



Burbank High School Choir Handbook

2021-2022

Susan A. Simpson-Obregon, Director
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Conference Period
“B” Days (5th Period)

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2021 – 2022 Bulldog Choir Calendar

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
August 9, 2021	First Day of School		Burbank HS
September 3	ALL FORMS DUE	4:15pm	Choir Room
September 6	Labor Day Holiday		
September 16	Hispanic Heritage Culture Event*	5 – 7pm	Burbank Auditorium
September 30	2 nd Annual Miss Burbank Pageant	6:30 – 9pm	Burbank Auditorium
October 5	Bulldog Choir Fall Concert*	6 – 7pm	Burbank Auditorium
October 8	Student Holiday – Teacher PD Day		
October 9	Mixed Region Auditions	All Day	Warren High School
October 11	Columbus Day Holiday		
October 22	Bulldog Fest	5 – 8pm	Burbank High School
October 23	Treble Region Auditions	All Day	TBD
October 29	Halloween Party	5 – 8pm	Burbank Choir Room
November 6	Region Choir Clinic/Concert	All Day	Harlan High School
November 22-26	Thanksgiving Break		
December 2	Middle School Recruitment Tour	8am – 6pm	
December 9	Bulldog Choir Winter Concert*	6 – 7pm	Burbank Auditorium
December 16	White Elephant Winter Party	5 – 8pm	Burbank Choir Room
Dec. 20-Jan. 7	Winter Break		
January 17	Martin Luther King Holiday		
January 21	Varsity Choir Olympics	5 – 9pm	Burbank Choir Room
February 21	President’s Day Holiday		
March 7-11	Spring Break		
March	Pre-UIL C&SR Contest	All Day	Location TBD
March 18	Spring Fine Arts Fest	5 – 8pm	
March 24-27	Choir Trip to New Orleans, Louisiana		
March 31	UIL Concert & Sightreading Contest*	All Day	Location TBD
April 8	Battle of Flowers Holiday		
April 15	Good Friday Holiday		
April 29	Choir Banquet	5:30 – 7pm	Location TBD
May 12	Bulldog Choir Spring Show*	6 – 7pm	Location TBD
May 30	Memorial Day Holiday		
June 2	Last Day of School		

* Dates and times are subject to change with campus approval and due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

EVENTS THAT ARE HIGHLIGHTED ARE REQUIRED EVENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS, AND A MAJOR PART OF YOUR STUDENTS’ GRADE.

August 23, 2021

Greetings Bulldog Choir Family!

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! My name is Mrs. Susan Simpson-Obregon and I am proud to start my sixth year as Choir Director at Luther Burbank High School! I am so excited to continue this journey with the Bulldog family, and I cannot wait to see all the wonderful things we are going to accomplish this year.

I am a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School, where I participated in choir, band, theatre and dance. I remember many Friday nights and Saturdays spent at Burbank when I was in high school for football games. I graduated from UTSA, and later from Texas A&M – San Antonio. Prior to joining the Bulldogs, I served at Mark Twain Middle School in SAISD as choir director for three and a half years. Music has been a part of my life since I can remember, and I can't wait to share all I've learned with our students. More importantly, however, I am excited to learn from our students and to see how much they can teach me this year!

Attached is the choir handbook and course syllabus. Please review the forms and fill out the paperwork provided. **Every student needs to turn in the completed forms by September 3.** A grade will be taken for each form turned in. If you have any questions, please contact me. My information is listed below.

I am so excited for this year and I cannot wait to see all the great things Burbank will accomplish in 2021-2022. GO BULLDOGS!!!

Thank you,

Susan A. Simpson-Obregon
Burbank High School
Choir Director
Email: ssimpson2@saisd.net
Phone: 210-228-1210 ext. 32059

Burbank High School Choir Syllabus

Mrs. Susan A. Simpson-Obregon, Director

Phone: 210-228-1210 ext. 32059

Email: ssimpson2@saisd.net

Conference: "B" Days (5th Period)

Required Materials:

- 1) Concession Stand Items (nacho cheese, pickles, hot cheetos, assorted chips, water, soda, candy, etc.)

BULLDOG CHOIR GOALS

- 1) The Varsity choir will receive Superior ratings at UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest.
- 2) The choir will fundraise \$15,000 throughout the school year.
- 4) Members of the choir will compete at a National Choral Competition in New Orleans, Louisiana.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The major objective of choir is to learn how to sing various styles and genres of music following the Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills and District Curriculum Guide. The basic skills are:

1. The technical skill of how to sing Bel Canto and other styles as appropriate to repertoire.
2. The knowledge of music literacy: how to read and interpret music symbols.
3. The technical skill of sight-reading; using Curwen hand signs, rhythmic counting system and audiation.
4. The performance of music literature representing different eras and their inherent style
5. The preparation for various auditions, resultant choir/clinic opportunities, and UIL events.
6. The performance of four Curriculum Concerts and other performances. – MANDATORY

CURRICULUM *(each 9 weeks except where noted)*

1. Develop vocal range, skills such as: long, round, tall vowels; consonants; phrasing; syllabic stress; expressive singing; etc.
2. Introduction & sequenced learning of music theory & solfege
3. Sight-reading & audiation
4. Score analysis
5. Analyzing and application of dynamics, tempo considerations, and musical elements
6. Learn attributes of music periods (Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, 20th Century, Contemporary)
7. Analyze & learn/rehearse 9 weeks repertoire (Curriculum concert every 9-weeks is mandatory)
8. Small & large ensemble techniques
9. Prepare for region auditions (1st 9-weeks)
10. Concert Preparation and Etiquette
11. Prepare/Perform- Region Choir & Clinic
12. 9 weeks curriculum concerts each 9 weeks and other performances
13. Prepare for Pre-UIL & UIL events: Concert & Sight-reading; Solo & Ensemble
14. Reflections, Rubrics & Evaluations

GRADING

Grading policies follow the SAISD grading policy. The district-wide assessment performance (9- week concerts) measures shall constitute 40% of the student's nine-week grade. Class work, participation, quizzes and/or homework shall constitute 60% of the student's nine-week grade.

Assignments may include, but are not limited to:

1. Weekly Rehearsal Techniques—Students will be expected to actively participate, demonstrate correct rehearsal techniques, and have all necessary supplies, including music and pencil.
2. Parent Signature Sheets/Forms—Students will be expected to turn in signature sheets/forms on or before the due date for a completion grade. If not turned in, the student will earn a **ZERO**.
3. Score Study—Students will be expected to spend some time with each new piece of music handed to them.
4. Folder Check—Students will be responsible for keeping their choir folder organized with ALL music, handouts, and a pencil. 10 points will be deducted for each missing item.
5. Sight-Singing Quiz—Quizzes will consist of exercises between 4 and 12 measures. Points will be deducted for each mistake (rhythmic or melodic).
6. Music Check Singing Quiz—Students will be responsible for learning the music we prepare for concerts. In order to hold students accountable, students will record themselves singing in a group.
7. **Before/After-school rehearsals—ALL students are required to attend before/after school rehearsals deemed MANDATORY. Students will receive a 100 for being there, and a ZERO each time they are absent. No more than 3 excused absences.**
8. Music Theory Quiz.

Assessments include, but are not limited to:

9. Sight reading tests, both group and individual.
10. Concert Reflections—Students will reflect on personal performances by listening to, or watching choir concerts and assessing how they did.
11. **Concerts—Each nine-weeks concert serves as the test grade for that nine-weeks. Concerts are REQUIRED for each student. Dates of the concerts are on the calendar, and WILL NOT CHANGE (unless decided upon by district personnel for safety reasons). Any missed concert will result in a ZERO. A doctor's note will be required for the opportunity to make-up that zero.**
12. Semester Exams- Semester Exams will take place at the end of each semester. They will consist of two sections: Singing and Sight-reading. The scores for your semester exam will be averaged to determine varsity eligibility for the following school year.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY (Cell Phones)

Students are not allowed to use cell phones during class. Ear buds are not permitted in the choir room at any time. Please refer to Burbank Student Handbook for consequences.

BULLDOG CHOIR GUIDELINES

BULLDOG CHOIR PROCEDURES

- 1) Students will arrive to class on time and place belongings along the walls surrounding the room.
- 2) Students will get their binder/folder (with pencil inside) and stand in assigned seat before the bell.
- 3) Student stretch and warm up leader will begin leading the class in warm ups. Student leaders will be selected at the beginning of the academic year.
- 4) Students will participate in all class activities and aid in the creation of the learning environment.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Disruptive behavior and behavior not in compliance with the classroom rules will be addressed using the following plan:

- 1st infraction—Student/Teacher conference at the end of class.
- 2nd infraction- Points deducted from daily grade. Parent phone call home.
- 3rd infraction- Written student reflection of actions. Points deducted. Parent phone call home.
- 4th infraction- Restorative circle with parent, teacher, and student.
- 5th infraction- Administrator, teacher, parent and student conference.
- 6th infraction- Office Referral.

Serious offenses may require additional actions as per the SAISD Student Code of Conduct.

TARDY POLICY

All students who arrive late to class must sign their name in the tardy log. If they have a pass from a teacher, the pass will be attached to the log and cleared at the end of the school day.

- 1-3 tardies: Student warning. Written documentation of tardies.
- 4 tardies: Parent phone call.
- 5 tardies: Parent conference with teacher and counselor.
- 6 or more tardies: Office referral, conference with parent and student.

FUNDRAISING

Each year on average the choir program spends an estimated \$150.00 on each student to supply spirit shirts, pay for audition fees, contest entries, electronic equipment, live accompanists for concerts, and trips/festivals. Please refer to the fundraiser agreement below for more information. Please help!!! ☺

LETTERMAN JACKET REQUIREMENTS

High school students have the opportunity to earn a letter jacket in choir. To earn a letterman in choir, students must be enrolled in choir for two years and compete in UIL Concert and Sight Reading or Solo and Ensemble a minimum of two times. Underclassmen may earn a letterman if they audition and make it into the Region choir for Region 29.

REGION CHOIR

Region choirs consist of the best singers in grades 9-12 from all over San Antonio. Students prepare region music pieces and each will blind audition as a SOLO singer. Only the top students from each audition make it into the Region Choir. Students will register for the auditions in early September. If a student registers to audition and does not attend the audition for whatever reason, (eligibility, schedule conflict, lack of preparedness, etc.) they will be required to repay the \$15.00 entry fee to Burbank Choir. If a student makes it into the Region Choir, they are required to attend the mandatory Clinic and Concert. Failure to fulfill these requirements will result in probation.

UIL SOLO & ENSEMBLE

UIL Solo & Ensemble is an individual competition for musicians governed by the State of Texas. Each student who participates will be assigned music at the beginning of the 2nd 9-weeks. Students enrolled in Varsity Choirs are **REQUIRED** to participate in Solo and Ensemble. If a student registers for Solo & Ensemble and does not attend the audition for whatever reason, (eligibility, schedule conflict, lack of preparedness, etc.) they will be required to repay the \$10.00 entry fee to Burbank Choir.

SAISD Dress Uniform Policy: Fine Arts Department

WOMEN

Wear dark or skin-toned undergarments. No sports bras please.

Jewelry is to be kept simple and to a minimum. No facial piercings.

Shoes---Black **closed-toed** shoes, flats or small pumps. No sandals or platform shoes.

Make-up---Girls should wear *little* make-up, i.e.: blush, lipstick, etc.

Please wear underarm deodorant and do not wear perfume.

MEN

Shoes---Black dress shoes.

Socks---Black dress socks that cover the ankles.

Please wear underarm deodorant and do not wear cologne.

All members of non-varsity ensembles will be required to provide their own uniform for concerts. This attire will be determined at least two-weeks before each concert, and a paper will be sent home letting parents and guardians know of the required outfits.

-----Please Sign Below and Return by September 3, 2021-----

Handbook Receipt and Student Information Page

I, (student name) _____, have received a copy of the Burbank Choir Handbook for 2021-2022 and understand my expectations as a member of the BHS Choral Department. I agree to maintain the tradition of high musical standards.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____ PERIOD _____

I, (parent/guardian name) _____, have received a copy of the Burbank Choir Handbook and understand what is expected of my son/daughter and will help him/her follow the guidelines as outlined by the handbook. I understand that the success of the choir program depends on me and the support I provide for my student.

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Emerg. Contact Number: _____

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION AGREEMENT

“Remind101” is a social media outlet that allows Mrs. Simpson-Obregon to contact parents and students through posts and reminders of upcoming rehearsals, performances, tests, social events, meetings, and calendar updates.

This app is also COMPLETELY FREE! Agreement of this program allows me, Susan Simpson-Obregon, to communicate with you and your student via the “Remind101” application.

Check all that apply:

___ I will allow my son/daughter to participate in “Remind101” for the Burbank Choir as a student.

Student Full Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature for Approval: _____

Student Working Email: _____

Student Smart-Phone Number: _____

___ **I am interested in helping the Bulldog Choir this year!**

___ **I would like to help fundraise and plan special choir events!**

___ **I would like to chaperone and usher special choir events!**

___ **I would like to be a parent leader in the Choir Parent Club!**

___ ***I am interested in my child participating in the choir trip to New Orleans in 2022.***

___ ***I am interested in serving as chaperone on the choir trip to New Orleans in 2022.***

If interested in either, please list your email here: _____



SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Publishing Permission Form

Name of Child: _____ Date: _____

Teacher/Classroom/Department: Susan Simpson/Choir

As part of the educational experience in SAISD, your child has the opportunity to publish and share their work. Student publication offers your child a unique learning opportunity and has the following benefits:

- a. Makes class work engaging and exciting.
- b. Allows them to receive feedback from other students and teachers outside of their class.
- c. Enables students to practice and refine their communication skills.

Our class, throughout the school year, will be publishing student work in the form of print, broadcast, and/or web media. These publications may be shared in a variety of ways, including the following:

- a. Writing
- b. Hand-drawn or computer-generated artwork
- c. Voice recordings
- d. Photos
- e. Video

YOUR CHILD'S PRIVACY

All efforts will be made to protect your child's privacy:

- No individual photos of your child will be published without your consent.
- No personal information about the student, such as home address or telephone number will be published.
- In some cases, only the student's first name will be used, with your permission.
- A copy of all student work that is published to the internet will be printed and sent home for parents to see.

To publish individual student writing, photos, voice and artwork, parent or legal guardian permission is required. Please complete the section below and return by **August 23, 2019**.

I understand that my child's writing, artwork, and/or class photo will be considered for publication for their participation and success in the Burbank Choir.

Please circle **Yes** or **No** below.

You have my permission to publish:

Yes No My child in a group or individual **photo**.

Yes No My child in a group or individual **video**.

Yes No My child's **FIRST** name **ONLY**.

Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____