

HARLINGEN HIGH SCHOOL AND DR. ABRAHAM CANO FRESHMAN ACADEMY

CHORAL MUSIC PROGRAM 2026-2027 HANDBOOK



CHORAL DEPARTMENT FACULTY AND STAFF

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SCHEDULE

1st Period A (HHS)	Advanced Treble Choir	8:20 AM - 9:50 AM
1st Period B (HHS)	JV Mixed Choir	8:20 AM - 9:50 AM
2nd Period AB (HHS)	Cano Navy Freshmen Treble Choir	9:56 AM - 11:26 AM
3rd Period AB (HHS)	Center Stage Show Choir / Chamber Choir	12:03 PM - 12:53 PM
4th Period AB (HHS)	Conference	1:04 PM - 2:34 PM
5th Period AB (HHS)	Varsity Mixed Chorale / Varsity Treble / Varsity Tenor-Bass Choirs	2:40 PM - 4:10 PM

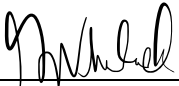
PREFACE

The Choral Music Department Handbook has been written for the Harlingen High School and Dr. Cano Freshman Academy Choral Music Department members and their parents, with the hope of effectively communicating information regarding the various activities of the choral program at Harlingen High School. The manual also contains the policies and regulations of the choir.

All choir members and parents are to read the entire manual carefully at the beginning of each school year and abide by its policies and procedures.

The handbook is available online via the Choir's website, harlingenhschoir.com, and through printed copy if requested by a student or parent.

Students and parents must sign below, signifying that they have read, understood, and will abide by all policies stated. **Upon receiving this manual, students are required to return the signed form by Friday, August 14, 2026.**



Ms. Ginger Wheelock
HHS Head Choir Director



Ms. Emily Saldivar
HHS Assistant Choir Director



Mr. Ruben Reyes
HHS Choir Accompanist/Assistant Director

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PHILOSOPHY

The Harlingen High School Choral Music Program is a performance-based organization and is based on a cumulative sequence of musical experiences designed to promote the continuous growth of students' musical understanding, skills, and means of self-expression. In addition, the HHS choral experience affords each student the opportunity to gain a relative mastery of musical knowledge, education, and experiences through both individual musical endeavors, and also as a cohesive unit, team, and performing ensemble. These opportunities are experienced and demonstrated daily in and out of the regular classroom environment in study and performance.

In conjunction with the musical skills learned, the student will be given opportunities to acquire and demonstrate the life skills of responsibility, teamwork, dedication, loyalty, and self-discipline.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be given the opportunities to:

- Develop and demonstrate healthy vocal techniques by employing good posture, breath control, proper phonation, and resonance.
- Develop and demonstrate necessary choral techniques including proper balance, blend, intonation, tone quality, diction, and rhythmic accuracy.
- Recognize and use elements of musical theory including the grand staff, pitch and rhythmic notation, key and time signatures, music symbols, and dynamic markings.
- Develop music reading ability through a systematic approach to sight-reading.
- Experience a variety of choral styles, eras, and composers through music studied and performed, attempting to achieve an expressive, artistic interpretation of the composer's intent.
- Listen critically to live and recorded performances.
- Perform individually, in small ensembles, and in large groups utilizing personal creative expression.

FEES

- Each choir student will be required to pay a **\$70 Choir Fee**. Fees will cover expenses throughout the school year, including:
 - **Formal Uniform Dry Cleaning - \$25**
 - **Formal Uniform Tailoring - \$25**
 - **Booster Fee (supports student activities and misc. student needs) - \$20**
- Any students participating in Center Stage Show Choir are required to pay an additional **\$20 Show Choir Activity Fee**.

Fee Description & Purpose: Organization Polo Shirt if needed (Informal Uniform), Tailor/Seamstress Fees for alterations to the assigned formal performance uniform, dry cleaning fees for end of year maintenance of assigned uniform, activities/events that the HHS Choir Booster Organization sponsors throughout the year, and membership in the Choir Booster Organization.

- All \$70 of the choir fee will be due by **Monday, September 28, 2026**
- Individual Student account records will be kept on our Cut-Time. Software program. Parents and students can request full account balances and information from HHS Choir Directors at any time during the school year.
- Students must satisfy full balance of choir fee before Spring Trip deposits can be made, as well as receiving a Choir polo or spirit shirt since these funds cover those uniform expenses.
- If you would like to purchase an EOY HHS Choir Senior Banquet ticket, please include an additional \$20 with your \$70 choir fee. We will keep record of all who purchase banquet tickets.
- Remaining individual account balances will move forward for the following school year.
- All balances must be paid in full by senior clearance day for graduation clearance.
- At the end of a student's choral career at HHS (whether by withdrawal or graduation), any remaining balance will go to the HHS Choir Booster Activity fund to help support the HHS Choral Program and students.

CARDINAL AND RAVEN NAVY PERFORMING AND COMPETITIVE ENSEMBLES

HHS CHORALE (VARSITY MIXED CHOIR)

This group consists of auditioned and/or selected students who have advanced vocal technique and sight-reading skills, tested above average on a placement exam and displayed a high level of responsibility and dedication to the choral department. Chorale is an Ambassador Organization, and all members shall conduct themselves as representatives of the HHS Choral Program. Notice of after school rehearsals will be given in advance and all members are expected to be present and on time. Students are also expected to work/communicate in advance with other coaches and sponsors in order to manage conflicts. All members of Chorale represent and perform the National Anthem collectively at each home game and are expected to be present and on time. A separate calendar will be given with all home game dates/times. All members of the Varsity Chorale, as well as parents/guardians, must read, agree, sign and submit the Varsity contract that is given to students upon acceptance into the Varsity ensemble. All expectations, procedures, and guidelines are supported by the HHS Administration and will be implemented according to the discretion of the HHS Choral Staff and Administration.

HHS VARSITY TREBLE CHOIR

This group consists of auditioned and/or selected students who have advanced vocal technique and sight-reading skills, tested above average on a placement exam and displayed a high level of responsibility and dedication to the choral department. This ensemble is its own class, competes on its own as a 6A Varsity level ensemble at UIL, and combines with the Varsity Men's Choir to form Chorale. Notice of after school rehearsals will be given in advance and all members are expected to be present and on time. Students are also expected to work/communicate in advance with other coaches and sponsors in order to manage conflicts.

HHS VARSITY TENOR-BASS CHOIR

This group consists of auditioned and/or selected students who have advanced vocal technique and sight-reading skills, tested above average on a placement exam and displayed a high level of responsibility and dedication to the choral department. This ensemble is its own class, competes on its own as a 6A Varsity level ensemble at UIL, and combines with the Varsity Women's Choir to form Chorale. Notice of after school rehearsals will be given in advance and all members are expected to be present and on time. Students are also expected to work/communicate in advance with other coaches and sponsors in order to manage conflicts.

HHS JV MIXED CHOIR (NON-VARSITY COMPETING ENSEMBLE)

The HHS JV Men's Choir consists of auditioned and/or selected students who have intermediate to advanced vocal technique and sight-reading skills, tested average on a placement exam, and have displayed a high level of responsibility and dedication to the choral department. This ensemble is an ambassador organization, and all members shall conduct themselves as representatives of the HHS Choral Program. Students are also expected to work/communicate in advance with other coaches and sponsors to manage conflicts.

NON-VARSITY AND SUB NON-VARSITY COMPETING ENSEMBLES- FRESHMEN AND ADVANCED TREBLE CHOIRS

The HHS Advanced Treble Ensemble, HHS JV Mixed Ensemble, Cano F. A. JV Tenor-Bass Ensemble, and Cano F. A. JV Treble Ensemble consists of auditioned and/or selected students who have intermediate to advanced vocal technique and sight-reading skills, tested average on a placement exam, and have displayed a high level of responsibility and dedication to the choral department. These ensembles are ambassador organizations, and all members shall conduct themselves as representatives of the HHS Choral Program. Notice of after school rehearsals will be given in advance and all members are expected to be present and on time. Students are also expected to work/communicate in advance with other coaches and sponsors to manage conflicts. These ensembles will perform as individual choirs and/or as a Combined JV Mixed Ensembles at various times throughout the school year.

APPLIED MUSIC/CHAMBER CHOIR/CENTER STAGE SHOW CHOIR (AUDITIONED MEMBER MIXED CHOIR)

This is a highly selective ensemble and serves the HHS/Cano Choral Department as Ambassadors to the general community. Its appointed or auditioned members display advanced skills, talent, and dedication to the choral music department. Students in this ensemble will perform at individual TMEA Auditions, UIL Solo & Ensemble Competition, festivals, community outreaches, district events, etc. Students selected for some and/or all of these ensembles must be enrolled in the 3rd Period A&B Applied Music Class, as well as an additional above ensemble (Varsity or Non-Varsity). This is to ensure that students are receiving fundamental training, best practices, and daily sight-reading/aural skill building. In the event of scheduling conflicts, the discretion of the director may be made. This group is secondary to our UIL competing ensembles which take precedence, but also requires the most time outside of class for rehearsals and performances. Students must be exceptionally committed and serve as ambassadors to the HHS Choir Program to be selected for this ensemble. Notice of after school rehearsals will be given in advance and all members are expected to be present and on time.

ALL Choirs will participate in several required formal and informal concerts throughout the year and have occasional required after school rehearsals. As a member of our outstanding HHS/Cano Choir UIL Organization, ALL students are expected to be in attendance for all performance and competition dates given so that we continue to uphold our standard of excellence and continue working together to create a shared success for all individuals. Any known conflicts MUST be addressed with ALL THREE DIRECTORS at least 2 weeks in advance to allow for problem solving and a workable solution. The only exceptions will be extenuating/unavoidable circumstances and will be considered at the discretion of all HHS Choir Directors. We will do our best to work with and accommodate student schedules as needed and expect our students to do the same.

HARLINGEN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR COUNCIL

PRESIDENT (VOTED AT THE END OF SPRING SEMESTER OR BEGINNING OF FALL SEMESTER BY: CHORALE- 2 VOTES, JV ENSEMBLES- 1 VOTE)

- Promotes high morale and unity in the choir.
- Must be a senior or junior member of Chorale who has been in the choir department for a minimum of two complete years.
- Must have previously held an office on the Choir Council.
- Promotes choir activities.
- Coordinates with all student council members of the choir.
- Sets a good example for all choir members.
- Works with directors to coordinate choir activities.
- Assist with any and all uniform duties.
- In charge of collecting and handling monies earned by officer in after school officer fundraisers. Must be turned into a director the same day.

VICE PRESIDENT (VOTED AT THE END OF SPRING SEMESTER OR BEGINNING OF FALL SEMESTER BY CHORALE AND JV ENSEMBLES)

- Promotes high morale and unity in the choir.
- Must be a junior, or senior Chorale member who has been in the choral department for a minimum of one complete year.
- Assists in all duties of the President when necessary.
- Sets a good example for all choir members.
- Works with directors to coordinate choir activities.
- Assumes attendance and sight-reading duties when secretary is not present.
- Assist with any and all uniform duties.
- Assists the President with collecting and handling monies earned by officer in after school officer fundraisers. Must be turned into a director the same day.

SECRETARY (VOTED AT THE END OF SPRING SEMESTER OR BEGINNING OF FALL SEMESTER BY CHORALE AND JV ENSEMBLES)

- Promotes high morale and unity in the choir.
- Must be a incoming junior, or senior Chorale member who has been in the choral department for a minimum of one complete year.
- Assists in all duties of the President when necessary.
- Sets a good example for all choir members.
- Works with directors to coordinate choir activities.
- Takes attendance daily and truthfully
- Prepares the sight reading of the day for the class, quickly passes out sight reading to students, collects it when finished, and puts it back before class is over.
- Assist with any and all uniform duties.
- Assists the Choir President & Vice President in handling documentation for any and all Choir Council fundraisers by keeping a log of incoming revenue (keep a notebook with fundraiser dates and amounts earned), as well as expenditures (document any money spent and keep receipts as records).

HISTORIAN (VOTED AT THE END OF SPRING SEMESTER OR BEGINNING OF FALL SEMESTER BY CHORALE AND JV ENSEMBLES)

- Promotes high morale and unity in the choir.
- Must be a junior, or senior Chorale member who has been in the choral department for a minimum of one complete year.
- Primarily responsible for compiling any and all pictures taken throughout the year and creating a scrapbook.
- Assists other officers as necessary.
- Assist with any and all uniform duties.

SOPHOMORE LIASON (VOTED AT BEGINNING OF FALL SEMESTER BY CHORALE ONLY)

- Promotes high morale and unity in the choir.
- Must be a sophomore in Chorale who has been in the choral department for a minimum of one complete year.
- Assists other members of the Choir Council in coordinating events, promoting moral, and being an active representative to every ensemble.
- Assist with any and all uniform duties.

CHOIR/ENSEMBLE REPRESENTATIVES (VOTED AT BEGINNING OF FALL SEMESTER BY RESPECTIVE ENSEMBLE)

- Promotes high morale and unity in the choir.
- Takes attendance in class and at events.
- Prepares the sight reading of the day for the class, quickly passes out sight reading to students, collects it when finished, and puts it back before class is over.
- Sets a good example for all choir members.
- Works with Choir Council and directors to coordinate choir activities.
- Assist with any and all uniform duties.

HARLINGEN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR COUNCIL, CONTINUED

In addition to the duties defined on the previous page, choir council members are expected to perform the below tasks. The Choir President will appoint and assign duties as he/she sees fit and will communicate any and all assignments to the Council and Directors.

Before and after every concert/performance:

- Assist with taking attendance and makes sure each ensemble signs in upon arrival.
- Helps to check student for uniform requirements, makes notes of students who are not following uniform dress code, and relays that information back to directors.
- Helps to manage student behavior as assigned.
- Clean up the backstage area, dressing rooms, restrooms, holding areas, and auditorium.
- Sort any binders into the appropriate boxes and help distribute, collect, etc. as needed.
- Pick up any items left behind (clothes, music, binders, etc.) and take to the lobby.

After every bus trip:

- All officers will help remind students to pick up all trash and personal items before getting off of school buses, charter buses, et. Officers will stay behind to check the bus once everyone has departed and throw away any remaining trash and collect items left behind.

Before every choir event or party:

- Plan, plan plan! Give yourselves enough time to thoroughly plan out each event, as well as enough time to advertise to all students. Let directors know of any and all needs for every event.
 - Example of timeline:
 - 1 month before event: Officers meet to plan and organize thoughts and ideas. Share information with directors, solidify games and plans, create a list of items needed for event.
 - 2 weeks before event: Share flier and information with each class. Hand out sign-up lists, food & supplies donation lists, etc.
 - 1 Week before event: Officers meet to review and finalize plans, games, food, supplies, and any other needs for a successful and fun event! Director(s) should be in this meeting and be made aware ahead of time. Continue to announce and advertise every day leading up to event.
 - 1 Day before event: Gather one final head count from each ensemble (directors will help).

During and after every choir event or party:

- Be the first to show up and the last to leave.
- Thank the host and leave the space as it was before the choir used it (off-site venues).
- Clean the space and move furniture back into place (this includes the choir hall, someone's home, an event center, or any other performance or party venue).
- Politely see that students help to clean up after themselves. Roll a trash can around periodically for students to throw trash away, etc.

On a daily/weekly basis:

- Make sure Choir Hall and commons areas are kept clean.
- Help to ensure that students do not bring food/beverages into the main Choir Hall or practice rooms (as directed by Directors).
- Remind students to mind their language if foul or inappropriate language is used in the choir hall, at choir events, when wearing a choir or school shirt, etc. We all must represent HHS Choir, our school, our district, and ourselves in the best possible way at all times. Character matters!

CHOIR COUNCIL FUNDING

The HHS Choir Council can raise funds throughout the year to have available money for party items and activities, pending fundraiser approval by HHS Administration. The Choir VP and Secretary will keep a log of all income/expenses and gather money from choir members when necessary. All money must be accounted for and turned into a director if/when collected, on the same day. For every Choir Council event, officers are responsible for all planning, student sign-up sheets, assigning tasks, planning 2-3 fun activities, and fund collecting if necessary.

2026-2027 HHS/CANO CHOIR COUNCIL MEMBERS

HHS Choir President – RICARDO MACIAS JR.

HHS Choir Vice-President – SOFIA IZETA

HHS Choir Secretary – ASHELY ALVARADO

HHS Choir Historian – GISELLE ZUNIGA

HHS Choir Sophomore Liaison – TBD

HHS/Cano Choir JV Mixed Representative – TBD

HHS/Cano Choir JV Mixed Representative – TBD

HHS Choir Advanced Treble Representative – TBD

HHS Choir Advanced Treble Representative – TBD

Cano Navy Freshman Treble Representative – TBD

Cano Navy Freshman Treble Representative – TBD

UNIFORM INFORMATION AND POLICY

Each Choir Member will be issued an HHS Choral Music Department uniform for use throughout the school year.

- The Treble Ensemble of the Dr. Abraham P. Cano Freshman Academy Choral Music Program will be issued:
 - Gavotta Style Dress in Claret and Black valued at \$90.00.
 - or Black Tuxedo Jacket, Tuxedo Pant, White Tuxedo Shirt and Black Bowtie and Cummerbund valued at \$125.00
- The Tenor-Bass Ensemble of the Dr. Abraham Cano Freshman Academy Choral Music Program will be issued:
 - Black Tuxedo Jacket, Tuxedo Pant, White Tuxedo Shirt and Black Bowtie and Cummerbund valued at \$125.00
- The Varsity & Non-Varsity Treble Ensembles of the Harlingen High School Choral Music Program will be issued:
 - Gavotta Style Dress in Claret and Black valued at \$90.00.
 - or Black Tuxedo Jacket, Tuxedo Pant, White Tuxedo Shirt and Black Bowtie and Cummerbund valued at \$125.00
- The Chorale Tenor-Bass Ensemble of the Harlingen High School Choral Music Program will be issued:
 - Black Tuxedo Jacket, Tuxedo Pant, White Tuxedo Shirt and Claret Tie and Vest valued at \$125.00
- Garment Bag - \$25
 - Each student may be assigned a red garment bag with the Choir logo on it and will use the same garment bag for the length of time that they are enrolled in the choir program. If it is lost or damaged, the student is responsible for replacing it at its valued price of \$25. After a student's final concert their senior year, they may keep the garment bag.

Choir Members are expected to provide their own black dress shoes and black socks for use with the formal.

Uniforms are ONLY to be used for formal events such as Concert Performances and UIL Contest(s) and other events as assigned by the Director(s). They are to be cared for and hung up neatly while not being used.

Each student will be responsible for meeting with the Tailor/Seamstress during designated class time. Students will be sized and assigned a uniform according to the Directors' and Seamstress' measurements. Please be sure to wear the BLACK DRESS SHOES you will be performing in. DO NOT cut or attempt to make alterations on your own. DO NOT use hemming tape on any uniform.

Students will be held responsible for any and all damages to garments while in their care throughout the school year. At the end of each school year, students are expected to return their uniform on a hanger, with their name and class period written on a piece of paper attached to the hanger. Students will be charged the value of the uniform if lost or not returned. If there is an issue with your uniform during the school year, bring it in for a director to inspect or possibly replace. All alterations will be handled by the director-appointed seamstress.

GRADING POLICY

The Harlingen HS/Cano FA Choral Music Ensembles are Performance Based Organizations and comply with HCISD Board Policy as designated by TSAB, the Texas Education Agency Fine Arts TEKS Standards and Practices, Senate Bill 1, Texas Education Codes, regarding Grading and Co-Curricular Activities, and the University Interscholastic League, and therefore choral related activities are recognized as an “extension of the classroom instruction (and curriculum), in which participation is by the entire class or a significant portion thereof, including rehearsals and concerts.”

Since rehearsals and performances do not consist of objectively graded written material, daily grades are based on the student’s effort and participation, both individually and as a member of their ensemble.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Up to 20 points per day/100 points per week

- Deduction of daily grade points can include: tardies, talking, improper posture, poor rehearsal technique and strategy, using a cell phone w/o permission during rehearsal, missing supplies, and chewing gum during rehearsal (safety reasons).

PERFORMANCES/ TEST GRADES

- Present for Concert = 100
- Appropriate Attire for Concert = 100
- Unexcused absence = 0
- Excused tardies and absences will be at the discretion of the directors and must be made aware in advance. Only extreme and extenuating circumstances will be taken into consideration if absent from a concert or performance.
- In-class tests based on performance literature, sight-reading material, and music theory application

As a Performance Based Ensemble, rehearsals, concerts and other “Live” Performances are impossible to recreate, and therefore, make it difficult to make up. If absent from a concert, a research paper will be assigned for partial credit. It is essential to the success of each ensemble that all students are in attendance and can rely on each other accordingly. The HHS Cardinal Choir will continue to leave its legacy of dedicated and committed students!

TMEA ALL STATE PROCESS & UIL CONCERT AND SIGHT-READING PREPARATION

Based on the Rubric established by the Texas Music Educators Association and the University Interscholastic League for Music Performance Education, the HHS/CFA Choral Program will evaluate each student as a soloist OR ensemble/choral unit, according to the performance level of each performing/competing ensemble director, when applicable, giving opportunities to show individual and/or ensemble growth and improvement:

- Division I (Superior)
- Division II (Excellent)
- Division III (Good)
- Division IV (Fair)
- Division V (Poor)

visit www.uiltexas.org/music for more information on the C&CR Rubric

STANDARD & RESPONSE PROTOCOLS (SRP)

Students will practice safety protocols during class and have a well-practiced knowledge of standard expectations in the event of an emergency or planned drill. Students will practice sheltering in place in designated area with lights off. An emergency escape plan is also in place in the event that it is necessary. Harlingen High School and the HHS Choral Department will do everything possible to keep all students and staff safe and ready to act quickly if an emergency were to arise. **Please understand that for safety and important time management, students WILL NOT be allowed to collect their cell phones before sheltering in place or evacuating, as per our administration.** It is of the utmost importance that students understand and follow this protocol for the safety of all. Safety of our student population is our number one priority and the use of cell phones will not be considered a necessity in a time sensitive emergency. Students can be allowed access to their phones once everyone is accounted for, safe, and secured.

In addition, the main magnetic Choir Hall entrance doors, as well as all other doors in the PA Building and Choir Hall will remain locked at all times. Students will not be allowed to leave the Choir Hall once in class unless requested by the front office or if a student needs to visit the nurses office. **During class, students WILL NOT be allowed to use the restrooms in the PA Building hallway, but WILL be allowed to use the Choir Hall “Faculty Restroom” instead.** One at a time, a students will sign next to their name and take the Restroom Lanyard with them to the designated restroom, then return the lanyard once they return to class. This protocol will help account for students at all times while allowing them to stay within the Choir Hall to take care of personal needs.

CELL PHONES

ALL personal communication devices MUST be stored in your backpacks during the instructional day. The instructional school day begins when students enter the campus and ends with the dismissal bell. The instructional school day includes lunch, restroom breaks, and transition time between classes.

A personal communication device is defined as a telephone, cell phone such as a smartphone or flip phone, tablet, smartwatch, radio device, paging device, or any other personal electronic device capable of telecommunication or digital communication.

Students without a backpack must store their personal communication devices in the Annex (main hallway near Attendance Office) at the start of the instructional day and may retrieve it at the end of the school day.

If a cell phone is picked up, the teacher/director will turn it into the front office. Student and parent/guardian will be responsible for obtaining it from the office, as per HCISD policy and school guidelines. Please see the order of consequence if State/District/School cell phone policy is not followed:

- **Upon 1st offense (cell phone is not placed in backpack):** As per HCISD policy, the offending student will be asked to hand over electronic device(s) to teacher, to be turned into the front office with a referral. Student and/or parent/guardian may pick up device at end of school day.
- As per HCISD policy, if student refuses to hand over device, a referral will be submitted regardless, and will now include insubordination and any other accrued infractions. HHS Administration will follow up with student and parent/guardian.

REHEARSAL POLICY

DAILY CLASS REHEARSAL

- **SAFETY, CHARACTER, and MUSIC** are the three most important aspects of a rehearsal and in the HHS Choir Program in general, respectively. Student safety (physically & emotionally) is most important, then individual character, and finally music. When the first two are in place, the music will flow and happen naturally. Please be considerate and respectful to yourself, your peers, your directors and teachers, and all campus personnel.
- Students may not use cell phones during rehearsal, unless given specific permission by a director. Students may plug in their phone to a free outlet at the beginning of class. Please be courteous and respectful of your peers, directors, and HHS Choir Program and refrain from anything that will cause major distractions while we are conducting rehearsals. This is for the success of each ensemble as a whole.
- Be in place on the risers with black binder, music, and a pencil by the time the tardy bell rings. If you do not have a pencil or your music, points will be deducted from your daily grade. Backpacks and purses should be secured along the walls of the Choir Hall and not on the risers.
- Restrooms are only to be used in case of emergency. Students should raise hand and ask for permission to leave class to use the restroom. No one is to leave the room within the first 15 minutes of class or the last 15 minutes of class, as per school policy.
- Do not be disruptive during rehearsals or cause distractions to yourself, your peers, or your instructor.
- Homework, personal grooming, and artwork are not to be done during rehearsal.
- No eating or chewing gum during rehearsal (safety purposes while singing).
- Show respect toward other choir members, directors, and all campus personnel.

EXTRA REHEARSALS

- We will give at least one week's notice of a rehearsal held outside of the regular school day.
 - On occasion we are summoned at the request of upper-level administration, where the notice is less than one week. We will do our best to communicate with as much advanced notice as possible.
- Only those students who have cleared an absence with the director and parental notice in advance (at least one day ahead) will be excused from a scheduled rehearsal; Avoidable conflicts need to be scheduled on another day if possible.
- All daily class rehearsal guidelines apply to extra rehearsals.

PERFORMANCE AND REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

ATTENDANCE

Choir is a performance-based organization. Every member of each ensemble is essential to the group's sound, and attendance is vital to every rehearsal and performance. If you are absent, the entire group and performance suffers. The only absences that will be considered excused are illness and UIL Event Contests in another organization; haircuts, doctor appointments, work schedules, etc. must be worked out at another time. If a conflict arises, communicate with the Directors in advance to work out any problems

CONCERTS

- Uniforms at Directors' discretion.
- Arrive at the designated place on time to sign in.
- Each choir student is responsible for his/her music.
- Each Concert/Performance is a presentation of the skills learned during the regular classroom instruction as defined by TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills).
- A Major Test Grade(s) is issued for each performance based on attendance, execution, and etiquette.

HHS HOME FOOTBALL GAME (NATIONAL ANTHEM)

- **All HHS Chorale members are required to be at all home football games to sing the National Anthem.** Once the anthem is sung, students may choose to stay and watch the game for free or leave. Each home game is a mandatory performance and showcases the ambassadorship of each Varsity Member in the ensemble. **If a student misses more than 1 performance**, they risk being moved to another class/non-varsity ensemble the following semester at the director's discretion, not as a punishment, but to uphold the standards and consistency of the HHS Chorale.

TMEA, DISTRICT, REGION, PRE-AREA, AND AREA AUDITIONS

- Members of the HHS Chorale, Center Stage, Chamber Choir and other Varsity Ensembles are required to compete in the District Audition and follow through the process.
- Auditions will be held at the designated date for our region.
- Choir Directors are available for help outside of school time.
- Students auditioning are responsible for scheduling private lesson times with the choir director and for attending any sectional rehearsals. Students should have a minimum of 1 lesson every week with each director before the initial audition. During the second and third rounds, students should have a minimum of 2 lessons per week with each director.
- Choir director will not allow a student to participate in the event who is insufficiently prepared to audition.
- In addition to attending lessons, students are responsible for practicing the TMEA music at home or in an available practice room in the Choir Hall. Only one student is permitted to be in a practice room at a time.
- If a student drops out of competition due to a lack of preparation or unexcused absence, the student will accrue the cost of their competition fee (\$15) to their individual student account since TMEA registration fees are not reimbursable.
- Students competing in this event will be required to sing their TMEA District music as a class performance in preparation of the competition.

UIL SOLO AND ENSEMBLE CONTEST/UIL STATE SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST

- All lessons and practice rules and regulations, as stated above, apply for Regional and State UIL Solo and Ensemble events.
- For this competition only, students who wish to compete will be required to make a \$15 registration deposit. If students meet all practice and performance requirements, the \$15 deposit will be reimbursed on the morning of the competition, in addition to any meal money given.

UIL CONCERT AND SIGHT-READING EVALUATION

- All HHS/Cano Choir students are required to perform with their ensemble at this annual evaluation.
- Students will wear assigned formal uniform.
- Students are expected to meet rehearsal participation requirements and be an active part of their ensemble to ensure the success of the group.
- Students' behavior at UIL Evaluations fall under the same guidelines as a regular school day.

FUNDRAISING

All students enrolled in the choral program are expected to participate in fundraising activities. Students will be held responsible for all items sold and/or money due for each fundraising event. If a student is selling candy or other items, he/she/they are responsible for taking proper care of them. If lost, stolen, or damaged, student is responsible for the balance owed on the fundraising item. Fundraising items are non-refundable/returnable, so all products must be sold. All balances must be paid in full by each student by each fundraiser deadline date for maximum profit to be applied to individual student activity account. Fundraised monies will stay in a student's Choir ledger/balance and/or the Student Activity Funds to serve the students in the HHS Choir Organization, depending on the type of fundraiser.

CHOIR BOOSTERS (PARENT ORGANIZATION AND SUPPORT SYSTEM)

The Harlingen High School Choir Boosters is an organization of parents and friends of the choir, designed to support and enrich the HHS Choral Program. This organization works closely with the choir directors to provide activities which will be beneficial to all students in the HHS/CFA Choir Program. All parents of HHS/CFA choir students are strongly encouraged to participate in booster meetings and other volunteer activities held throughout the school year, as well as hold officer positions. Booster meetings and activities will be announced in class, through email, and posted on the choir calendar.

ELIGIBILITY

A student must be academically eligible to participate in any extra-curricular competition, and in most cases, participate in off-campus events. To be considered eligible, a student must pass all courses in which he/she is currently enrolled. Upon receiving a failing grade, the student is considered ineligible for the following grading period, in accordance with HB 72. Opportunities to regain eligibility are offered to every student every three or six week progress report marking period. Students enrolled in the HHS/CFA Choral Music Program are encouraged to attend tutorials to remain eligible for the duration of the school year. All HHS Varsity Members are expected to remain eligible throughout the school year. Please consult directors early on if you are having trouble in any class, as we are here to help students succeed in any way we can.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Several HHS/Cano Choir events take place off campus. HHS Choir will provide buses for most off-campus events, and all eligible students will ride the bus to and from the event. If applicable, a student may request permission from Choir Directors and HHS Administration to drive themselves to and from the event. They **MUST** meet and adhere to the following requirements if they will be driving themselves:

- Must have a valid Driver's License.
- Must have written permission from a parent, Choir Directors, and Administration in advance.
- Must submit required form signed by parent/guardian.
- May only take his or herself in the vehicle. No other students may ride with them for any reason.
- Must stay for the full duration of the event unless student has written permission and have communicated with directors in advance. Leaving a school-sponsored event without the permission of a director will result in the loss of privileges. HHS Administration will also be notified for further action and consequences.

HHS CHORAL DEPARTMENT LETTERMAN JACKET AWARD

UIL Rules state that a student may receive only one jacket during his/her high school career. Students who receive a jacket in other activities must notify the director, coach, or sponsor as to which award he/she would like to receive.

To receive the HHS Choir jacket award, a student must meet one of the following criteria:

- Student must be a Senior Class member who has been enrolled and competed in one of the HHS Choir UIL ensembles for a minimum of 3 years, provided that he/she remain in choir through the second semester of his/her Senior year (4th year in Choir). Letter jackets will be awarded to Seniors during Fall Semester.
- *(NEW)* Student must advance to the Pre-Area round of the TMEA All-State Competitions (advancing past District and Region Competitions).
- Student must receive a Superior Rating (I) on a Class I Solo at State Solo and Ensemble Contest (TSSEC).
- Student must receive a Superior Rating (I) on a Class I Ensemble at State Solo and Ensemble Contest (TSSEC).

Students receiving a letter jacket must sign an agreement form reflecting the above listed and other requirements, as per school policy. Students will also be responsible for meeting with or talking to a representative from the letter jacket company to provide correct measurements and additional patch options.

Letter jackets come with only the letter H and bars (grade level in which student earned the jacket). Students may purchase additional lettering and designs for the jacket at their own expense. This should be done with the representative and upon submitting the order form.

The jacket is forfeited when a student withdraws from choir unless the director approves the reason for withdrawal. The jacket is also forfeited if the student is suspended or dropped from the Harlingen HS Choral Program. If forfeited, a student will then be responsible for the cost of the jacket and the amount owed will appear on student's individual account balance in Charms.

PERFORMING ARTS BUILDING AND CHOIR EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS

MUSIC BUILDING

- Keep the music building clean and neat.
- Disorderly behavior and abusive language will not be tolerated.
- Non-Choir members are not allowed in the Choir Hall unless to specifically speak with one of the Choir Directors. Choir students are to uphold this policy for the safety of all students and teachers.
- Students should put all trash in the trash can. Take pride and care for your Hall and respect our hard working custodial staff by cleaning up after yourself.
- Take all personal items from the choir hall when you leave. Do not leave a mess or clutter behind.
- Food is not permitted in the Choir Hall, Practice Rooms, Ensemble Rooms or Offices. You may eat in the hallways if you clean up after yourself.
- One person allowed in a practice room at a time.
- Faculty restrooms are off limits to students unless given permission from a director.
- Vandalism of any walls, doors, risers, pianos, etc. will not be tolerated and student/parent will be responsible for repairs if violated.
- Ask for permission before using the workroom microwave and refrigerator.
- Privileges WILL BE TAKEN AWAY at directors' discretion if any student(s) engages in illegal or questionable activities, potentially bringing harm or an unsafe environment for others. What one person does can and will affect everyone.

PRACTICE ROOMS/ENSEMBLE ROOMS

- Small practice rooms have been designed and equipped for students to practice on their own. Each Private Room includes a Work Console with speakers, CD players, and a music stand.
- Ensemble Rooms are available only for group rehearsal (sectionals, ensembles, group practice) upon request and with permission from a director. Otherwise, only one student at a time is permitted.

AUDIO/VISUAL/XEROX/COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

- Electronic equipment is off limits to students unless given special permission by the Choir Directors.
- The Choir Work Room (and the machines and materials within its confines) is off limits to students unless otherwise designated by the directors.

MUSIC AND FOLDERS

- Students will be provided a black, 1-inch, 3-ring binder to hold music for each ensemble that he or she is a member of.
- Students will be assigned a binder slot and corresponding binder number. Binders are to stay in these slots AT ALL TIMES when not in rehearsal. Weekly grades will be given after choir class has ended to ensure that students leave their materials ready for use the next day. Students are responsible for all music issued and should always have a pencil.
- If a student wishes to take their home music, they may request extra copies to take with them, or a director can send a link to the music.
- If a student is unprepared and does not have their music, it is their responsibility to make sure they have it before class begins. No student is allowed in rehearsal without the materials necessary for a successful rehearsal.

PIANOS

- Students are not allowed to play on the grand pianos unless given permission by a director.
- Pianos are not to be abused. A student who mistreats or misuses a piano will give up the privilege of using the instruments and parent(s) will be contacted.

HARLINGEN HIGH SCHOOL / CANO F. A. CHORAL PROGRAM HANDBOOK STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT

"I have carefully read the HHS/CFA Choral program handbook and agree to abide by the rules and regulations set therein"

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN

DATE

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT

DATE

STUDENT INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT)

Name _____ ID# _____ Grade _____

Choir Class _____ Voice Part _____

Student Cell Phone _____

Student Email Address _____

Name (As you want it to appear in programs) _____

Birthday: ____/____/____ Height: ____ ft. ____ in.

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT)

Parent/Guardian's Name (**Primary Contact**) _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Parent/Guardian's Cell Phone _____

Parent/Guardian's Email Address _____

Parent/Guardian's Name (**Secondary Contact if Applicable**) _____

Parent/Guardian's Cell Phone _____

Parent/Guardian's Email Address _____

*MOST INFORMATION WILL BE SENT OUT VIA REMIND TEXT AND/OREMAIL. All parents/students must provide a current email address. Please sign up for a FREE email address if you do not already have one available to you; (GMAIL, YAHOO, etc.).

HHS/CFA CHORAL PROGRAM STUDENT TRAVEL PERMISSION FORM

I hereby grant permission for _____ to make in-district and out-of-district trips during the 2025-2026 school year, as well as any in-district and out-of-district trips during the summer months of June and July of 2026 if necessary, while representing the school as a member of the Harlingen High School or Cano Freshman Academy Navy Choir.

I understand that the student must obey school rules and the directors, sponsors, and chaperones enforcing them.

I also understand that the Harlingen Independent School District, employees of the district, and sponsors, are not liable for injuries suffered by students while on a school-sponsored trip. (Article 2727, Texas School Law)

I, the parent/guardian of the student named above, hereby grant permission for the director, or sponsors, to secure necessary medical services for the student named above.

I also agree to assume financial responsibility for any medical services needed.

Parents are advised and understand that any trip past the Sarita Checkpoint requires travel through an Immigration checkpoint where students may be asked about their citizenship status.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent Name: (please print) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home/Cell Ph#: _____ Work Ph#: _____

Is the student insured by School Accident Policy? ____ Yes ____ No

Name of Insurance: _____ Policy #: _____

Employer: _____

Family Doctor: _____ Phone #: _____

Critical Medical Information about the student (Allergies, disabilities):

Please provide other phone numbers of a relative or friend in case of an emergency.

Name _____ Phone # _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Harlingen High School Choir Contract 2026-2027

- A. I understand that being a member of the Harlingen HS Choir is an honor and a privilege, and I am representing the best of Harlingen HS at all times through my actions and my character. I am an ambassador for the entire school and district and will conduct myself in such away both on and off campus because of the exposure and support that our department is offered.
- B. I understand that dates are given in advance so that arrangements can be made to attend all concerts and contests, including after school sectionals or extra rehearsals. Work and transportation should be planned ahead of time since all students will have a calendar to work out scheduling issues with employers, parents, etc. I will communicate any unavoidable conflicts with all (3) directors through email if I have an extenuating circumstance. An absence to any event or rehearsal must be approved by all directors in advance.
- C. I understand that last minute date, time, or venue changes may be out of the control of the directors. These will be minimal and communicated as they happen.
- D. I understand that being ineligible puts a strain on my ensemble. Therefore, I will be put on probation and parents/guardians will be contacted the first time I am ineligible. If the incident occurs again, I will be removed from the Varsity Choir.
- E. I understand that the Harlingen HS Choral Department has a zero-tolerance policy for any drug or alcohol related violation while on a school trip, on campus, and off campus. The Harlingen HS Choral Department must ensure the safety and well-being of all students. If I am caught in possession of an illegal substance, I understand that I will be removed from Chorale, and possibly the HHS Choir program all together.
- F. I understand that the image I portray reflects directly on the choir program. The directors have the right to remove me from my ensemble if any footage or evidence is placed on the internet that refers to Harlingen High School Choir or Harlingen High School in an illegal or immoral activity. This includes YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, etc.
- G. The Harlingen High School Choir Hall is our home and must be cared for with pride and respect. Absolutely no vandalism or profanity. I will do my best to keep the Choir Hall clean and tidy.
- H. As ambassadors of Harlingen High School, the HHS Chorale has the privilege of singing our National Anthem at all home football games. Attendance is mandatory and I will make all necessary arrangements to be at every home game that is listed in my calendar and communicated to me by directors.
- I. I understand that if I am a member of Chorale, I am expected to compete in the TMEA District Mixed Auditions and I will prepare the music accordingly.
- J. I understand that if I am a member of Chorale, I am expected to attend the HCISD All-State Choir Camp at HHS Choir Hall from July 28-30, 2025. I will make all necessary arrangements to attend the camp, even if this means to divide time between other organizational commitments. I will communicate these needs with family, sponsors, and employers.
- K. I understand that if I am a member of Chorale, I am expected to compete at UIL Solo & Ensemble Competition.
- L. I understand that failure to participate in any and all of the above-mentioned rehearsals, concerts, competitions, etc. without proper communication/approval can jeopardize my placement in the Varsity Chorale Ensemble.

By signing this contract, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the expectations set forth by the Choir Directors for membership in the Harlingen High School Choir Program, and that non-compliance will have an effect on my participation.

Student Name (Print)

Date

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

RELEASE FORM FOR THE ELECTRONIC DISPLAY OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

The information or photo to be displayed is: Audio or Visual Concert and other choral related events and functions; Recordings for District Broadcast on KHGN Channel 17; E-Concerts, and video recordings.

Student: _____ Grade: _____ Student ID: _____

1. I, _____ do give my permission for certain personally identifiable information about my child, a photograph of my child, or a video of my child to be electronically displayed and produced by the district for educational purposes.

2. _____ I DO NOT give permission for electronically displayed personally identifiable information of my child.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone

CELL PHONE COMMUNICATION AND REMIND APP/BAND APP RELEASE FORM

Text communication will be used by the Director(s) and students of the Harlingen High School Choral Music Program to distribute information to students regarding choral music functions, events and activities ONLY. This includes but is not limited to reminders and notices for the following:

Concerts, Performances, Contests, Music Camps, Choir Social Events, Booster Meetings, and UIL or Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) related events.

It is required that all students in the HHS Choir Program join the annual HHS Choir Remind 101 group. Students cannot use their phones during the school day to join Remind and are required to use their school issued iPad to subscribe. If unable to subscribe using their school issued iPad, students will be expected to join the Remind 101 group after school hours using their cell phone or another device.

(_____) **YES**, I grant permission to allow Cell Phone Text Communication through a school communication platform (Remind 101, Band, etc.) to disseminate information regarding choral activities.

STUDENT Cell Phone Contact Number: _____

PARENT Cell Phone Contact Number: _____
(If you wish to be included on Remind App communication)

(_____) **NO**, I do not want my child utilizing Cell Phone Text Communication to receive information regarding choral activities.

Please leave a number that is available for text: _____

Student Name (Print)

Date

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

CARDINAL CHOIR LETTER JACKET AGREEMENT

A Letter Jacket is AWARDED to a student, at the Director's discretion, who achieves the following:

- A) Must participate in UIL Concert and Sightreading Evaluation for a total of 4 years (by March of Senior year).
- B) Places and performs in the TMEA Region Choir and/or beyond OR Receives a Division I Rating at the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest.

AND:

- C) Exhibits a positive attitude toward the Choral Music Program, its Directors and his/her peers, demonstrating steady growth and excellent leadership skills.
- D) Maintains upstanding conduct when representing the Choral Music Program and Harlingen CISD in all aspects: classroom and rehearsal etiquette, concert, contest, and travel throughout the year.

All letter jacket awards shall be distributed at the Director's discretion. In all cases, the letter jacket is property of the Harlingen High School Choral Music Program until the student has completed their 4th UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Evaluation and has completed their final semester as a Senior. Dismissal from the Harlingen High School Choral Music Program is an automatic forfeit of the letter award and will be evaluated at the Director's discretion. Transfer students who have been enrolled in a choir program for 4 years, early graduates, or above average performers may also qualify to letter at the discretion of the HHS Choir Head Director.

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR BEING PRESENT TO LETTERMAN FITTINGS WITH SSR JACKETS APPOINTMENT ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2026 AT 4:00 PM.

Student Name (Print)

Date

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date