



2020-21 PIRATE CHOIR DEPARTMENT BACK-TO-SCHOOL INFORMATION

CASEY MCCOLLOUGH | CASEY.MCCOLLOUGH@WYLIEISD.NET
JEFFREY BOWLING | JEFFREY.BOWLING@WYLIEISD.NET
EMILY WALKER | EMILY.WALKER@WYLIEISD.NET

STUDENT SAFETY & RISK MITIGATION

The Wylie High School Choral Department has worked in conjunction with Wylie ISD, TEA, and CDC officials to study scholarly resources in order to create a learning environment for choral singing that prioritizes student safety and mitigates potential risk. For the 2020-2021 school year, the Wylie High School Choral Department will implement the strategies and procedures listed in this document. Participation in singing activities while on-campus is contingent with these expectations, which require a signature by the student and parent at www.wyliechoir.com. Please note: these are subject to change based on emerging research and guidance from appropriate officials.

Weekly Health Screening

- In conjunction with school directives, students shall complete a weekly health screening survey prior to participating in on-campus choral rehearsals.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- All staff and students must properly wear face masks with mouth and nose covered during all aspects of the choral rehearsal, including entrance and exit into the rehearsal location, while singing alone and in groups, and during all non-singing activities. If a student does not have a face mask, one will be provided.
- All staff and students must properly wear face shields during all aspects of the choral rehearsal, including entrance and exit into the rehearsal location, while singing alone and in groups, and during all non-singing activities. One face shield shall be provided to each student in the choral program. It is his/her responsibility to bring it to each rehearsal. If a student breaks or forgets their face shield, there may be a replacement cost associated with receiving a new shield.
- For safety purposes, no personal protective equipment (face shields, face masks, etc.) may be stored in the rehearsal space. PPE must be taken with students following each rehearsal.
- Students without face masks and face shields, or those that choose not to wear them shall not be allowed to participate in choral rehearsals, will need to complete an alternate assignment to assess daily rehearsal competencies, and may be moved to an alternate location for safety purposes.

Personal Needs

- Students should bring their own water to rehearsals, preferably in a reusable, sealed container. Water fillers are located throughout the school; however, traditional water fountains will be closed.
- It is recommended that students have their own personal hand sanitizer and use it at the beginning and end of each rehearsal. Hand sanitizer will be available for students in limited quantities.
- Students will continue to be allowed restroom visits during class, but will be limited to one at a time so as to avoid congregation.

Rehearsal Safeguards

- While it is impossible to eliminate all risk, choral rehearsals will consistently implement social distancing of at least six feet in distance between students. Rehearsal environments are subject to change and can include locations such as the outdoors, band hall, orchestra room, auditorium, choir room, cafeteria, foyers, and extra classrooms. Students must be flexible, as decisions will be made based on attendance and class enrollment. When possible, six-foot "pods" shall be created using floor markings. *Social distancing is a shared responsibility between directors, students, and parents and compliance from all will create the safest environment for choral singing.*
- Choral risers will not be used, as their use produces an aerosol atmosphere from singers on the back row of the riser.
- Chairs will only be available if their presence does not limit the ability to socially distance.
- Rehearsal aerosols will be mitigated through ceiling filters and portable HEPA air purifiers. These will be in operation throughout the day.
- We will provide students with all materials needed for class, and these materials must be brought to class and then returned home each day. There will be no common areas for belongings to be kept during school.
- Students will enter and exit the rehearsal location in a similar manner each day to minimize any crossing with students from other choir classes. Staggered entrances and exits will be used if needed.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where will we be having class?

To allow for social distancing in all sections of choir, our primary location will be in the choir room; however, we will be using the ensemble room, auditorium, and other spaces periodically throughout the year while maintaining safety protocol.

How will remote learning work in choir?

We are working with the district to acquire technology and equipment to provide synchronous learning for choir this year. This will allow students to log in and participate in choir along with the in-person students.

What are we doing about concerts and competitions?

We are evaluating everything on our calendar and finding ways to provide alternatives for our traditional events. Some events may use different formats this year, but we are committed to making this a great year!

Things are tough money-wise right now. Is choir going to be expensive?

No. We know that this is a difficult financial time. Choir will be accessible to all, and as always, we will work with you and your family.

What can I do now to get ready for the start of the school year?

All of your choir supplies will be provided to you this year. If you do not own a pair of headphones with a built-in microphone, you might look to purchase a set for your learning.

Are voice lessons still taking place?

Yes. Our voice teachers will be teaching remotely, and we will provide a format for lessons to take place virtually. As always, we would love for all choir students to grow their voice through private lessons if they so choose.

What is the status of Region and All-State auditions?

All auditions related to advancement to the Texas All-State Choir will be done virtually. The music for each round has been decided in advance and is consistent across regions, though specific cuts will be released closer to audition dates. There will be no sight-reading component at any round. More information about Region Choir and virtual audition protocol will be coming soon.