

Brazoswood High School Choir
William Few, Butch Broom, Leo Oliver, Directors
302 W. Brazoswood Drive
Clute, Texas 77531
(979) 730-7300 (Ext. 29241) Fax (979) 265-2296



Welcome to the Brazoswood Choirs

www.bwoodchoir.org

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome back to school and to the Brazoswood Choirs. It is the hope of the Choral Department that you will enjoy your years in our organization. The choral music department at Brazoswood is active in all phases of music. As a member of this organization you will have the opportunity to sing concerts, enter contests, make trips, earn letter jackets and learn a skill that you can use for a lifetime. With over 400 students in the choral department, we are looking forward to an exciting year of music making.

STAFF

The choral department includes directors Bill Few, Butch Broom and Leo Oliver. All teachers will be conducting and working with the choirs in our program. Voice lessons will be offered on campus and after school. **Please welcome Mr. Oliver from Ingleside HS. He is an awesome musician and a great new member of our team.**

SPRING TRIP

This year the choirs of Brazoswood High School will enjoy a spring trip with both musical and fun activities including a visit to a theme park. We will participate in a contest/concert performance at a fine facility. The trip will be reasonably priced and each student will be given the chance to raise funds to pay for the cost of this trip. Registration for this trip and the first payment will be during September-October.

CHOIR GOALS

Choral music is a disciplined art form which will allow you to enhance your skills both as a group performer and as a solo performer. Students are encouraged to participate in both UIL and TMEA auditions and contests. As a member of this organization, you will present concerts that encompass all styles of music. The choir always strives to give students an opportunity to make music on both high school and pre-professional levels.

VOCAL EXPECTATIONS

In order to improve their vocal talents, students will be required to learn new skills and improve their ability in a number of musical areas. One of these areas is, of course, vocal production. In order to improve their performance, students will be given instruction and tested in the area of basic vocal production. In order for the ensemble to achieve a desirable



blend, all students will work to produce a healthy vocal tone quality that will contribute positively to the total sound of the ensemble while matching the vocal production of the other members. Students who receive vocal instruction outside of class are reminded that when they are participating as part of a Brazoswood ensemble, they are expected to conform to the character and vocal production of the ensemble (just as a dancer would be expected to perform a group routine in a manner that conforms to their ensemble). As indicated in the BISD grading policy, “students who do not meet the director’s standards for ‘Performance As Part Of A Group’ may have their schedule of classes altered or modified by the principal.” We will make every attempt to include all of the members of this organization in as many activities as possible. When appropriate, students may audition for available seats in more advanced ensembles. We will voice test any student who wishes more information about their vocal placement. We help students in their vocal development; however, since we attempt to keep balanced ensembles if there are no positions open, students who change from their BISD assigned voice parts may forfeit their position in the more advanced ensembles.

SIGHT AND MUSIC READING

Another area of student instruction is sightreading and/or the skill of reading music. Since all students learn differently and have different levels of ability at the beginning of the year, students will work to improve their skills in music and rhythmic reading throughout their participation in choir. Students will be given instruction and tested on their ability to read music from a score and to reproduce the pitches printed on a page. Students will also learn to use musical terms correctly.

STUDENT GRADES

In order to evaluate the progress of the student, they will be required to take both written and performance tests including “live” and “taped” performances. The student will be graded on both their current performance skill and their degree of improvement. The grading system as outlined by our school district includes: 75% for performance and/or demonstration of skills, homework, practice assignments, daily work and tests AND 25% for six week’s examinations. Sectional rehearsals and night rehearsals are recognized by our school district as a graded event. You will receive full credit for those activities by being on time and participating fully. You will also receive at least one weekly grade for daily rehearsals. The quality of your work and effort will determine this grade. You will also be graded on all co-curricular concerts and events.



MAKE-UP WORK

All students will be given the opportunity to make up missed work and to retest for better grades on major exams provided the make-up work is completed within a timely period. The exact formats for the exams will be explained to the student as they prepare for the test. Students who miss graded performance events will be given an opportunity to complete a written research project to replace the missed performance.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Performing in a band, choir or orchestra is only partially an individual effort. The constant interplay between individuals and the combining of voices are also integral components of musical compositions; thus, a disciplined, tractable attitude toward other members of the group and toward the teacher is necessary in rehearsal and in performance to assure a perfect “fit” of all parts.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Objectives in the following areas demonstrate acceptable discipline and attitude. They relate as much to the quality of a student’s participation as do those listed as part of their academic grade and are vitally important to the attainment of a high performance capability. Consistent failure to meet group standards in these areas will result in a lower conduct grade and/or reassignment. Students are expected to:

1. Attend all performances and rehearsals
2. Be punctual
3. Have a good attitude towards musical learning
4. Behave in a manner that conforms to school standards
5. Be responsive to instruction
6. Be responsible for the proper care of personal and school-owned equipment
7. Have all class materials every day
8. Maintain a neat appearance when participating as a member of the school group.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR

In the State of Texas activities are divided into two major categories - Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular. Students who **do not** meet UIL guidelines for eligibility and participation **may not** take part in the following Extra-Curricular activities by state law. All students may participate in activities listed as Co-Curricular. These activities may defined as follows:



Extra-Curricular

1. UIL contests
2. TMEA auditions and clinic/concerts
3. Spring trips
4. Participation in any competition or festival
5. Football half-time shows
6. Community activities
7. Concerts performed away from the home campus
8. Attendance as part of an audience of a live or televised concert
9. Pep rallies
10. Rehearsals outside of school that lead to extra-curricular performances or concerts

Curricular

1. High School academic concerts and events
2. Solo and/or ensemble recitals on the home campus
3. Section rehearsals held during the class day
4. Full group rehearsals of a concert organization held before or after school prior to a curricular concert

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

By BISD policy, an individual student's participation in a BISD band, choir or orchestra at an extracurricular event would also depend upon the following:

1. A student could be removed because of their lack of skill in performing an assigned part in the music, alone and with other members of the group. Students without sufficient skills would detract from the group's performance and could be moved to a class with fewer performance expectations.
2. A student's lack of attendance at performances and rehearsals, poor punctuality, bad attitude, bad behavior, lack of responsibility, etc. could result in the removal of the student. High standards of conduct should be expected of a school group which performs in public. The student should follow all guidelines and stipulations of the district's Discipline Management Plan in order to have the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities.

Thus, students not meeting standards of conduct in school or when participating in school activities (such as rehearsals and public performances) could be removed from the class, reassigned, and/or have the privilege of extracurricular participation rescinded.



CLASS RULES

1. Be in your seat with your music and a pencil when the final tardy bell rings.
2. Do not talk during class. It wastes educational time.
3. No gum, candy or any type of food or drink in the choir room.
4. Take care of bathroom problems outside of class NOT during class.
5. Use class time for learning: Be alert, Be ready, Be on time.
6. Be supportive of the efforts of your fellow class members.
7. Follow school dress code.
8. Keep your academic grades up. Pass your classes!
9. If you need help, ask for it. We want to help you.
10. Represent Brazoswood and your choir with your best efforts.

TARDIES

Students who violate the school tardy policy will be assigned D-Hall according to the school's discipline policy. Be in class and ready to begin learning when the final bell rings.

CHOIR CALENDAR

The choir's calendar of events for this year is posted on the choir website (www.bwoodchoir.org). We will advise students of any additions or deletions to this schedule as soon as possible. With few exceptions, concert and contest dates will not change. The choirs at Brazoswood realize that talented students are also active students. We will make every effort to schedule events around as many conflicts as possible. We realize there are multiple activities scheduled on every night of the year; however, the student also must put forth an effort to complete their responsibility to participate in choir. Students should make every effort to hold these dates as special and to not plan other activities on these nights. Students who do not regularly attend choral activities will have their class assignment reviewed and adjusted.

MEDICAL FORM

You will also find a copy of the music department's medical release form. Each student must have this completed form on file in the choir office in order to travel or to participate in any choir activity. By school policy, all traveling students must have a completed medical history and release form on file (just in case).

ALL-STATE (TMEA AUDITIONS)

This is a series of auditions which leads to awards and participation in select honor choirs. The student will learn a group of audition music and present this music to a panel of



professional judges in order to participate in this contest. If selected, the student will proceed to the next audition level and honor choir. If they are not selected, the student does not continue in the audition process. Additional information will be supplied to the students as each contest approaches. All academically eligible students who are members of their parent organizations may audition for membership in the All-Region and All-State Choirs. In order to enter this audition the students must be a member of the Brazoswood choirs, be academically eligible, and receive the approval and certification of their high school choral director. Students who are not certified as prepared by their high school choral director may not audition. Students who are not members of the high school choir may not audition. Private voice instructors may not enter students in TMEA or UIL events, only the public school teacher may. Brazoswood HS will provide music and practice tapes for the students as well as working with the students before and after school and during some class periods. Students who do not take advantage of this out of class help may not be certified. Unprepared students will not audition. Since this activity is an extra-curricular event, the student may choose not to participate. When a student registers to audition, Brazoswood HS may pay their entry fee or the student may be asked to pay for a registration fee or an accompanist fee.

UIL SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

This is a contest where a single or a group of students prepare a single song for presentation to a judge who may award the students a medal. The student may also earn the opportunity to continue on to the state solo and ensemble contest. All academically eligible students who are members of their parent organizations may participate in the Region 17 Solo and Ensemble contest. In order to enter this contest the students must be a member of the Brazoswood choirs, be academically eligible, and receive the approval and certification of their high school choral director. Students who are not certified as prepared by their high school choral director may not participate. Students who are not members of the high school choir may not participate. Private voice instructors may not enter students in TMEA or UIL events, only the public school teacher may. Brazoswood HS will provide music and practice CDs for the students as well as working with the students before and after school and during some class periods. Students who do not take advantage of this out of class help may not be certified. Unprepared students will not audition. Since this activity is an extra-curricular event, the student may choose not to participate; however, once the student registers to participate, Brazoswood HS will pay their entry fee and help them to hire an accompanist for the event (student cost of \$20). If the student does not follow through with their commitment to participate, they may be required to pay the entry and accompanist fees.



LETTER JACKETS

A student may earn a letter jacket from the Brazoswood Choir in several ways. One way is to be a member of the choir for three complete years and being enrolled in choir for the next complete academic year. Another way is for the student to be selected as a member of a Varsity All-Region Choir. The final way is for the student to have completed two full years of participation in the Varsity Chorale and being enrolled in choir for the next complete academic year. Letter jackets are ordered during the month of November.

CHOIR TRIPS

Eligible members of ALL Brazoswood choirs may participate in the choir spring trips. The students in all choirs may work to pay for their trip in several ways. The first is to participate in the “take-order” type of fund-raising where the student takes orders for a product and then delivers it. The students will usually make about 40-50% of their gross income. Students may also choose to pay for their trip. Students can earn most or all of their trip costs through fund-raising. Each student is assigned an account where their earnings are held under their name. Once a student leaves choir all remaining funds in their account return to the choir’s general fund. Your account balance is always available on the choir website (www.bwoodchoir.org). Your student ID number is your password.

UNIFORMS

The choirs at Brazoswood use uniforms provided by the school. The ladies wear black formal gowns and the men will wear a tuxedo. The only cost to the students will be appropriate dress shoes and hose for the ladies. The men will need dress shoes and socks and a pure white wing tip-tuxedo shirt without ruffles. Uniforms will be issued to the students during the fall semester of school. The uniforms will be issued as a complete set and the students will be required to return the uniform cleaned at the end of the year. The uniform is to be returned in the cleaner’s bag with the cleaning receipt attached. Failure to return the uniform will result in a not clear card. Members are required to purchase a T-Shirt for their Spring trip and concert performances. The cost is \$10.

WELCOME

We know that you will make every effort to contribute positively to this organization and to your learning. Choir can provide you with a lifelong skill. In choir you will make new friends and form even stronger bonds with old friends. Choir is enjoyable and enriching; however, this is a school class and as such each participant is expected to work hard at improving their choral skills. You will get out of life and music exactly what you put into them. Please do not join this organization in order to “warm-a-chair.” Get involved!



Signature Page - TEST GRADE

Return this page by August 29-30, 2006

I have read all of the enclosed materials. I understand that my student has chosen to participate in this course and will make every effort to follow the teacher's instructions and to participate **fully** in the class's activities. I further understand that since this course is offered by the Brazosport ISD at Brazoswood HS, my student is required to follow all school policies concerning conduct and behavior both on campus and during participation in any school sponsored event.

I also understand that since this is an academic class my student will be graded on their musical growth and curricular participation. Activities that will be graded include written tests, singing tests, sectionals, vocal production, class grades, general conduct and educational attitude.

The student is expected to participate in **all** curricular activities, concerts, class activities and curricular sectional rehearsals.

Failure of a student to adequately participate in or prepare for the activities of the class may result in their reassignment to a less challenging ensemble.

Since this is an academic course, the student is required to follow the teacher's guidelines for vocal production, voice assignment and extra-curricular participation while functioning as part of this class or ensemble. Additionally, this course also contains elements of UIL and TMEA competition. Students are required to follow all state and regional rules concerning those organizations. **All members of Fine Arts are required to participate in the BISD drug testing program.** Students not wishing to follow the instructions and assignments of the teacher and BISD personnel should not be enrolled in this course. Failure of the student to follow the rules of the class and the school will result in a lowered grade and, if the situation warrants, in the student being disciplined according to BISD policy and/or being reassigned to a less challenging class.

Student Signature

Parent Signature