2019-2020
JAZZ CHOIR
“You are the Triple Threat”

Heather Orr, Director of Choirs
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Montgomery High School Choir Department

2019-2020
JAZZ CHOIR CHOIR

Dear Parents and Students,

Congratulations on being selected for JAZZ CHOIR! This packet is intended to lay out specific requirements and rules for the year ahead. The information contained in this packet is explained in great detail to help you and your parent/guardian(s) understand what it means to be a member of this elite group.

Please read this manual carefully and retain for your reference. There have been many changes made from previous years, and we want to make sure that you are aware of our department rules, and expectations.

Jazz Choir General Information
• Membership is a privilege. You choose us and we choose you!
• An extremely high level of commitment is required to be in JAZZ Choir as singers depend on each other for a high quality performance.
• Members are expected to be leaders in the choir program.
• Each member must display a high standard of professional and moral behavior.
• Jazz Choir can be counted as a PE credit or Fine Arts credit.

We encourage you as parents to become involved in your student’s choral education by becoming a member of the Montgomery HS Choir Parents Organization. We also want to invite you to travel with us to the Show Choir competition in March.

If you would like to volunteer to help in the choir department, please contact Mrs. Orr or a parent officer. Feel free to email if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Heather Orr
Heather.orr@misd.org

Seth Getz, Assistant Director of Choirs
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JAZZ CHOIR

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Required Dates

(These are in addition to your main choir dates).

**School House Rock Solo Auditions – September 19**
Solo Auditions during class

**Princess and Superhero Tea Party Dress Rehearsal – October 4, 3:00-5:00 pm**
**Princess and Superhero Tea Party – October 5, Performance**
Performance Call time is 8:00 am. Performance time is 11:30 am. Release time is 3:00 pm.
Mouseketeer costume and mouse ears (supplied by MHS Choir) and hair in pig tails
You will supply black leggings, black tank top, and white keds

**School House Rock, Live! The Musical**
October 21, Day Show Performance during the day
October 22, Evening Performance, 7:00 pm

**CHOREOGRAPHY WEEK (Show choreography/blocking) Times are tentative**
November 19-20 3-6
November 21 3-5
November 22 3-5
5:00 pm Parent presentation (Choreography performance for parents)

**Madrigal Dinner – December 13 and 14**
December 9, dress rehearsal 3:00-5:00 pm
December 12, dress rehearsal 3:00-6:00 pm

**(Highly Encouraged) UIL Solo and Ensemble Competition – February 7**
Depart 3:00 pm, Return 11:30 pm
Black polo and Jeans

**Jazz Choir Clinic and Rehearsal – March 10**
3:00-5:30 pm Show Choir Competition Clinic

**Jazz Choir Clinic and Rehearsal – March 23**
3:00-5:30 pm Show Choir Competition Clinic
5:30 pm Parent Performance and Information Meeting
**Overnight Show Choir Competition, Austin, TX – March 27 and 28**
Depart March 27
Compete March 28, Return March 28 at 11:00 pm (or later depending on when the competition ends)
More details to come.

**IMPORTANT!**

These dates are in addition to the CHOIR CALENDAR!
JAZZ CHOIR is a 2nd choir. You will have dates and responsibilities in your curricular choir.
Curricular Choirs are Bel Canto, Concert Women, A Cappella and Chorale Women.
**Standing Rehearsal Times**

JAZZ CHOIR members will rehearse during class. Additional rehearsals may be added as we get closer to our performances. We will have a choreography week for our competition performance.

**Scheduling/Attendance**

It is not always easy to resolve conflicts, but members are expected to make the ensemble a MAJOR priority in their schedules. Students will have at least two weeks verbal and electronic notice of changes in the performance calendar. We keep a 4 week calendar on the board and a year-long calendar on charmsoffice.com

Types of Absences:

1. **Personal illness**
   If personal illness prevents you from attending a scheduled event, call the choir office at 936-276-3042, and leave a message. Please call even if you are absent from school that day.

2. **Family Emergency/School Conflict**
   The student is responsible for notifying the director of a family emergency or school conflict. School conflicts MUST be approved prior to the event. FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE WILL RESULT IN DISMISSAL FROM THE ENSEMBLE.

For illness or family emergencies, a written note from the parent is required.

Punctual attendance is required. To be right on time is to be late!

**General Attendance information:**

- Rehearsals are NOT OPTIONAL, EVER!
- Work is NEVER an EXCUSE! Since advance notice is given for concerts and extra rehearsals, missing for a job will not be excused.
- Members are required to attend and give leadership in all Curricular Choir rehearsals and Concerts. No Exceptions! If a problem arises in your main choir class, there may be cause for removal from JAZZ CHOIR. There will be no refund of any funds paid if you are removed or have a schedule change.
- You will put your membership in jeopardy with excessive absences. In addition, we work very hard to provide you with amazing singing, dancing and acting solo and small group featured sections. It goes without saying, that a student who misses rehearsal could lose a featured spot.

**Behavioral Requirements**

JAZZ CHOIR members are a reflection of the MHS Choir Program, and are a representation of MHS and MISD. Thus, they will be expected to maintain a high standard for their actions. The following actions will be grounds for dismissal from the ensemble:

- Speaking to a choir director or teacher in a manner that is deemed to be inappropriate
- Leaving or skipping class without permission
- Violation of MISD regulations for Drug/Alcohol and Tobacco Use, or Code of Conduct
- The directors have final discretion of matters pertaining to the removal of students from any ensembles.
Academic Eligibility
JAZZ CHOIR members must remain academically eligible to be able to participate in performances and competitions.

- It is the duty of the student and parents to check their grades frequently through gradebook.
- Failing at more than one grading period may result in the dismissal from the ensemble.
- Directors reserve the right to ask a student to not attend rehearsals if they are not passing their classes.

All State Choir Auditions
JAZZ CHOIR members are highly encouraged to participate in the All State Process. The Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) sponsors an All State Choir (Mixed, Treble, and Tenor-Bass choirs) each year in February and Region Choirs in November. Singers are selected throughout the entire state of Texas through a series of auditions. The entire process is based on individual effort and is an individual accomplishment. Singers must be personally motivated to make time and effort to learn the music, pitches, and rhythms as well as work on sight-reading skills. Our department offers many opportunities to learn the music, including after school rehearsals and in class lessons. The process is very strenuous; however, rewards for those who compete are tremendous.

Voice Lessons
JAZZ CHOIR students are highly encouraged to study voice privately to improve their singing ability and help them prepare for auditions and Solo and Ensemble. Please see a Director for a voice teacher recommendation and information.

Solo and Ensemble Competition
All JAZZ CHOIR members will be highly encouraged to participate in Solo and Ensemble in January.

Parent Involvement
JAZZ CHOIR requires a large commitment from parents. The best way to support your student in choir is to join the MHS Choir Booster Club and let one of the officers know that you are willing to serve as you are able. We encourage JAZZ CHOIR parents to help in the following ways:
1. Stay up-to-date on the following:
   - Your student’s academic grades.
   - Your student’s calendar and choir schedule.
   - Communicate with your student’s director(s) to help avoid any conflicts that arise.
2. Serve as a chaperone for events throughout the year as you are able.
3. Consider becoming a Choir Sponsor.
4. Volunteer to help coordinate events or performances as the need arises throughout the year.
Uniforms
Required
Competitions and Trips
Competition T-Strap Dance or ankle Shoes – 2 to 2 ½ inch heel

*All JAZZ CHOIR girls will need to purchase new nude colored character shoes and nude full length dance tights.
Boys in JAZZ CHOIR will need black dress shoes that are suitable for dancing.

Shoes will be worn daily during class and all Jazz Choir rehearsals.

JAZZ CHOIR Fee
$295 (includes class fee, overnight competition, and shirt)

Choir Program Commitment Statement
Singers are expected to follow through with their commitments to all of the ensembles they are a part of at MHS. Failure to do so will most likely result in lost privileges and possible removal from the choir program. Singers and their parents should be proactive in researching the commitments required to be in the groups that a singer is involved in, and meet those obligations so that every singer can benefit fully from their experience in the MHS Choir Program.

Attitude
The single most important element affecting our group’s success will be our students’ attitudes. As a JAZZ CHOIR member, you are expected to come to rehearsal each day with a positive attitude regardless of your circumstances or personal preferences. It is important that each member understands that being in choir is about being a part of a group that shares in collaborative successes rather than individual successes. Leave pessimism and problems outside the choir room and come ready to work and be AWESOME together!
Montgomery High School Choir Department

2019-2020
JAZZ CHOIR

COMMITMENT FORM

STUDENT:

I have read and understand the JAZZ CHOIR Handbook, concerning my participation in this ensemble and the MHS Choir Program. I accept personal responsibility in fulfilling these requirements and commit to be a part of JAZZ CHOIR at MHS during the 2019-2020 school year.

____________________________
Printed Student’s Name

___________________________
Student’s Signature Date

PARENT(S):

I acknowledge reading the JAZZ CHOIR Handbook regulations governing my student’s participation in this ensemble and the MHS choir program, and I accept responsibility in supporting my daughter in meeting the expectations and obligations as outlined.

___________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature Date

___________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature Date