

Bastrop High School Choirs

2023-24 Choir Handbook

Bastrop High School



Ms. Davis, Director of Choirs

Men's Choir | Women's Choir | Mixed Choir

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BHS Choir Mission Statement:

Bastrop High School Choir strives to create an active learning environment to help our singers:

- 1. Improve their singing skills and musical abilities*
- 2. Perform at a high level of musicianship as individuals & an ensemble*
- 3. Build community & friendships to help facilitate choral learning.*

Our Director

Ms. Davis has been the Director of Choirs at Bastrop High School for four years, and is extremely proud of the success and growth the BHS Choir program has seen over the past few years. Originally from the great city of New Orleans, Ms. Davis holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Music Education from Southeastern Louisiana University as well as a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Texas at Austin. Ms. Davis has taught piano and voice for over 12 years, and has served as guest clinician/conductor in the greater Austin area. Ms. Davis currently serves as Department Chair for the Fine Arts Department, and teaches Choir I-IV, Vocal Ensemble I-IV, Piano 1, and Piano 2-4 at Bastrop High School.

Choirs Offered at BHS

Men's Choir (Choir I-IV) 1st Period: Men's Choir is an open-enrollment choral ensemble for male students with Tenor and Bass voices. Students of all levels work together to create a blended choral sound, improve singing technique, and develop successful sight-reading skills. All male students are welcome to join, no prior singing experience is required!

Women's Choir (Vocal Ensemble I-IV) 2nd Period: Women's Choir is an open-enrollment choral ensemble for female students with Soprano and Alto voices. Students of all levels work together to create a blended choral sound, improve singing technique, and develop successful sight-reading skills. All female students are welcome to join, no experience required!

Mixed Choir (Monday's 4:30 - 5:30 PM): Both men's choir and women's choir students will join together in the Mixed Choir for once-a-week after school rehearsals. This choral ensemble will consist of Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass voices and teach students how to create beautiful choral blends through all four voice types.

Choir Rules & Responsibilities

Students in Bastrop High School Choirs are required to follow the Bastrop ISD and Bastrop High School student guidelines at all times, as well as the following BHS Choir rules and responsibilities:

BHS Choir Rules:

- Speak respectfully to Ms. Davis & BHS faculty/staff, visiting clinicians/teachers, as well as classmates and peers.
- Handle all BHS Choir music, uniforms, and supplies with care.
- ***No electronics of any kind are allowed during classes, rehearsals, and performances.***
- Gum, candy, or other food items are not allowed during rehearsals.

BHS Choir Responsibilities:

- Participate in all BHS Choir activities, rehearsals, performances & events unless excused by Ms. Davis at least 2 weeks prior.
- Communicate with Ms. Davis regarding absences or concerns regarding scheduled BHS Choir rehearsals/events.
- Work hard in each rehearsal and focus on the task at hand.
- Have a positive attitude while at BHS Choir rehearsals/events
- Represent BHS Choir on and off campus by upholding high standards of character, musicianship, and attitude

Consequences

Students who do not adhere to the BHS Choir Rules & Responsibilities as listed above will receive the following consequences in accordance with the severity and frequency of the actions.

BHS Choir Consequences:

- **1st Offense: Verbal Warning / Redirection**
- **2nd Offense: Parent Contact**
- **3rd Offense: Office Referral**
- **4+ Offenses: Loss of BHS Choir performing privileges**

Grading Guidelines

Most of our BHS Choir activities are participation-based, therefore most grades given in choir will reflect a student's participation in each activity.

Daily Grades (40%): *After school rehearsals, activities in class, informal events as scheduled on the Master Calendar, sight-reading, etc.*

Major Grades (60%): ***Formal concerts, UIL competition, performance events as scheduled on the Master Calendar, in-class projects, part check quizzes, sight-reading quizzes, etc.***

****Students absent for a Major Grade will receive an alternative assignment for that grade. Students must complete the alternative assignment to receive credit for the missing Major Grade event.*

Formal Concert Attire

BHS Choir will provide all choir dresses & tuxedos required for formal concerts throughout the school year. Students are expected to arrive well-groomed for each formal concert (hair brushed, etc.) Students will be required to provide the following pieces of formal attire on their own:

Ladies: Black closed-toe shoes (flats or heels)

Gentlemen: Black dress shoes; black socks; white undershirt

Informal Performance Attire

Throughout the year we will have informal performances on & off campus. At these events, students are expected to wear a **BHS Choir or BHS spirit shirt** and **school-appropriate jeans**.

****Questions or concerns about the formal/informal attire must be communicated with Ms. Davis as soon as possible.*

BHS Choir Communication

This year, BHS Choir will be using the BAND App to communicate outside of the school day. This application will only be used for **professional communication**, and is **not** a platform for social/casual communication.

This application will be a communication platform for **students only**. Parents & families are asked to join the BHS Parents Remind. If you have any questions/concerns about this policy, please contact Ms. Davis.

How to Join: Ask Ms. Davis or one of the BHS Choirs Officers for the invitation link or scan the QR code below to join the Band app.



BHS CHOIRS 23-24

Welcome to the official Bastrop High School
Choirs page for the 2023-2024 school year!

Scan this QR code and join!

BHS Choir Parents/Families Communication: This year, BHS Choir will be using the REMIND app to communicate with parents/families. This application will be used for **professional communication only** and is not a platform for social communication.

How to Join: Text “@doremi24” to 81010; or request an invitation link from Ms. Davis to join.

BHS Choir Attendance Policy

- Attend all mandatory rehearsals, performances and events as scheduled on the BHS Choir Master Calendar or by Ms. Davis.
- Absences from scheduled rehearsals, performances and/or events must be communicated to Ms. Davis **2 weeks prior**.
- Students are allowed **3 excused absences per school year** that may be used for **after-school rehearsals ONLY**.
- Students must communicate with Ms. Davis when they would like to use one of their three excused absences **>3 days prior**.

Calendar Changes Policy

All changes made to the BHS Choir Master Calendar due to inclement weather, scheduling conflicts, UIL / TMEA mandate, etc. will be communicated as quickly as possible to both parents and students. Parents will receive both a REMIND message as well as a SchoolStatus text message from Ms. Davis; students will receive communication via the Band App. Ms. Davis will make a great effort to communicate changes 48 hours in advance, however, some changes may be made as late as possible in order to try to preserve the original plan. Thank you for your understanding; if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Davis.

Additions to Performance Calendar

Throughout the school year, BHS Choir gets multiple offers to perform in both formal and informal settings. We are very grateful to have the opportunity to perform for our community, and Ms. Davis highly encourages all students to give their time and talents back to the community when possible. Additions to the calendar will be made as early as possible, however, some opportunities are offered within a short time frame. Below is the performance additions policy:

- **Performances added >1 week in advance are MANDATORY**
- **Performances added <1 week in advance are VOLUNTARY**

Social Events

Ms. Davis and our BHS Choir officers work hard to provide social events throughout the year for our BHS Choir students to balance out the rigorous work they do in rehearsals. These events will be scheduled and announced via a Social Events calendar and are ***completely optional*** for students to attend. ***This does NOT include dates scheduled on the Master Calendar, such as Fall/Spring Retreats.*** Attendance at these social events is highly encouraged!

Choir Music & Binders

All BHS Choir music and choral binders belong to Bastrop High School and are not property of the choir student. All music and materials must be returned to Ms. Davis at the end of each concert. Failure to return concert music may result in a parent-teacher conference & possible class fees.

Choir Yearly Dues

The 2023-24 BHS Choir dues are **\$25**. These fees go towards purchasing BHS Choir spirit shirts, as well as cleaning costs for the concert attire & deposits on choir field trips. If you cannot pay the \$25 fee or need financial assistance to pay the fee, please contact Ms. Davis as soon as possible. **Choir Dues of \$25 must be paid by Friday, September 1st, 2023.** Dues must be paid by cash or check made out to Bastrop High School Choir.

BHS Choir Officer Board

BHS Choir has 3 officer positions available for students to serve our choirs each year: ***President, Vice President, and Social Events Manager***. These student leadership positions are interviewed and selected in May of the previous school year and are open to all BHS Choir singers.

Ms. Davis Contact Information

Please feel free to contact Ms. Davis with any questions or concerns you may have using the contact information below:

- Email: rdavis2@bisdtx.org
- Phone: (512)-772-7200 ext. 28375

BHS Choir Handbook CHECK

DUE Friday 8/25

By signing below, I confirm that I have read and I understand the Bastrop High School Choir Handbook. I understand that dues of \$25 must be paid by Friday, September 1st, and this handbook check must be signed and returned by Friday August 25th. I also understand that any questions or concerns I may have should be directed to Ms. Davis via the communication methods listed in the handbook.

I confirm that I [my student] will abide by the Bastrop High School Choir rules and responsibilities as listed in the handbook. I understand that I [my student] may be subject to the consequences listed in the handbook if they do not abide by the BHS Choir rules and responsibilities. I understand that I may discuss any consequences assigned to myself [my student] with Ms. Davis.

Please sign below and return this page to Ms. Davis by **Friday, 8/25/23**.

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name (Print): _____

Parent Signature: _____