



2011-2012
(Approved September 19, 2011)

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 Grade Performance Choir
- 6th-8th Grade UIL Honors Choir

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 CHOIRS HANDBOOK

Congratulations on being part of Wortham's 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 early September. Each student will perform one show selection in their range memorized and one patriotic selection. Stage presence, movement, vocal projection and energy are required to be accepted.

Students in this organization must first be enrolled in daily music classes at school. Rehearsals will be on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 7:00-7:45am 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 15-20 available slots in the North Texas Children's Choir will take place the day of Show Choir Auditions. A clear voice, an attention to diction and vocal clarity, and singing harmony with the director will be part of the criteria for acceptance. Fifteen 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 are scheduled for Friday mornings 7:00-7:45 am and Tuesday after school 3:30-4:30pm. Attendance and proper choir behavior is expected to continue participation.

Rockin' Recorders (3rd-8th)

This group is an extracurricular instrumental ensemble whose goal is the individual and ensemble advancement with a performance emphasis on recorder. Meeting before school and sometimes special times of the year, this group travels to compete, perform, and study to increase their knowledge of the woodwind ensemble arts. Members of this group must be a student signed up for music classes in school during the day.

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

Texas Federation of Music Clubs Junior Festivals (3rd-8th)

Vocal Involvement - All students may request selections to advance in points toward a gold cup in the TFMC with an enrollment fee of \$15 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)

6th Grade Performance Choir

This class will be taught last period of the school day as a step in training 7-8th students to fill a UIL sponsored choir for Middle School. Students in this class will work on presentations for field trip performance, North Texas Children's Choir participation, and participation in the Choir Category for the TFMC Jr. Festivals.

This class will train serious vocal students in solfege, sight-reading skills, proper vocal tone quality and technique, and will educate them in the vocal arts and performance. There will be light, outside school work and practice required. Students may focus on musical standards, pop selections, folk arrangements, and choral literature.

Since this choir is offered as an elective and taught during the day, a grading policy will be in effect for it. (See attached 6th grade choir information.) UIL procedures, events, and rules will be considered for outside events for the group. Two concerts in the school term will be required. Instrumental supplemental program for programs may apply.

7th-8th Grade UIL Honors Choir

The 7th and 8th Grade is an Extracurricular Ensemble for the 2011-2012 school year, meeting on Tuesday and Friday afternoons 3:30-4:40pm. Depending on the membership, this group will combine with the 6th grade performance choir special times of the year for UIL group competitions, and members may participate in outside UIL Region events on an individual basis through an audition process outlined by the UIL.

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 \$25 and a uniform fee may apply.

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.**

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.**

A schedule of rehearsals and events for this semester is attached.

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 Student Handbook 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.

RESPONSIBILITY

Choir members are expected to turn in all necessary forms/permission slips, etc. on time. 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 <mailto:ferris@glade.net> You can also check the Designated Choir pages at the website: <http://www.WorthamElementaryMusic.com>

UNIFORM

The uniform will once again consist of a Wortham Choirs polo shirt bought by each member (but stored at the school) and dress khaki pants (also kept at the school.) All members will need to purchase a plain belt to complete their uniform. Usually comfortable athletic shoes will complete the uniform. We will be purchasing choir polos again this semester for the choir. 6th Grade students will assist in design of the first official Wortham Choirs program shirt for performance. If your child needs a new shirt, indicate this on the form attached. The cost is \$15.00. NTCC shirts will be awarded on the concert weekend. ****If you would be willing to assist the acquisition, cleaning, and storage of t-shirts, please let me know ASAP!**

2011-2012 Calendar of Choir Events:

(Dates can be Adjusted and Changes Posted at a later date)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Saturday, September 10 | Audition for 3rd-6th Grade Show Choir and North Texas Children's Choir by Appointment |
| November 16th | NTCC Trip to Plano |
| Sat. Nov. 12th | TMEA Vocal Concert Baylor Field Trip E/MS |
| Tuesday, December 13 th | Christmas Choirs/Recorder Concert - Auditorium |
| January 17 th | NTCC Trip to Plano |
| Saturday, January 21 st | 7-8th Grade TMEA Region Choir MS Audition – Temple |
| Thursday, January 26 th | NTCC – Spaghetti Concert/Dinner FundRaiser – Methodist Church |
| Friday, January 27-28 th | NTCC – Meyerson/SMU Field Clinic/Concert – Dallas |
| Saturday, February 4 th | 7-8th Grade TMEA – Clinic/Concert Field Trip (All 6-8th Members to Attend Concert) - Shoemaker |
| Sat. Feb. 25th | District Jr. Festival TFMC Music Clubs Waco All Choirs/Volunteer Recorder/Individual Soloists |
| Saturday, March 31 st | Show Choir/Recorder Annual Pancake Dinner Fundraiser |
| May Events: | Spring Travel Trip – To Be Determined with Details to come Sandylake Choir Competition/Field Trip Show Choir/Recorder/6-8th Travel Performance Trips |
| Saturday, May 19 th | State TFMC Choirs/state Qualifying Solists/Ens – San Marcos, Texas |
| Thursday May 24 th | All Choirs Spring Concert |

Wortham Elementary NTCC and Bulldog Show Choir

RETURN THIS PAGE TO MRS. Ferris by September 6th 3:30pm.

Student's Name _____ (please print)

I/We have read the information attached and will support the policies stated for the Wortham Choir program.

Parent/Guardian Signature

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

Student Signature

Food allergies? _____

Homeroom Teacher

parent email (preferred)

best contact phone #

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 Wortham Middle School Choir, please send cash OR a check for \$15.00 made out to Wortham ISD.

T-shirt Size (please circle size): Youth M Youth L

Adult S Adult M Adult L

**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.

Parent Volunteer Name _____



ElementaryCHOIR/NTCC/Recorder SCHEDULE – Fall 2011

** On Weeks that Mrs. Ferris is responsible for morning duty before school, all morning rehearsals will begin immediately at 7:00 and end at 7:30am. Remember to check the webpage or updates if needed.

REHEARSALS:

Show Choir:

Mondays and Wednesdays only this fall.
Rehearsals will included Friday after January

September 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28

October 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 31

November 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 28, 30

December 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21

Special Rehearsals to Accommodate Auditorium

Use may occur in December

North Texas Children's Choir:

Friday Mornings

Fridays 7:00-7:45am

September 16, 23, 30

October 7, 14, 21, 28

November 4, 11, 18,

December 2, 9, 16,

There will be two weekday rehearsals involving a field trip to Plano for NTCC students:

Wednesday, November 16th 1:00-9:00pm

Tuesday, January 17th 1:00-9:00pm

Rockin' Recorders:

Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:00-7:45am

September 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29

October 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27

November 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 29

December 6, 8, 13, 15

UIL Honor Choir:

Tuesdays and Fridays 3:30-4:30pm

September 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27

October 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29

November 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 29

December 2, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20

Wortham Middle School 6th Grade CHORUS

6-8th UIL Honor Choir

Classroom Policies – Mrs. Ferris

Vocal music is a course that seeks to give students in Middle 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 – 6th Grade Choir – Curricular Music

Class

CLASS FEE - \$15.00 for choir shirt

MATERIALS

Black – 3-three-ring binder, 1” Pencils Loose-leaf notebook paper

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, or gum chewing.
4. Be polite and respectful to teacher and students at all times.
5. Follow teacher’s directions.
6. Participate and try your BEST.
7. Follow all rules in student handbook.

Consequences:

1. Verbal warning
2. Conduct mark
3. Conduct mark & parent notification
4. Conduct mark & detention
5. Conduct mark & parent conference
6. Conduct mark & office referral
 - Severe behavior results in immediate referral to office. (i.e. Fighting, disrespecting teacher, stealing, etc.)

Conduct Grades:

95-100%– Excellent = 0-1 conduct marks

90-95% – Satisfactory = 2-4 conduct marks

80-90% – Needs Improvement = 5-6 conduct marks

70-80% – Unsatisfactory = 7 or more conduct marks

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 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. All students are expected to try.

Grade Scale

A = 90 – 100 B = 80 – 89 C = 70 – 79

Failing = Below 70

CONCERTS

Two concerts will be held this year, a winter concert in December and a spring concert in May. Both concerts are mandatory, and student 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.

6-8th UIL HONOR CHOIR

The Wortham Middle School Honor Choir is an auditioned group that meets after school on Tuesdays and Fridays and performs at competitive events. Auditions will be held in

early September. Auditions are opened to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade choir students who are interested.

Students will work on excerpts required to audition for Region 8 UIL Middle Choir Event Clinic and Conference. While entries in UIL functions are paid by the school district, solo and ensemble music is an expense that may require a lab fee. Parents will be informed of this if this may be the case.

TFMC – Jr. Festival Choir

Will perform for honors at Texas Federation of Music Clubs as a choir and individual singers may prepare solo selections to advance.

Field Trips and Performance Trips and Travel

BUS TRIPS

Several times during the year, the WHS Choir travels out of town to events, games, or competitions. Moving 75-80 people, 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.

1. When taking long bus trips, student assistants will be assigned for emergency exit evacuation, first aid supplies, equipment, trash duty, etc.
2. A seating chart is required by Texas law to accompany school groups on every trip.
3. Stay in your seat while the bus is moving. This is STATE LAW, and failure to follow it can result in serious injury.
4. Obscene language/music or loud noises are not permitted.
5. 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.
6. Everyone is responsible for cleaning the trash out of the busses. Individuals may be assigned to assess bus clean-up.
7. 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.
8. In keeping with school rules, ALL Choir MEMBERS MUST RIDE ON THE BUS TO AN EVENT. Any exceptions must be approved by the principal.
9. Every student must work to unload and load equipment for each performance trip.
 - a. Your PARENT or LEGAL GUARDIAN signs you out. (Please note this does not say boyfriend/girlfriend, brother/sister) OR
 - b. The director has received:
 - ** WRITTEN permission from parents.
 - ** VERBAL permission from both parents, BEFORE we leave Wortham. (We do not have time to hold the busses, while you try and chase down a parent on a cellular phone.)

Other situations must be approved by the director AND principal.

LOADING/UNLOADING

Everyone is expected to help. It is also EACH STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY to load his/her own instrument. You cannot depend on anyone else to load it for you. Due to the amount and size of the equipment we take, recorder and choir students will be responsible for loading and unloading their equipment. Certain students may be assigned to duties prior to trip and it is their responsibility to see that each job is done.

The consequence for "ducking" this responsibility will be assignment to the loading/set up team for a period of two weeks. Wortham practices "seniority loading and seat-selection". Example: Jr. High, then Elementary seating designation. For Safety and by law, a Bus Trip Seating chart will be carried on the bus at all times during a trip.

DRUGS / ALCOHOL

The use of illicit drugs or alcohol by members of the Wortham Elementary/Middle School Choirs will not be tolerated. The following rules will be in effect:

Any instances of drug or alcohol use discovered during a trip may be handled by the school administration, AND/OR law enforcement.

RULES FOR CHOIR

1. Follow instructions the first time they are given.
2. Have all necessary equipment and supplies at each rehearsal and performance.
This would include, but not limited to, instruments, music folders, stands, music, uniforms, socks, shoes, etc.
3. Be in your assigned position unless given permission to do otherwise.
4. Remain quiet while the director is working with sections, individuals, or otherwise.
5. Treat others with respect.

JUST DO YOUR JOB!!

Student Enrollment Information:
Choir and Group Designation:

Student Name: _____

Home Room Teacher: _____

Grade Level: _____

Mailing Address:

Parent Phone # :

Do you have a cell phone #?

Experiences in Vocal Choirs:

Vocal Range: Fall _____ Spring

Uniform Size:

Shirt _____ Pants _____

Belt: _____ Shoes: _____

Student Information Sheet 2011-2012

| |
|-----------------------------------|
| STUDENT NAME: _____ |
| MAILING ADDRESS: _____ _____ |
| HOME TELEPHONE: _____ CELL: _____ |
| STUDENT EMAIL: _____ |

| |
|----------------------------|
| PARENT NAME: _____ |
| PARENT EMAIL: _____ |
| MOTHER'S WORK PHONE: _____ |
| FATHER'S WORK PHONE: _____ |

Extracurricular/Curricular Performance Group:

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 765-3523 or email at <mailto:linda.ferris@worthamisd.org>

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

Permission to Travel

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: _____

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 _____