

Juan Seguin High School
Choral Department



Department Handbook

2014-2015

Stanley A. Moody, director
Mariah Spiry, associate director

Table of Contents

Introduction & General Information.....	4
Student Leadership.....	5
Booster Club.....	5
Auditions and Placement.....	5
Private Lessons.....	5
Courses & Schedule.....	7
Student Responsibilities and Expectations.....	8
Rehearsal Etiquette & Classroom Discipline Procedures.....	9
Supplies & Uniforms.....	10
Finances.....	11
Seguin Choral Department Student Outcomes.....	12
Grading Policies.....	13
Academic Eligibility Rules.....	14
Calendar of Major Events.....	Back Cover

The Following Documents are available electronically on the choir website

www.seguinchoir.com under "DOWNLOADS"

- Handbook Acknowledgement Form (Required of all students)
- Varsity Agreement (Required of Varsity Members)
- Travel Form (Required for any off campus travel)
- Medical Authorization (Required for any out-of-district travel)
- Student Driver Authorization
- Payment Contract - Used to make special payment arrangements
- Letter Jacket Qualification and Point Sheet
- All-State Choir Audition Contract
- Travel Information
- Handbook Addends and Course Syllabi for all Ensembles

**ALL REQUIRED FORMS AND THE \$40 CHOIR FEE
ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 13, 2013**

INTRODUCTION

The Choir Handbook is designed to foster the success of the Seguin Choral Department, inform the students and their parents, and address questions and concerns that may arise throughout the school year. Answers to most questions concerning procedures in our department can be found within this book and/or on our choir website at <http://www.seguinchoir.com>

We also encourage you to use our online management system CHARMS which monitors individual student fees, forms, and other information. A link can be found on our website. Sign on using school code JSeguinHSChoir and use your student's AISD ID# to view personal information.

The Seguin Choral program has established a strong tradition of excellence both on our campus, in our local community, and across the state. In an effort to provide students with every educational opportunity possible, we maintain a very active choral program. We welcome you as part of our choir family and look forward to your involvement with the choir. Should any questions or problems arise, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Stanley A. Moody, director
smoody1@aisd.net
(682) 867-6803 (direct line)
(682) 867-6700 (to leave a message)

Mariah Spiry, associate director
mspiry@aisd.net
(682) 867-6803

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Seguin Choral program is open to every student enrolled at Seguin High School regardless of musical experience. All students are auditioned and placed in an appropriate choral ensemble for their level of musicianship. Auditions occur each year to help place students appropriately and track their progress. As a member of a team, students are expected to put the group before themselves and maintain the Seguin Choir Code of Conduct discussed later in this handbook. **Participation in a music ensemble should be considered a privilege not a right. In order to maintain the integrity of the department and provide a positive learning environment for all students, the following issues will result in a loss of privileges in the choral program: consistent in-class discipline problems, multiple placements of in-school suspension, discipline referrals for fighting, substance abuse, and/or bringing weapons on campus. Loss of privileges as a result of the presiding issues include, movement into a different ensemble, loss of traveling privileges, suspension from performances, or removal from the choral program at the director's discretion.**

PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE

As a member of the organization you will be expected to perform in class, concerts, extra rehearsals, and programs as scheduled by the directors. With the exception of Chorale, Chamber Choir, and Show Choir, choir classes do not require an extensive commitment to after-hour rehearsals. Students are given ample notice of scheduled events so that conflicts are minimal. As students continue their quest to be responsible adults and perfect the art of time management, it is their responsibility to inform parents, employers, coaches, sponsors, and other teachers of choir activities. Routine doctor appointments and/or a student's job schedule will not serve as excused absences from activities. Outside rehearsals and concerts are part of the curriculum of the department and are REQUIRED as part of the grade for the course. Unlike academic classes, enrichment classes are performance based; therefore, it is impossible to make up missed classes, sectionals, and concerts. With **prior permission** from the director, a student may be excused for special school activities, however, it is expected that students make arrangements to be excused from regular practices that occur daily and schedule tutoring at alternate times to accommodate choir events/rehearsals that occur only periodically. In the case of an excused absence, the student is responsible for applicable make-up work for their required grade. Details of make-up assignments can be found in the grading policies in this handbook.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The development of leadership in students is a primary goal of the department. Officers are selected through a rigorous interview and election process in the spring of each school year. The 2013-2014 Leadership Team is:

Choir Council

Nathan Taylor, *president*

Tyra Lewis, *vice-president*

Carmen Ramirez, *vice-president*

Skyy Stellivan, *vice-president*

Khirstyn Vu, *public relations*

Felicia Rosiji, *librarian*

Student Musical Leadership

Rebecka Iverson, *chorale soprano section leader*

Zoe Wallis, *chorale alto section leader*

Nick Olivares, *chorale tenor section leader*

Nathan Taylor, *chorale bass section leader*

Student officers do a great deal of behind the scenes work to assist in activities of the choral program. As student leaders, officers are expected to serve as an example of model students in the program. A student may be removed from office by the director at any time as the result of unsatisfactory behavior or poor representation of the choral department.

BOOSTER CLUB

The Seguin Choir Parent Booster Association benefits all students in our department by providing adult support at events and lowering the cost of all activities through fundraising. We are always in need of parent volunteers and leaders to serve as officers in the organization.

AUDITIONS

Each day is an audition for future choir placement - make every day count!

All students are auditioned for placement; however, it should be noted that the Seguin HS Choral Department offers a variety of performing organizations to meet the educational needs of all students interested in singing. We have many courses and ensembles each catering to varied individual musical needs in effort to provide the most complete and effective music education to each student. All choirs offer performance opportunities and focus on expanding the student's knowledge of basic music theory, sight-reading skills, vocal technique, and music history. In addition to the development of individual musical skills, each choir is designed to teach self-discipline, commitment and teamwork. Students in **all choirs** are required to participate in concerts and may elect to participate in any extra-curricular competitions such as All-State/Region, Solo & Ensemble, etc. There will be additional auditions throughout the school year for opportunities such as Show Choir, the school musical, solos for concerts, etc. All auditions are judged objectively through an audition rubric, which is scored and ranked by the directors. Occasionally, an additional judge from outside our program is brought in to assist. In addition to the vocal audition, we often consider other factors such as classroom participation and academic eligibility as part of our auditions. A detailed breakdown of how these points are assigned throughout the year is available in the appendix of this handbook. We make every effort to be fair and provide opportunities for as many students as possible in our program; however, with over 200 students in choir, there will always be competition at auditions. We spend many hours and use our best professional judgement when making decisions following auditions. Once posted, all audition results are final and not open to debate. Our purpose is to help and educate students, and should you ever have a question concerning auditions, we welcome you to make an appointment to go over results and judges comments with us.

PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

Through the Arlington Music Enrichment Program, we are able to provide high quality private vocal instructors for students at a discounted rate. Private instruction is essential for any student planning to pursue music in college and will be helpful to any student enrolled in the music program. Information concerning the AMEP program is available in the choir room and on our website.

STUDENT AWARDS

Students in the Seguin Choir Program have the opportunity to earn many awards both as an ensemble and on the individual level.

Letter Jackets

A Seguin Letter Jacket may be earned through individual achievement in the Choral Department. A detailed form can be found in the appendix of this handbook explaining qualification for Letter Jackets. Letter Jackets are issued once per year in the Fall Semester. Students should turn in a reward sheet to the Choir office. Fitting date to be determined. Failure to submit applications in a timely manner and/or missing the fitting appointment will result in the student not receiving a jacket until the following year. Unfortunately at this time, the choir department is unable to pay for letter jackets. We do provide a Seguin Choir patch for anyone who has earned their letter jacket.

Outstanding Choral Student Award

The Outstanding Choral Student Award is typically awarded to a graduating senior who has shown exemplary service to the choral department during their time at Seguin High School.

Director's Award

The Director's Award is awarded to a student who shows exceptional musical leadership in the Seguin Choir Program.

Outstanding 9th Grade Student Award

The Outstanding 9th Grade Student Award honors 9th graders who have been exceptional during their freshmen year in musical achievement and dedication to the Seguin Choir Program.

Students receiving any of the above recognitions have their names engraved on perpetual plaques that are displayed in the choir room.

Texas Music Scholar Award

This award, available through the Texas Music Education Agency, designates students in high school music programs who exemplify attributes of meritorious performance in the areas of scholarship, musicianship, and citizenship. Texas Music Scholars receive a certificate, patch, and letter from the Texas Music Educators Association. Applications for this award are due May 1 of each year.

Texas All-State Choir

The Texas All-State Choir is the premiere All-State Choral organization in the United States. Each year over 15,000 students compete for placement in this organization. As part of the audition process, students have the opportunity to be recognized as members of the Region V Honor Choirs. The audition process for this organization begins in September of each year and culminates with the Texas All-State Choir Performance each February in San Antonio. A separate audition is available for 9-10th graders on the region level.

Scholarships

Universities offer substantial, merit based scholarships to students who choose to pursue a major in music. Students planning to pursue music in college should enroll in private lessons as early as possible. Auditions for admission and scholarship begin in December of a student's senior year and typically conclude in early March. College Music School admission is a separate process that must happen concurrently with general application and admission. There are several Seguin Choir Alumni currently studying music on scholarship or that have graduated from college and are currently working professionally in the music field. We are happy to help prepare and advise students and parents concerning music programs in higher education.

Courses & Class Schedule

Chorale – 7th Period

This choir serves as the varsity ensemble for the choral department. Students in this ensemble perform varied repertoire at an advanced level. Membership is open primarily to students with previous choral experience in grades 10-12 by audition with the director. As a member of the varsity ensemble, a higher level of commitment is expected of Chorale members. Extra responsibilities include a weekly out of class rehearsal. Members of Chorale are expected to audition for Region Choir except in individually approved circumstances.

Varsity Men's / Varsity Women's Choir – After-School / Evening

The Seguin Varsity Men's Choir and Varsity Women's Choir maintain a tradition of exemplary performance. The Varsity Men's Choir and Varsity Women's Choir perform periodically in the fall semester and regularly during our spring competition season. Both choirs compete at UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest in the Spring semester.

Bel Canto – 1st Period

Bel Canto (Italian for "Beautiful Singing") is a select choir of 10-12th grade female students, most of which have previous experience in the Seguin High School Choral Program. Students are admitted to this class by audition with the directors.

Concert Men's Choir – 5th Period

This select ensemble of male voices consists of 9-12th grade male students, most of which have previous choral experience in the Seguin High School Choral Department or in junior high choir. Students perform music of many different genres and styles. Membership is open to any male student at Seguin High School through audition with the directors or by recommendation of the junior high choral director.

Concert Women's Choir – 6th Period

This select ensemble of treble voices consists of 9th grade female students, most of which have previous choral experience in junior high choir. Students are admitted into this class by audition with the director or by recommendation of the junior high choral director.

Choraliers – 3rd Period

This mixed choir serves as an introduction to choral music at the high school level and/or review of choral and vocal techniques necessary for success in advanced choral ensembles. Membership is open to any student at Seguin High School.

Auxiliary Ensembles

Auxiliary Ensembles are an extension of the regular choral curriculum intended for advanced students seeking further enrichment / enjoyment in the Seguin Choral Program. Concurrent enrollment in another ensemble in the Seguin Choir Program is required for membership in these ensembles.

Chamber Choir – 2nd Period

The Chamber Choir consist of no more than 24 students in grades 10-12 auditioned at the end of the previous year. This ensemble serves as the primary ensemble for public relations of the Seguin Choral Department. Students are expected to be excellent musicians as well as examples of the values and virtues of the Choral Department. This group will perform often and has commitments beyond the typical choral classes. The Chamber Choir travels to San Antonio each March to compete in the American Classic Chamber & Madrigal Festival and consistently ranks as one of the top ensembles in the state.

Show Choir – Monday Evening 5:00-7:00pm

Seguin's Show Choir focuses on choreographed performance of pop, jazz, and musical theatre. The Show Choir performs at concerts, community events, and competes at the AISD Show Choir Showcase. Auditions are held in the Fall of each year, and as needed for entering students. Auditions for the 2014-2015 Show Choir will be on **Monday, September the 15th from 5:00-7:00pm in the choir room.** Students wanting to audition must attend at least one Show Choir Learning Camp on either Monday, September 8th from 3:00-5:00pm or Tuesday, September 9th from 3:00-5:00pm.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Certain standards are necessary for the integrity and reputation of any organization. Every choir member will be expected to display manners, follow school rules, meet deadlines, and always represent JSHS and the choir with pride and dignity. Choir members are expected to have and maintain a character above reproach. Not following school rules both in and out of choir may result in loss of membership and all of the privileges of the group. Members of the Seguin Choir are expected to demonstrate the following:

Responsibility through punctuality, following through with commitments, bringing supplies to rehearsal, communicating with the staff, delivering information to parents, and making a marked effort to improve musical skills and learn repertoire.

Professionalism by displaying self-discipline, working well with others, having an attitude of respect for the director and other school staff, presenting a positive image for the organization, and displaying the qualities of a professional musician.

Dignity by adhering to the campus dress code, using appropriate language and etiquette, displaying self-motivation in rehearsal, and presenting oneself in a well groomed manner.

Integrity through honesty with the director, oneself, and other students, regular attendance at school and out of school rehearsals and events.

Compassion through sensitivity and acceptance of diversity, displaying kindness and encouragement to peers, and showing sympathy for others.

REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

The single most important factor of the success of any choir is the work it accomplishes in its rehearsals. How you rehearse is how you will perform.

1. Strive daily to demonstrate the qualities of Responsibility, Professionalism, Integrity, Dignity, and Compassion as outlined in the Seguin Choir Code of Conduct.
2. Actively participate in all daily rehearsal activities.
3. Respond to instructions and requests of the director the first time given.

CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE PLAN

1. Verbal Warning
2. 2nd Verbal Warning
3. Rehearsal Time Out with written assignment and Parent Contact
4. Parent Phone Call & Student Conference
5. Office Referral

Any physical/verbal violence, major infraction of JSHS or AISD Policy, or student refusal to cooperate in discipline procedures will result in an Immediate Office Referral. Chronic discipline problems will result in removal from the choir program.

SOCIAL AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA

With the continued increase of communication via electronic media it is extremely important to understand the implications of texts, Facebook posts, tweets, etc. We have seen a continued increase of discipline problems at Seguin HS based on communication, bullying, etc that has occurred via electronic media outside of the school. Any student who represents themselves, peers, or their organization in an unfavorable, questionable, or illegal manner through electronic media (websites, blogs, text messages, social networking sites, etc.) will be subject to disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by school officials and directors, including but not limited to dismissal from the organization.

DAILY REHEARSAL PROCEDURE

1. Enter the room in a calm and dignified manner
2. Place all personal belongings in designated place at the side of room
3. Pick up your folder and pencil and be in your seat **when the bell rings**.
4. Be ready to focus on our main priority of making music. This requires absolute attention, positive attitude and willingness to make a mistake. In order to maintain classroom focus:
 - a. You must sing when asked - Failure to sing or to use proper singing posture will be considered both an academic and discipline problem in class.
 - b. Cell Phones should be off and put away - texting and using phones is rude and distracting. Should you be needed to use your electronic devices per the AISD BYOT policy you will be notified.
 - c. This is a choir room, not a beauty shop. Choir is not an appropriate time to apply lotion, make-up, hair products, etc. They should have been left at the side of the room per procedure 2 above.
5. Plan on working every day, the entire class period from August until June. We do not have free time or free days in choir. Per JSHS policy, students will not be allowed to leave the room during the first 15 minutes or the final 15 minutes of any class period. Students who habitually ask to leave the classroom will have parents contacted and pass privileges revoked.
6. Class is dismissed by the director, not the bell. When dismissed you are expected to take your folder or keep it in its assigned place. Failure to clean up supplies will result in daily performance grade reductions.

USE OF THE SEGUIN HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC FACILITY

1. **Be respectful of our room** and equipment so that we may enjoy it for years to come.
2. **Visiting the Choir Office:** You are welcome to see us anytime; however, knock and/or wait to be acknowledged before you enter. We welcome you in our office, but please be respectful of our time and space. The directors are trying to get work done!
3. **Practice rooms** may be used for voice lessons, practicing choir music, and/or completing singing tests. Practice rooms are always locked. At no time should a practice room be used to "hang out," talk, eat lunch, etc. Please see a director to gain access.
4. **Computers** in the choir room / practice rooms are for student use. The director's computers are not for student use.
5. Please use your AISD login when using the computers and sign off when finished. The computers are for **school related use** and are monitored at all times by AISD to ensure that use is in compliance with AISD policy.
6. **DO NOT PLAY THE CHOIR ROOM PIANO.** It is an expensive musical instrument, not a toy. If you are in need of a piano for practice please ask a director to use the practice room.
7. **Do not write on the boards** – if you need to make an announcement to the choir check with the director.
8. **The Choir Room is for Choir Students.** To maintain the safety of our equipment and our student's personal items, we will enforce a strict "only choir students in the choir room" rule. This applies to class, lunch, before and after school.
9. **LUNCH** can not be brought from the cafeteria into the choir room. If you bring your lunch to school and would like to have lunch in the choir room (when we are at lunch) you are welcome to join us. **THIS PRIVILEGE IS FOR CHOIR STUDENTS ONLY.** You are expected to clean up after yourself. If you leave trash in our room, you will not be allowed back in for lunch.

SUPPLIES

Each student will be provided with a black music folder and pencil as a part of the Choir Fee assessed at the start of the year. Music and other materials will be issued on loan from the school throughout the school year. **Students are financially responsible for folder contents provided by the school.** Students are expected to have their folder, music and a pencil at every rehearsal. In the event any materials distributed by the teacher are lost, it is the student's responsibility to obtain another copy or to pay the replacement cost.

UNIFORMS

Your signature on the handbook acknowledgement also serves as a contract for uniform rental with the following policies. We are unable to issue a uniform until this form is returned and a choir fee is paid or we receive a payment contract indicating payment. Failure to turn in required paperwork will result in students not receiving a uniform and being unable to perform on required concerts.

1. Students / Parents are financially responsible for all uniform pieces issued to them by the school
2. Uniforms are required for all choir performances.
3. Students will be issued a clean uniform. Maintenance during the school year will be the responsibility of the student. Except for tuxedo shirts, uniforms are DRY CLEAN ONLY. Failure to clean the uniform regularly resulting in unusual wear, staining, or odors will be charged as damage to the school uniform.
4. Students are responsible for hemming of pants / dresses. Please do not cut uniforms when hemming.
5. Uniform shoes are not provided. Girls should wear closed toe, black pumps. Men should wear formal black dress shoes.
6. Black socks / hose are a required uniform item.
7. Failure to wear the proper uniform items, or failure to arrive in a properly maintained uniform (hemmed, pressed, and clean), will result in students being removed from performance and suffering standard penalties for missed performances.
8. Uniforms must be returned as requested at the completion of the concert season. Failure to return the uniform will result in a fine equal to the replacement cost of the uniform.
9. As part of the formal choir uniform, students are expected to present themselves in a well-groomed, formal manner. Anything that draws personal attention to a single student rather than the group is not acceptable in performance. Jewelry other than small stud earrings or assigned uniform jewelry is not acceptable. Hair should be groomed, a natural color, and styled away from the face. Concerts are a stage performance. Makeup that brings out features and is not a distraction is appropriate.

STUDENT TRAVEL

The choral department will occasionally engage in overnight travel for festivals and performances. Although choir trips are optional, students are strongly encouraged to participate as we will be performing on all trips and need our entire team in order to be successful. Specific regulations concerning student travel will be discussed in detail preceding all trips. These specific guidelines should be kept in mind:

- When traveling with the Choral Department you are serving as a representative to the public of our choir, school, and district. Students will be expected to behave in a way that brings honor to our choir, school, and district.
- Payment schedules will be finalized early in the year. Payment deadlines are final and must be adhered to so that deadlines to travel agencies, bus companies, etc can be met by the department. In almost all cases, trip payments are non-refundable as this money goes directly to tour companies, hotels, busses, etc. Students will be given ample fundraising opportunities to significantly reduce or eliminate parents' out-of-pocket costs. Once a contract is signed, you are committed to all non-refundable expenses of the trip.
- Consistent discipline problems in school (including multiple assignments to in-school suspension) may result in the loss of trip privileges. Any flagrant offense of school policy or offense categorized as a Level 4 offense in the AISD Code of Conduct will result in the loss of travel privileges for a period to be determined by the director and school administration.

FINANCES

A choir fee of \$40 must be paid by all students in the choral program by September 17, 2014. Failure to pay this fee will result in the student being placed on the AISD fine list. Special arrangements can be made due to financial hardship by submitting the "Choir Fees Contract" found at the end of this handbook, in the choir room, and on our website. This fee will cover all recurring yearly fees (uniform maintenance and cleaning, folder and supplies, etc.). Information concerning other possible expenses can be found below. *Finances should never be a barrier to a student's participation in the department; however, if no communication is made, no assistance can be offered.*

ESTIMATED COSTS:

The following is an anticipated list of choir expenditures that will occur throughout the year. They are listed to help you plan your budget. Ample fundraising opportunities will be provided to assist families in meeting these expenses. Please note that in some cases, fees are approximate. Required expenditures are so indicated.

1. Choir Fee	\$40	Required
2. Uniform Shoes	Varies	Required
3. Chamber Choir Travel Fee	\$25-50	Required for Chamber Members
4. Show Choir Uniform Rental	\$30	Required for Show Choir Members
5. Region Entry Fee	\$15	participation optional
6. Solo / Ensemble Entry Fee	\$7.50 per entry	participation optional
7. Choir Banquet	\$30	participation optional
8. Choir Trip (In State Years)	\$250-350	participation optional
(Out of State)	\$500-950	participation optional
9. Voice Lessons	\$68/month	participation optional

Other optional expenses might include, letter jacket patches, professional performances, and social outings.

REFUND POLICY:

Most fees charged to the student involve advance payment for a service or item. In such cases (i.e. accompanist fees, trip fees, etc.), the choral department has a deadline for receiving reimbursement from the supplier. Because of this, the following policy is strictly followed: *There will be no refunds in any case where a student has paid for an activity or supply but is no longer able to participate.* In addition, in situations where the student has committed to an activity and we have paid fees or secured services for this activity without receiving payment, the student will be responsible for reimbursing the choir program for this fee. This policy applies no matter what the reason is for withdrawal and specifically includes but is not limited to the situations of ineligibility, illness, unexpected family travel, or withdrawal from the JSJS Choir.

TURNING IN MONEY

In order to assure the security and proper accounting of funds, money will always be handled by the director. Please use the following guidelines to assure you receive proper credit for money you turn in:

1. Checks should always have the student's name and an indication of what the money is for in the Memo Line.
2. Cash should be placed in an envelope, marked clearly with the student's name, amount, and purpose of the payment.
3. Always hand money to a director. Never leave money on a desk or on the piano.
4. All student financial transactions are tacked via the CHARMS service accessible via our choir website. You may see fees, transactions, and print receipts as needed via the website.

Seguin Choral Department Student Outcomes

The following list of skills based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for High School Fine Arts and the education philosophy of the Seguin Choral Department that summarizes the outcome of a student engaged in the choral program for 4-years:

I. Vocal Technique

- a. The student can demonstrate good singing posture and proper breath technique
- b. The student has a basic knowledge of the biology associated with the vocal instrument
- c. The student can sing with consistent tone throughout their vocal range
- d. The student has a basic knowledge of the registers of the voice and can navigate appropriately through all vocal registers
- e. The student can sing accurately and expressively at different tempi and with a full range of dynamics
- f. The student has basic knowledge of singing diction in English, Latin, Italian, German, French and other languages as encountered in the repertoire
- g. The student can evaluate vocal performances and identify strengths and weaknesses

II. Musicianship

- a. The student can accurately sight-sing melodies in major and minor keys using chromatic tones within functional harmony
- b. The student can accurately read standard rhythms in a variety of simple and compound meters
- c. The student can accurately sight-read a single part in a four-part choral texture
- d. The student understands basic musical terminology and can evaluate the expressive and technical markings in a choral score and respond appropriately
- e. The student can evaluate structural qualities (form) of a piece of music regarding repetition and formal properties.
- f. The student understands basic conducting gestures and their connection to choral performance

III. Ensemble Skills

- a. The student demonstrates proper ensemble etiquette through consistent performance in rehearsals
- b. The student demonstrates the ability to perform choral music for an audience
- c. The student can sing their choral part accurately and expressively either alone or as a member of an ensemble with attention to tone, blend, intonation, and balance
- d. The student can memorize music and perform music from memory for an audience
- e. The student can identify the historical and cultural background of the literature being performed

IV. Life Skills

- a. The student will develop a life-long appreciation for choral music and the other arts
- b. The student will obtain the skills needed to engage in music as a performer, patron, and/or consumer throughout their lives
- c. The student will develop cultural awareness and tolerance learning to cooperate with an eclectic group of people to reach a common goal
- d. The student will develop communication and time management skills needed for success in higher education
- e. The student will develop self-discipline and the ability to focus on difficult tasks in order to achieve goals
- f. The student will demonstrate the core values of the Seguin Choral Department (Responsibility, Integrity, Professionalism, Dignity, and Compassion) in all of their daily endeavors

SEGUIN CHOIR GRADING GUIDELINES

Students will be systematically assessed concerning their mastery of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for High School Fine Arts and the preceding Seguin Choral Department Expected Student Outcomes. Grades will be calculated using the following system.

I. Ensemble Skills – 50%

Students will be assessed on their development of vocal technique and ensemble skills as outlined in the the “Expected Student Outcomes”. Students will be randomly assessed and given feedback throughout each grading period on topics specific to their current coursework.

II. Tests (Singing and Written) – 25%

Students will be regularly assessed and provided feedback for individual preparation of musical skills, ensemble parts, and sight-reading progress through both written and singing tests throughout the year.

III. Performances – 25%

Students will receive a grade for required performances of the department based on their attendance, punctuality, and concert etiquette at the performance. **THESE GRADES WILL OCCUR OUTSIDE OF CLASS TIME AT SCHEDULED CHORAL DEPARTMENT EVENTS**

Student mastery is the goal of every assignment in the choral department. In most cases, Singing Tests may be retaken for credit. Concert Performances are a required element of the State curriculum and cannot be duplicated through alternative written work. In the case of a **pre-approved school conflict or verified emergency** the student will be given the opportunity to recover points on the student grade through one of the assignments listed below. In order to preserve the safety of all students and integrity of the performance, students may not be able to perform in concerts due to absences from rehearsals / dress rehearsals regardless of excused or unexcused absence status. Students will always be given ample advance notice of required performances; therefore, the following activities are examples of what **will not** be considered an excused absence from Choral Department events: Student’s Work Schedule, Regular Doctor / Dental Appointments, Lack of Transportation, Babysitting Obligations, Church Activities, Non-School Related Sports Event

EXCUSED ABSENCE MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments should be completed within one week of the missed event. It is the student’s responsibility to take care of make-up assignments. Do not expect a director to “assign” you make-up work.

I. REHEARSALS (OUTSIDE OF REGULAR CLASSROOM REHEARSALS)

As the directors will not be available to lead make-up rehearsals with individual students, the student will be required to rehearse individually in one of the choir room practice rooms for forty-five minutes during lunch, before or after school. A director must be present in the choir room and the student should make the director aware of when the rehearsal is starting and ending. Students should complete an “Individual Rehearsal Report” available in the choir room and turn it in to the director.

II. PERFORMANCES (EXCUSED)

Students must make an appointment to sing all required music for the directors after-school within a week of the missed performance to recover the performance portion of the grade **AND** students must attend an approved alternate concert (within the same grading period) and complete a “Performance Critique and Analysis” found in the choir room.

III. CLASSROOM REHEARSALS

Please check with your director for any missed assignments and with your section leaders for applicable rehearsal notes.

Academic Eligibility Rules and Requirements

Choir students are responsible for maintaining high academic standards. Many of the performances / competitions that we engage in are subject to eligibility rules established by the state. Other events, such as concerts, are considered co-curricular and are necessary as part of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills that students must attend in order to receive credit for the course and are not part of eligibility requirements.

Events subject to eligibility requirements	Required events not subject to eligibility rules
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TMEA Region / All-State Auditions 2. UIL sponsored events 3. Trips or Concerts that are off campus 4. Any concert at which admission is charged 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extra Rehearsals and Sectionals 2. In class rehearsals and performances 3. All concerts at which admission is not charged

Eligibility rules set forth by the State of Texas for participation are as follows:

1. All students are eligible the first six-weeks of school.
2. At the end of the first six-weeks, if the student is failing (below 70%) one or more subjects he/she will not be permitted to participate in extra-curricular activities for the next three weeks.
3. A student may regain eligibility if all grades are passing on subsequent 3 week progress report or the next 6 week report card.
4. If a student is passing all classes on the 6 week report card, a failing grade on a progress report will not result in loss of eligibility, i.e. progress reports can only help you to gain eligibility, not cause you to lose it.

NOTE: Grades for eligibility are effective at the end of the school day on the date set-forth by the state on the academic grading calendar. Turning in assignments and grade changes after this date will not effect eligibility until the next official grading date.

Any student receiving an incomplete on his/her report card is considered ineligible until the incomplete is cleared with the teacher and a formal grade change form is submitted to the office. Students are expected to monitor their eligibility throughout the school year. Students with consistent eligibility problems will be removed from auditioned ensembles so that they may focus their time on academics. We are here to help you succeed and will go to great length to assist you both in choir and your academics, but we can not help once the grades are officially posted. Communication is essential.

In Varsity Ensembles the majority of activities taking place are subject to eligibility rules; therefore a student's academic eligibility will play a significant part of their placement auditions.

Student / Parent Contract & Handbook Acknowledgement

AISD policy requires that every student participating in the choral program receive this handbook and return this signed acknowledgment of the policies contained herein. For your convenience, a single copy of this form is included in the Handbook Addendum given out to each student and can be found on the choir website. Refusal to return or sign this form does not exempt a student from the regulations of the program.

The success of the choir department is dependent upon each individual choir student adhering to the policies and procedures set forth in the handbook. Singers are expected to fulfill all choir commitments and responsibilities. Requirements of the course include but are not limited to the Fall Concert, Winter Concert, Pre-UIL, UIL Concert & Sight-reading, Spring Show, and any other activities designated as total organization performances. Regardless of event classification (extra or co-curricular), attendance of those eligible at designated events is required. Performance is a state-required element of this course, and if a student fails to meet the designated performance requirements, he/she will receive grade reductions and may be suspended from participation in the organization at the director's discretion. Any deviation from this policy will be at the sole discretion of the choral directors. Reasonable consideration will be given relating to legitimate conflicts with UIL and school related activities. Students and parents must communicate with all sponsors **IN ADVANCE** and **IN WRITING** in order to provide time for proper resolution of any schedule conflicts.

I have read the 2014-2015 JSHS Choir Handbook, understand the expectation and responsibilities of the course, and agree to abide by the policies set forth in this handbook. I also understand the consequences for failing to meet these requirements that have also been outlined herein:

PRINT Student's Name

Student Signature

date

Parent/Guardian Signature

date

Calendar of Major Events 2014-2015

This calendar is an overview of major events and not intended to be comprehensive. A complete and current calendar including events pertaining to specific classes can be found on our website www.seguinchoir.com

September	6	Fine Arts Field Day, 9am - 12pm
	8	Show Choir Auditions Learning Camp, 3-5pm
	9	Show Choir Auditions Learning Camp, 3-5pm
	15	Show Choir Auditions, 5-7pm
	17	\$40 Choir Fee and Handbook Acknowledgement Due
October	20	All-State Round 1 Auditions, Martin HS
	18	All-State Round 2 & 9-10 Auditions, Summit HS
	20	Fall Concert, 7pm Auditorium - REQUIRED ALL STUDENTS
	22	Seguin's Got Talent Auditions, 3-5pm
	23	Seguin's Got Talent Auditions, 3-5pm
November	3	Cluster Concert 7pm Auditorium
	5	Seguin's Got Talent Run-Through, 7pm Auditorium
	7	Seguin's Got Talent 7pm
	11	Veteran's Day Program 9am
	21	All-State Round III, First Baptist Church Arlington
December	22	Region, District, and 9-10 Honor Choir, 5pm, Mansfield Performing Arts Center
	5	Non-Varsity Choir Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal, 3-4pm REQUIRED for NV Groups
	6	Chamber and Show Choir Coffee House
	9	Non-Varsity Choir Winter Concert 7pm, Auditorium (6pm Rehearsal) REQUIRED for NV Groups
	12	Varsity Rehearsal with Orchestra 3-5pm - REQUIRED CHORALE
January	15	Varsity Choir / Orchestra Dress Rehearsal 3-5pm - REQUIRED Varsity Groups
	16	Varsity Choir / Orchestra Winter Concert, 7pm REQUIRED Varsity Groups
	17	Show Choir / Chamber Choir Tour
	9-10	Final Round, All-State Choir, Midland, TX
	February	2
3		Voice Masterclass
10		Voice Recital 5-6:30pm, 6:30-8pm
11-14		TMEA / All-State Choir, San Antonio, TX
20		Show Choir Showcase, 6:30pm Bowie HS
March	21	AISD Solo and Ensemble Contest, Seguin HS
	6/7	Chamber Choir - Madrigal Festival in San Antonio
	24	JH/Sub Non-Varsity Pre-UIL, Seguin HS, 5-9pm
April	7	Pre-UIL, Seguin, 5-9pm
	21-23	UIL Contest, Trinity HS
May	27	Choir/Orchestra Banquet
	29	Choir Spring Show