

# BOERNE MS NORTH

Guidelines 4 Success

Choir



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## Director Contact Information

Mr. John Tucker

BMSN:: 830.357.3100

A-Days = BMSN, Conference 4th, 2:30-4:00

B-Days = BMSS, No Conference

Mr. Tucker works on two campuses, alternating days.

. Preferred communication is e-mail: [john.tucker2@boerneisd.net](mailto:john.tucker2@boerneisd.net)

Mr. Tucker's Office (830) 357-3169

website: <https://boernemschoirs.weebly.com>

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# *Join Our Song*



Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year at BMSN! I am excited to have the opportunity to work with your student in CHOIR during this school year, building on the success of previous years. Our largest number of participating singers are 6th graders, so the opportunity to have a choir program with 100 singers is in our grasp. Our enrollment in choir this year begins at 68 students. I am so happy you have made the decision to join me as we work together to create inspiring musical experiences and increase visibility in our school and community. "Join Our Song" is our moto. Invite others to join!!

In 2015, I was hired to work the two different MS campuses on alternating days. This creates challenges, but logistics and organization are important to me. It is a work in progress. As your director, I come with twenty-one years of experience at the junior high, high school and college levels (Adjunct-Applied Voice). Choirs under my direction have consistently earned trophies for "Superior" performances at UIL and other choral festivals. I do not say these things to brag about me, but rather to ease any apprehension you may have about the quality of education provided this year. Just like any change, it will be easier for some students than others, but I can assure you my commitment to BMSN Choir is to build a program that loves to sing together and demonstrates it on a consistent basis - each person working together toward the common goal of beautiful singing. Success breeds success! If we will focus on being better as singers, others will want to be a part of our success, and our number of participants in the choir will grow each year.

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*You are going to be receiving a lot of information at the first of school. Please take the time to review the included choir information as Parent-Child so you can both be informed. Your support to the choir will come in a variety of forms*

#### STUDENTS

- Be prepared for each day of class to work. There is a lot to learn!
- Be present at all performances and extra rehearsals. Your grade hinges on this.
- Choir is about the TEAM of singers, not individual wants or preferences.
- Be excited about singing and it will show to your friends and family.
- Get involved in outside participation opportunities: Region Choir, Solo contest, Community performances, parties and social events.
- Be willing to grow in character areas of work ethic, self-discipline and musical aptitude

#### PARENTS

- Have your child at every rehearsal (including school) and performance. Our success depends on consistency with each child being present to prepare and to perform. Please mark your calendar for performances and extra rehearsals. They are too young to drive!
- Be their biggest cheerleader. Your child covets your praise and support (even if they say otherwise), so make yourself visible and vocal about the work they are doing.
- School prepares them for life. Help them be successful in their classes and monitor their grades so they can fully participate in all events in and out of school. All classes matter!
- Support the choir by volunteering to help. Your student will notice!



# Syllabus

## Grading Policy

Choir is a TEA (Texas Education Agency) credit for fine arts. It is not only an academic class (worksheets, quizzes), but also a performance-based course (singing, performances). Both elements of academic and performance will be graded this year. Failure to meet the requirements of the class will result in lowered grades. TEKS requirements will be implemented for assessment of knowledge and demonstration of skill.

### **Choir grades are based on the following criteria**

Daily Grades - 40% : class participation; singing posture/technique; sight-reading learning

Quiz / Worksheets - 20% : music theory; sight-reading notation; music literacy

Assessment / Performance - 40% : performances; dress rehearsals; singing tests

*\*See Rehearsals/Concerts for more information on grades*

## Supplies

Music: BMSN will provide copies of music for your child. Just as in other classes, our textbook (music) will be treated respectfully and with care so it can last for years. This is not the student's music. It is property of BMSN.

Uniforms \*(see uniform addendum)

In order to achieve uniformity, each student will be expected to purchase:

- 1) T-shirt to be worn throughout the year as they represent BMSN Choir (approx. cost \$15). We welcome our parents to also purchase a shirt to show off our choir in the community. Shirts may be purchased through 2-payments if needed but balance is due Sept. 15.
- 2) Uniform rental fee of \$25 to maintain uniforms provided by BISD for our more formal performances. These will provide us with a unified appearance in formal performance settings. Uniform fee must be paid by Oct. 13 (or with t-shirt fee). This is only a rental fee. Uniforms are property of BMSN.
- 3) Students need to plan for appropriate shoes to be worn for performances. They need to have black dress shoes with very little heel, for comfort and safety, to be worn with the formal uniforms.

### Class Supplies

\*½ inch black 3-ring binder

\*set of 3 dividers (music, theory worksheets, sight-reading)

*Choose 1 of the following for classroom*

\*2 box of tissues (shared class tissues)

\*1 package of large eraser (shared class erasers)

\*1 package of pencils (shared class pencils)



## Extra-Curricular vs. Co-Curricular

Any performance by the entire choir, that fulfills the grading requirements of the class are “curricular”. This means, students are expected to attend. Events that occur outside of class, that are optional for students to participate in individually, are considered “extra-curricular”. Academic eligibility by campus, district and UIL/TEA guidelines apply. Students in these events must be passing all classes as set by grade-check dates throughout the year. A student who has paid an entry fee, practiced to participate, but fails to meet the necessary academic requirements will be unable to participate with no refund of fees paid.

## Rehearsal and Concert Attendance Policy

***Each singer is an important member to our choir. We become a family of singers, and as such, each member must present their very best effort for the group.***

***Others depend on your being prepared.***

**Daily Attendance** - Students are expected to participate daily. If you are not singing, you are not participating and doing your best work. If you are absent, you can't sing. Please be there.

**Rehearsals** - Students will earn grades for rehearsals in and out of school hours. Grades are taken for daily participation. Performing in concert performances could be revoked at teacher discretion if concerned over a student's lack of preparation due to excessive absences. Missed rehearsals (and the things taught), can't be replicated. Excessive absences will result in lower grades.

**Concerts** - Our end-result assessment for the work we do in class is our performance of music. It is impossible to duplicate the collaborative work of all students in a concert setting. We are a performance-assessed course. All concert performances are mandatory and carry a heavy weight in the gradebook. All choir students are expected to attend every performance in which they are slated to sing. ***A request to make up for an “excused” concert absence, prior to that concert, will be considered.*** Within the week after the performance, the student must sing their music to Mr. Tucker and submit a performance assessment. ***Failure to attend a performance, with no prior notification, will probably result in an “unexcused” absence and subject to BMSN grading guidelines for “unexcused” absences.*** A notification and “excused” absence, with a failure to make up the concert grade within the week will result in a “0” grade adjustment.

**Excused Absences** - including illness, death in the family or other school-related conflict of activities. A note from a parent, doctor or teacher/coach will be required. E-mail is fine.

If a note is not provided, the absence will be considered as “unexcused”.

**Unexcused Absences** - including truancy, transportation, forgetting, other non-school conflicts. Any absence with failure to provide written note. Parents, please plan ahead!!

**Tardies** - Students are expected to arrive at rehearsals and performances ON TIME. Warm ups prior to concerts are extremely important. Late to concert warm up will result in a lowered grade. If late arrival has been previously communicated and is “excused”, no points will be deducted. Excessive tardies can result in a student's removal from a competition or concert performance. Please place those times into your family schedule, not just concert start times.



## CHOIR MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

*"Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better". Pat Riley*

The success of any organization or team depends on each member taking ownership in their role/responsibility. Each voice in our choir matters for our unique sound. Each student's emotional connection to the music matters to our musical performance. The outcomes of a great performance are not coincidence and chance. It is achieved through consistently working hard during rehearsal so the performance can be enjoyable and rewarding to both singer and audience member. Be willing to give of your best at every rehearsal and performance.

- Be on time to class, rehearsals and concerts. Be ready to learn and participate. BMSN attendance and tardy policies are to be observed.
- Be responsible for your actions. Working as a team means putting aside your own wants/desires for the betterment of the entire ensemble. Take care of business preparing for contests, practicing in rehearsals and performing in concerts.
- Follow directions and procedures. Your teacher is the manager of their classroom and will make decisions for the well-being of students and effectiveness of teaching.
- Be respectful to your fellow choir members, your director and the facilities. Areas that demonstrate respect would include: silently listening during class while your teacher is teaching; singing when supposed to; being prepared with music and pencils (your math teacher clearly expects you to have a pencil, so does Mr. Tucker). Items you bring into the choir room should leave the choir room. Music should be placed in its designated location after each rehearsal (if you leave your things out, it disrespects others who have to pick it up and put it away). Only water will be allowed in the choir room.
- Expect the best of yourself. It is not your job to try and correct others. Your director is in charge of managing the classroom. If each person will expect the best of themselves, we will all have excellent rehearsals and performances!



## Fees and Fundraisers

The BMSN Choir has an activity account which is used to support the work of the choir program. It is a cooperative account, meaning it is used for the program as needs dictate. Individual fees paid for uniforms or contests will be designated for those purposes. Fundraisers are used to assist with the monetary needs of the choir to purchase items as well as providing students with fun choir events. Funds are not designated towards specific individuals as an account (not a bank), but efforts will be made to respect the fundraising efforts of individuals towards meeting their fees and costs. Families are asked to support BMSN in efforts to raise funds for the entire program. Limited scholarships might be available to assist families. Campus budget, organizational fundraising as well as family or business donations support us.

## TMEA & UIL Activities

Both TMEA (Texas Music Educators Association) and UIL (University Interscholastic League) provide outstanding opportunities for personal growth as musicians. I highly encourage singers to participate at every level possible! A coachable singer, who has a strong work ethic to practice on their own, is a very significant member of a choir. Competition events require a student to be academically eligible by UIL / TEA guidelines. Students must be passing all classes at the designated grade-check dates to participate. Students will be removed from the competition roster if not eligible, with no refunds for fees paid. Grades are important!!

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TMEA Region 29 Middle School Honor Choirs - There are 3 choirs students can audition for to be selected. Individual singers will be selected through a blind audition (5 judges are behind a curtain and can't see singers) of knowledge of the music, vocal technique and musicality. ***This competition is restricted to only 7th-8th grade singers.*** The singers heard that day are ranked by each judge and best singers are placed in the Honor Choirs: Advanced Treble (8th Girls), Intermediate Treble (7th Girls), Tenor/Bass (7-8 Boys).

### Audition Dates:

Friday Evening, Oct. 20th - Taft HS (7th grade girls)

Saturday, October 21 - Taft HS (8th grade girls & 7-8 Boys)

Entry Fee: \$15 (*scholarships available if need*), Due Sept. 23, 2017 - *before end of school*

Preparation of Music\*: During class, before/after school sectionals, study hall sectionals, at home practicing (using Google Classroom).

Selected Honor Choirs Concert: Saturday, November 4, 2017 - all day

*\*Students will sing music to Mr. Tucker the week of contest. Any student who has failed to attend sectionals and is not prepared to represent BMSN Choir will be removed from the contest roster. So, prepare to succeed!*

-Solo Competition: February, 2018

*Students will have the opportunity to prepare a solo from a select list and sing for a qualified vocal judge for comments and a rating. Great opportunity to receive vocal assessment!*

-UIL Concert/Sight-Reading: Tuesday, April 1, 2018 (Advanced Women Only)

-Other Non-UIL Performances - BMSN Night at BHS Football game (TBA); Veteran's Day; Avalanche Hockey Game



## Uniform Information

Choir members are expected to pay a \$25 uniform fee (as per BISD guidelines) prior to the end of the first 9-weeks. Deadline is October 13, 2017. Like any other teams on campus (football, cheer, etc...), we want to look uniform in our appearance. The formal uniforms will be worn for various concerts and community performances. Garments are assigned by number; same item is to be returned. A less formal T-Shirt (\$15) will also be worn to certain events as well as to promote BMSN Choir around school and in the community. This T-Shirt is to be purchased by Sept. 15. We encourage our parents to purchase one as well! This will help to lower our cost as well as provide visibility in our community. Shirt designs will be student selected and approved by Mr. Tucker.

### General Uniform Guidelines

Personal hygiene is important at all times. So, while wearing a BMSN uniform, please make certain it is with a clean body and appropriate deodorant. Please do not wear heavy cologne/perfume or body lotion/spray that will permeate the fabric and also create risk of allergic reaction to other singers sensitive to smells.

Women's Uniform - BMSN dresses are hemmed with a simple-stitch hem that can be easily removed. This past year, volunteers assisted us in hemming all uniforms. If you sew, your help would be appreciated. Hems are to be floor length (approx. 1" off the floor with shoes on). At no time should fabric be cut.. Do not use staples, duct tape, or other items that damage the garments. Damaged or lost uniforms will cost the student a replacement fee of \$70. (Yes, even if your cat decides to sharpen her claws on the fabric, or you got nail polish on it getting ready). If a zipper needs replacing, please notify Mr. Tucker ASAP. Follow the care instructions for cleaning the dress. A black slip should be worn to keep stage lights from shining through dress. As stated previously, black dress shoes with low heels need to accompany the dress.

#### General Appearance for Women:

- 1) Keep hair away from your face. For concerts, hair must be pulled back or secured to not block any of your facial expressions. Simple, black headbands are permitted, but no bows or glittery hair accessories. Do NOT use heavy hairspray that will cause others to have allergic reactions and struggle to breathe.
- 2) Natural makeup for stage lighting without glitter or colors that would be distracting.
- 3) Simple jewelry is permitted, but no fabric or latex colored bracelets.

Men's Uniform - The young men in the choir will have a long-sleeve, black dress shirt to wear for concerts. Black dress pants will also be provided, along with a purple tie. A T-shirt is to be worn under the dress shirt to limit stains or odor. Purchase of black dress socks, black dress shoes and black belt are needed to complete the uniform.

#### General Appearance for Men:

- 1) Hair must be in accordance with BMSN dress code and be kept away from the face.
- 2) Faces should be clean shaven
- 3) Use proper deodorant for body odor but do not use heavy smelling cologne/after-shave



# Acknowledgement Contract

Due Sept. 6, 2017

*As a member of the Boerne MS North Choir, I have read the policies in this Guidelines for Success and have asked the necessary questions to understand what is expected as a student and as a parent.*

I acknowledge:

- \* I have read the policies included in the Guidelines for Success
- \* I have placed all important dates into my family calendar
- \* I will have a positive, polite and cooperative attitude
- \* As a student, I agree to give my best effort for the choir's success
- \* As a parent, I agree to support my child's efforts and help them be at scheduled events on time.
- \* I understand leadership change is an adjustment, and agree to be supportive of BMSN Choir during this transition and be a positive voice for the choir in the school and community. I am the best promotion for my own choir.

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Preferred Contact #: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Contact # (if approved by parent): \_\_\_\_\_

Parents, please indicate preferred means of communication:

\_\_\_ \*E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (circle) Text / Call

**\*Parents will automatically be added to the email distribution list, unless you request to not receive important information.**

Choir Website (Facebook is not approved by BISD) will have information:

**<https://boernemschoirs.weebly.com>**

**\*\*If your student has severe allergies or health concerns that need to be communicated, please indicate to Mr. Tucker in writing with details.\*\***



## Important Dates

### Boerne MS North Choir

Aug. 28 - School Begins (A-Day)

#### September

- TBA - Kick Off Party & Parent Information; Registration Night 6-8pm (play, pay fees, ask questions)
- 15 - T-Shirt \$ due (\$15)
- 18 - Region Choir Entry fee \$ due (\$15)\*

#### October

- 10 - BMSN Fall Choir Concert 7:00pm; *free* (roll call at 6:15)
- 13 - Uniform fee \$ due (\$25)
- 16-19 - Region participants sing off music for contest (before/after school)\*
- 20-21 - Region Choir Auditions (7th girls - 20th; 8th girls and boys - 21st)\*
- 20 - End of 9-week grading period

#### November

- 4 - MS Region Choir Clinic & Concert\*; (7:30am-5:00pm)
- 10 - Veteran's Day Performance
- 20-24 - No School - Thanksgiving

#### December

- 11 - BMSN Choir Concert 7:00 pm
- 22 - End of 9-week grading period; End of Semester

#### January

- 9 - Spring Semester Begins

#### February

- TBD - Solo Competition; In class recital

#### March

- 9 - End of 9-week grading period
- TBA - Sing at Rampage Hockey Game
- 27 - BMSN & BMSS Pre-UIL Clinic & Concert; Location TBA

#### April

- 2 -BMSN UIL Concert/Sight-Reading Contest

#### May

- 17 - Student Choice Concert 2017

*\*Denotes extra curricular participation*

