

**Prosper High School  
Choir Handbook  
2016-2017**



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# Prosper ISD Choir Department

*“A tradition that thrives stays alive!”*

## **Teach**

our students self-discipline and self-worth. Prosper ISD choral students will actively participate in the discipline of music making. Choir is a team, so each student brings a unique and important skill that is necessary for the success of the group.

## **Honor**

our teachers, students, parents, administrators, community and traditions. Prosper choirs are dedicated to excellence. The program will honor Prosper’s tradition of producing quality performances. Choir is also committed to our community and giving back to those around us.

## **Reach**

every student where they are, and support them to their new destination. Our duty as choral educators is to not only create well-rounded musicians, but well-rounded human beings. We will facilitate opportunities for individual student growth, which will promote the overall growth of the ensembles, and allow students to reach their full potential.

## **Invest**

time, resources and love into our students’ intellectual, social and emotional well-being. Music brings people of all kinds together, and we are dedicated to taking and spending the time to ensure that every student has an aesthetic and well-meaning experience through choral music.

## **Value**

backgrounds and interests of each family. Prosper Choir programs will strive to incorporate choral music that reflects the diverse backgrounds of our community and our students.

## **Enrich**

the lives of all who walk through our doors. Our goal is for our students to leave class with a strong sense of self-worth and a passion for making music.

## HOW TO CONTACT THE CHOIR STAFF

With many students in the choir program, the directors receive many calls and messages. Our goal is to respond to every message in a timely manner.

**You may e-mail us at the following address:**

Aaron Tombrella, Choral Director: [ajtombrella@prosper-isd.net](mailto:ajtombrella@prosper-isd.net)

Kaela Vance, Assistant HS Director: [kbvance@prosper-isd.net](mailto:kbvance@prosper-isd.net)

**Additional Contacts:**

Crystal Chamberlain, Rogers MS: [cdchamberlain@prosper-isd.net](mailto:cdchamberlain@prosper-isd.net)

Dena Anderson, Reynolds MS: [dmanderson@prosper-isd.net](mailto:dmanderson@prosper-isd.net)

## STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR

**Standards of behavior ensure that the Prosper High School Choir will establish and maintain a tradition of excellence and will protect students and equipment.**

1. No gum, candy, food or drinks (except water in a sealable bottle) in the Choir Room.
2. All students are to participate and encourage an active learning environment.
3. Students are not to touch or handle any equipment or instruments that they are not assigned by the school or given permission from the teacher.
4. All required materials are to be brought to class each day.
5. Only essential choir materials are to be brought to your seat in rehearsal.
6. Students must be in their chair with their binder and music by the start of the class period.
7. You will be expected to practice good choral skills everyday, to include sight-singing, text pronunciation and vowel placement.
8. All students will be required to access their class through Google Classroom and School Wires. Tests, notes, choir rules, and all handouts will be available through these websites. Other required materials include pencil, paper, and music.

*Consequences for violation of the above policies can include reminders, loss of privileges, detentions, teacher/parent conferences, office referrals, and removal from the choir program.*

## GRADING POLICY

Grading is accomplished each Nine Weeks through a simple formula consisting of:

1. **Tests (60%)**
2. **Daily Work (40%)**

The **tests grade** consists of individual part-singing assignments, concert evaluations, and any extra or co-curricular performances such as concerts or sectionals.

The **daily work grade** is calculated weekly and is affected by attendance, having all materials, and being actively engaged in each day's lesson. It also includes quizzes, worksheets, and practice records.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Any activity which is included in the course is considered curricular. Section rehearsals, performances, and clinics, are part of the course requirements and are, therefore, graded activities.

Unlike other core classes, it is not possible to make-up most of the activities that occur throughout the year in choir. Attendance at all rehearsals, performances, and sectionals are **mandatory**. All absences must be approved in advance by the director. Absences (excused or unexcused) from a sectional or performance should be communicated to the directors in written format: e-mail, or hand-written note by a parent.

**Please make every effort to schedule your medical, dental, or other appointments around choir activities and class time.**

## PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Each student must be eligible to participate in any extracurricular activities such as choir. Each student must meet the academic requirements set forth by the Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL) as well as the Prosper Independent School District. If a student falls below passing, he/she will not be allowed to perform with the choir at any UIL sanctioned event or paid event. (i.e. All-Region, Solo and Ensemble, Concert and Sightreading Contest, etc.) PHS seasonal (Fall/Winter/Spring) concerts are an extension of the classroom. These concerts do not fall under the guidelines of no pass/no play and by definition all students are required to participate. Exceptions include those events which admission is charged; in this case, the event falls under UIL eligibility rules.

## PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES

- **ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY.** The calendar is provided with this handbook with all pertinent PHS Choir dates for the school year. We have provided you with every known performance we have this year well in advance. Please mark these on your calendar now to avoid any possible conflicts.
  - Be early.
  - Be courteous and polite to everyone, including the other school groups.
  - Maintain a performance atmosphere while in uniform.
  - Ride buses in a mature manner. No shouting, singing, standing, or switching seats. Face forward and keep all body parts in the confines of the bus.

## FEES

2016-2017 fees are \$100 and \$75 for each subsequent student in the high school choir program in the same household (e.g. siblings), which cover the following:

- Choir T-Shirt
- Booster Membership
- Uniform Rental and Care
- Music

All students will be given original copies of music so as to not violate copyright laws. As such, a small portion of the fees covers purchase & replacement of lost or damaged music.

**Please make all checks payable to Prosper Choir Booster Club (PCBC) with the student(s) name(s) in the memo section or remit cash in a sealed envelope with the student(s) name(s) and amount on the outside of the envelope.**

**\*\*Additional spirit wear and trip payments will be due separately\*\***

## APPLIED PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

It is the goal of the Prosper High School Choir to provide the very best learning experience for each student. One of these experiences is the opportunity for a student to study privately with some of the finest graduate and professional musicians in the DFW area. This enrichment opportunity is available to all students. Although it is not mandatory to study privately, the individual attention that the student receives generally improves the performance level of the student and also has a positive effect on the choir in which the student participates. The key to success with this opportunity is to start early and continue throughout the year. For the convenience of students and parents, lessons may be taken during the choir class. The cost for each lesson is dependent upon the instructor. The instructors on our approved list have been selected by interview/audition and represent the finest teachers available. Only these teachers may teach in our school facilities.

- Private instruction is offered as enrichment, not as remedial instruction.
- We encourage private instruction to promote the complete development of each student's potential as a musician.

- A student's placement in the choir program, and his or her grades, are not dependent upon participation in private lessons.

## **STUDENT'S/PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PRIVATE TEACHER**

1. Be fully prepared for each lesson.
2. Bring a pencil, method book, and any other required materials to each lesson.
3. Notify the private teacher 24 hours or more in advance in the event a lesson must be missed.
4. The cost for each lesson is dependent on the instructor and is payable directly to the individual private instructor.
5. Prompt payments will be greatly appreciated by the teachers. In many cases this is their sole source of income.

### **Uniform Information**

Choir uniforms are available for all choir students to wear for performances. A uniform will be assigned to each student. They will be stored in the uniform room in the Choir room. After each performance and at the end of the year, each student must check in their uniform. Students are allowed to take uniforms home for ease in changing and preparing for performances. Damaged and missing uniforms will be charged to student accounts at the end of each year.

### **UIL Solo and Ensemble Competition**

All students are encouraged to participate in the UIL Solo & Ensemble competition held in February 2016. Music will be selected from the approved song list in the fall, so there will be plenty of time to prepare. This is a great opportunity to compete as a soloist using vocal technique that is normally outside a choral setting. Students who compete with a Class I solo and earn a Superior rating have the chance to move on to the state competition in Austin, Tx. It is encouraged that students take this chance to really learn and challenge themselves.

### **TMEA All-State Competition**

Students who have attended summer choir camps are encouraged to participate in the TMEA All-State competition. There will also be scheduled rehearsals after school for students who are interested. If you have not attended an all-state camp, then it is highly encouraged that you attend the scheduled rehearsals. All students are welcome to learn the music and compete. This is a great opportunity to meet and work with amazing people, and to further your musical experiences.

### **T-shirts**

Choir shirts are worn every time we perform in the community where we do not wear our formal uniforms. They are also able to be worn on any other day as Spirit Wear. Students will receive a shirt as soon as the shirts arrive. The cost is covered in the initial choir fee. If a student's shirt is lost or damaged, they are responsible for purchasing a new shirt. The cost to replace a shirt is \$15.

## **Hosting Events**

Prosper choir is hosting UIL Solo & Ensemble, as well as Concert and Sight-Reading this year. This is a great opportunity to give back to our region, represent the district, school and choir program in a positive manner. Students will be required to participate in the hosting events through a variety of activities from room monitors to set-up/tear-down. All students participating will dress and act in a professional manner at all times.

## **Choir Trip**

Each year, the PHS Choirs take a trip in order to perform and compete at festivals. Information regarding this year's choir trip is at the end of this packet.

## **Prosper Choir Booster Club**

Booster clubs are a wonderful support for students as well as the entire program. Funds raised by the booster club will allow the PHS choir program to grow, allow the students to travel and help enrich the students' choir experience. All choir parents are members of the Booster Club. Information regarding the group will follow.

Email: [prosperchoirbooster@gmail.com](mailto:prosperchoirbooster@gmail.com)

## **Social Media**

Prosper Eagle Choir is working hard to communicate with the world! Please join our social media sites:

Facebook: Prosper Choir

Twitter: PHSChoir01

Instagram: PHSChoir\_



## Prosper High School Choir Spring Trip 2016-2017

### Corpus Christi, TX

Parents and students,

We are happy to announce that the spring choir trip has been confirmed. We will be traveling to Corpus Christi to participate in this year's Buccaneer Classic. This year's trip dates are April 27 - April 30, 2017. The price of the trip will range from \$400 - \$500 depending on total numbers. A detailed itinerary will follow, but this trip will include\*:

- Festival registration and competition at the Buccaneer Classic in Corpus Christi
- Transportation (2 charter busses)
- Lodging for 3 nights, including breakfast
- All meals (except meals on traveling days)
- Texas State Aquarium
- Tour of the USS LEXINGTON

Spots will be guaranteed after the first deposit of \$150 is made and a trip contract is signed and returned. For your convenience, a payment installment plan is available:

#### Spring Choir Tour 2016-2017 Payment Schedule:

**\$150.00 DEPOSIT**      due october 17, 2016      **there will be no additions after this date**

**\*\*Second Payment**      due November 17, 2016

**Third Payment**      due January 17, 2017

**Final Payment**      due February 21, 2017

The plan outlines the total cost of the trip over four payments. **The deposit will guarantee a student's spot on the trip and will be non-refundable, as will all subsequent payments.** All checks are to be made payable to Prosper Choir Booster Club (PCBC). We are required to make installment payments to the travel company; therefore, we will not have the funds to repay any installments. As always, we encourage students to earn the money for this trip. Questions about the refund policy should be directed to Mr. Tombrella at [ajtombrella@prosper-isd.net](mailto:ajtombrella@prosper-isd.net).

**\*Specific details subject to change based on availability**

**\*\*Payment schedule will be determined by total number of participants**

