedures

Classroom Policies – Mrs. Ferris

Choir is a course that seeks to give students in Wortham’s High School experiences in the study and performance of a diverse repertoire of vocal/ choral music. The course will include instruction in proper vocal technique, musicianship skills, and the cultural and historical context of choral literature. The course will encourage self-expression through performance and creation of music.

Class Description Curricular Music Class

Materials for Class:

1 – 1-2” Black 3-Ring Binder with Plastic Coating for Strength
 Packet of Tab Dividers
 Plenty of Pencils (Non-Mechanical), Erasers, Pencil Packet
 Loose-leaf notebook paper

Fees and Uniform Requirement:

Like Band, Choir Class is a Curricular Class providing teaching materials, performance supplies necessary for function in the class. The Wortham Choir Boosters Assn. is a functioning group that will assist in certain uniform purchases and some fees throughout the school term. There will be an initial fee of \$10 to join the Choir Boosters Assn. and a \$15/shirt fee. Other expenses throughout the year may include long dress khaki pants, black belt, and black performance shoes. A formal concert attire will require sizing, ordering, and upkeep, and will be maintained and stored in the choir Room

CLASSROOM RULES

1. Be at class and ready to start on time.
2. Leave all other business outside of the door and focus on working.
3. No eating, drinking, gum chewing, or cell phone use in class.
4. Be polite and respectful to teacher and students at all times.
5. Follow teacher’s directions.
6. Participate and try your BEST. All must sing!
7. Follow all rules in student handbook.

Consequences for Continuous Disrespect for Rules:

Lots of verbal warnings, possible parent/student conferences,
 Disappointment of the choir and its director for disruption and stop in progress.
 Continued lack of participation and disrespect may lead to writing assignments as an alternative to vocal input.

Severe behavior results in immediate referral to office and possible expulsion from honor choir activities, festivals, and events.(i.e. Fighting, disrespecting teacher, stealing, etc.)

Conduct and Participation Grades are averaged weekly for choir students in class. There should be no behavior issues as Wortham Students of the choir class will be considered above all in discipline and representation of the school body. All will be expected to

participate in several projects, performance and academic assignments throughout the year. There will a semester project assigned, as well. Final grading is based on:

CHOIR GRADING POLICY

Grades will be based on students' participation in the classroom and at performances, written work, and quizzes.

A 20-point daily participation grade will be taken each day of class. In order to earn all 20 points, the student will be expected to actively participate and be attentive at all times.

All students are required to participate unless they have a doctor or parent note. If any student is too sick to sing, the director must be notified with a note from the nurse and/or parent at the beginning of the class period so that the student will earn a participation grade by attentively reading along with the music.

Students are expected to participate and put forth their best effort at all times. No participation equals a failing grade.

Grade Scale

A = 90 – 100 B = 80 – 89 C = 70 – 79

Failing = Below 70

CONCERTS

Two concerts will be held a year, a winter concert in December and a spring concert in May. Both concerts are mandatory, as they are included in grading for the current six weeks, fulfill the TEKS for Choir 1-1V and will be considered the semester exam. When uniform is not worn, standard dress code rules will apply. Absence will only be excused if the absence is due to illness, death in the family, or any other reason approved by the instructor.

Field Trips and Performance Trips and Travel

BUS TRIPS

During the year, the Wortham All-Honors Choir or combination of choirs may travel out of town to events, games, or competitions. Moving 25-50 persons, uniforms, instruments, and equipment is not as easy job. To make this easier, strict rules of behavior will be enforced on the bus to avoid consequences.

When taking long bus trips, student assistants may be assigned for emergency exit evacuation, first aid supplies, equipment, trash duty, etc.

A seating chart is required by Texas law to accompany school groups on every trip.

Stay in your seat while the bus is moving is mandatory. This is STATE LAW, and failure to follow it can result in serious injury.

Obscene language/music and loud noise are not permitted.

There are no limits on personal stereos with headphones, as long as the student understands they must leave them on the bus at events, and are not secure.

Everyone is responsible for cleaning the trash out of the busses. Individuals may be assigned to assess bus clean-up.

For legal reasons, students who are non-choir members may not ride the bus without parent or legal guardian written permission, as well as consent of the director AND principal.

In keeping with school rules, ALL Choir MEMBERS MUST RIDE ON THE BUS TO AN EVENT. Any exceptions must be approved by the principal.

All parents/adult chaperones must submit two forms to the administration office to accompany students with the choir. You can find the forms on the Wortham ISD Webpage.

Every student must work to unload and load equipment for each performance trip.

Only a PARENT or LEGAL GUARDIAN can arrange for a student to leave the field trip and return home with other transportation. (Please note this does not say boyfriend/girlfriend, brother/sister) A written note must be on file with the director in this case.

Other situations must be approved by the director AND principal.

LOADING/UNLOADING

Again, everyone is expected to help unload the bus and equipment vehicles upon return from a trip. It is also EACH STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY to load his/her own instrument, uniform, etc.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

It is the student's responsibility to report damaged equipment, inappropriate and abusive behavior on busses, and disrespect for materials on a trip. All out of town and out of state trips are considered a privilege through Wortham Schools and Wortham ISD, and behavior will be managed using the school's Code of Conduct.

Worham Elementary NTCC/ Bulldog Show Choir/Rockin' Recorders/MS Honor Choir

RETURN THIS PAGE TO MRS. Ferris by September 1st

Student's Name _____ (please print)
I/We have read the information attached and will support the policies stated for the
Worham All-Honors Choir Program.

Parent/Guardian Signature

I understand the expectations of me as a member of the Show Choir/NTCC Ensemble of
Worham and will do my best to follow them.

_____ Food allergies? _____
Student Signature

_____ Homeroom Teacher _____ Parent Email (preferred)

_____ Best Contact Phone # _____ Student Email and/or Cell#

If you already have a group shirt, check here _____ (DO NOT circle a size below)
If you need to purchase a new shirt, or are a charter member of the Worham Middle
School/HS Choir, please send cash OR a check for \$15.00 made out to Worham choir
Boosters Assn. T-shirt Size (please circle size): Youth M Youth L Adult S

Adult M Adult L Adult XL Adult XXL

**Remember that these will be tucked in for all concerts, so please allow for length.

PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Would you be available to assist with:
- _____ Ordering and distributing shirts (immediately)
- _____ Providing snacks for a rehearsal (approx. 30 snacks 1-2 times during the semester).
- _____ Organizing snack schedule
- _____ Piano accompanist for choir rehearsals and performances
- _____ Working, planning, and helping to execute semester performance(s).
- _____ Chaperoning, sponsoring, etc. annual field trip performances or competitions.

Student Enrollment Information:

Choir and Group Designation(s):
 High School _____
 Middle School _____
 Show Choir _____
 NTCC: _____
 Rockin' Recorders: _____

Special Programs and Request for Participation:

TFMC Solo: Vocal ___ Instrumental ___ Ensemble: Vocal ___ Instrumental ___
 TCDA Honor Choir: _____

Student Name: _____

Grade Level: _____

1st Period Teacher: _____

Mailing Address:

Parent Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Student phone #: _____ Email: _____

Experiences in Vocal Choirs:

Vocal Range: Fall _____ Spring _____

Vocal and Instrumental Wortham Choirs Experience
(year, and group):

Student Information Sheet 2015-2016

STUDENT NAME: _____ Grade _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

HOME TELEPHONE: _____ CELL: _____

STUDENT EMAIL: _____

PARENT NAME(s): _____

PARENT EMAIL: _____

MOTHER'S WORK PHONE: _____

FATHER'S WORK PHONE: _____

Extracurricular / Curricular / Sports Teams / Performance Group (s):

We have read and understood the Wortham Elem / MS Choirs Handbook. If we have any questions regarding participating in any Choirs / Recorder, we will contact Mrs. Ferris at 254-395-4369

or email at <mailto:linda.ferris@worthamisd.org>

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

Permission to Travel (separate from individual permission slips sent home for each individual event)

I agree to allow my child to attend ALL Choir/Recorders ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH HE/SHE IS ELIGIBLE. I understand that while student safety is a high priority for the District, under State Law, the school is not responsible for medical costs associated with a student injury.

I expressly waive all claims for medical expenses, loss of services, or other claims, and I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the District, its Trustees, employees, and agents from all claims made against it or them on behalf of my child.

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the District, its Trustees, employees, and agents from all claims made by third parties against it or them which result from my child's actions on each trip.

I understand that the District, its Trustees, employees, and agents are not waiving any sovereign or governmental immunity which it or they have under Texas law.

I have read and understood this release and sign it voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance.

STUDENT NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

PARENT PHONE NUMBER: _____ CELL: _____

PARENT ALTERNATE PHONE NUMBER: _____
(This number could be an office phone, pager, another cell phone, etc.)

PERSON (OTHER THAN PARENT) TO CONTACT IN CASE OF

EMERGENCY: _____ PHONE: _____

(This information is very important. Please provide the name and phone number of a relative or family friend who will know how to find you in an emergency. Please do not use any of the phone numbers listed above. If your child is injured, or becomes ill while away from school, it is vital that school personnel are able to contact you as quickly as possible.)

KNOWN ALLERGIES OR MEDICAL CONDITIONS: _____

MEDICATIONS CURRENTLY USING: _____

INSURANCE CARRIER: _____ POLICY #: _____
(To be used for emergency treatment only. Parent and school administrators will always be notified of emergencies.)

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

DATE SIGNED: _____

(This form will accompany other forms that may be required by other organizations for participation, not take the place of)

STUDENT NAME _____

**Wortham Extracurricular and Curricular Choir and Performance Groups
Music "Blanket" Permission to Publish**

We are very proud of the many accomplishments achieved by our students. The Wortham Choirs and Music students are wonderful students involved in so many positive activities. We would like to provide greater opportunities to give our students the acknowledgements they deserve.

Consent

I hereby consent for my student, _____ (student's name), to appear in published form (written or photographically) in the local news media, choir booster newsletter, choir web site, choir show shirts, choir concert programs, seasonal and annual performance events programs and flyers, and other community media sources, for the purposes of providing Wortham students and parents contact information and/or to promote and acknowledge the student's accomplishments, successes and involvement in the Wortham Choirs and Music program.

Waiver and Release

I release and waive, and further agree to indemnify, hold harmless or reimburse the Wortham Independent School District, the Board of Education, the Wortham Choir Boosters, its successors and assigns, its members, agents, employees and representatives thereof, as well as supervisors and volunteers from and against, any claim which I, any other parent or guardian, any sibling, the student, or any other person, firm or corporation may have or claim to have, known or unknown, directly or indirectly, from any losses, damages, or injuries arising out of, during, or in connection with the student's representation in the published format.

Signature of Parent(s) or Guardian(s) _____

Date _____

(A copy of this must be on file to determine membership in the performing organizations)

www.WorthamElementaryMusic.com