

# SHARK CHOIR ONLINE

*Updates for the 2020 Fall Semester*



[www.shadowcreekchoir.com](http://www.shadowcreekchoir.com)

July 16, 2020

## **Things We Know:**

### • **VIRTUAL LEARNING:**

- If you are a choir student who chooses virtual learning, WE (Espinoza & Gallagher) will be your online teachers (not a random person).
- If you choose virtual learning and are enrolled in choir class online, you can still participate in after school/outside of school activities (like All State, Choir Council, etc). You will not be able to come on campus during the school day and you will need your own transportation to any events that occur outside of the school day.

### • **FACE-TO-FACE (F2F) LEARNING:**

- There are many articles/videos circulating around the world regarding the dangers of singing. It is important to note that most reports about choir and COVID have been with groups that have taken no precautions and are mostly anecdotal articles.
- Our #1 priority is your SAFETY. Not just "feeling safe", but BEING SAFE. Your directors are exploring a variety of solutions: PPE (personal protective equipment--shields, masks, etc), alternative spaces, smaller groupings, and distancing. Nothing is set in stone yet, but we are working on it and staying informed with the most recent studies regarding singing.
- Choir isn't going to look the same as it has always been, that's something we know for sure. We know the things you love the most about choir, and we will work to maintain/create as many opportunities for you as possible, but NOT if it cannot be done safely.

**Consider this: Our WHAT is not changing, only our HOW.**

# **Shadow Creek Choir will look like....**

**We believe in transparency, which is why we are sharing what we know to be true AT THIS POINT IN TIME. Please do not panic and know that the following information is subject to change as things develop.**

We are currently creating virtual/online curriculum for our entire choir program for the Fall Semester, since we know that many families will choose online learning, and even if school resumes in person, there is a high likelihood that we may all move to virtual at some point during the semester.

Virtual learning will look vastly different from the Spring 2020 semester, for several reasons. We have had more time to prepare and plan AND there are more stringent guidelines from the state and district regarding attendance and completion of activities (that means you won't just receive 100 for doing nothing). The F2F learners will be doing the same lessons as the virtual learners (most all class periods will be recorded and posted for you to complete asynchronously). This will also make for a seamless transition between F2F --> virtual or virtual --> F2F, in either direction.

## **1st Nine Weeks**

All classes (F2F and virtual, all levels) will participate in Campfires and social emotional learning. We will also be doing lessons on music theory, technology basics (how to record, sight reading factory sign up, Google classroom navigation), and simple sight reading.

All varsity classes (Poseidon Chorale, Kamohoalli, & Kaia Voce) will work on the first round of All-State music. This means, whether you are F2F or virtual, this is the music we'll be working on, without a cumulative concert experience attached. Working on the All-State music does not mean that you MUST audition for All-State. You can learn the music without participating in the actual process.

All intermediate and freshman classes (Astarte, Coro Triton, Coventina, & Neptune) will work on one Winter Concert song, Alma Mater, An Irish Blessing, and the National Anthem. These are all selections that we could end up preparing virtually (video format) OR in a live concert setting later on. Students in these classes who wish to participate in the All-State process will have the opportunity to watch the videos of the All-State lessons on their own time.

As a performance-based class, our "exams" are usually our concerts. Traditional concert settings are not safe or possible at this point in time. Therefore, all cumulative exams will be solo performances of what you work on F2F or virtually at home (not in front of everyone, but videos submitted to only your teachers).

There will be no Pop Show or other traditional concert performance in the first 9 weeks of school. (Don't despair yet - we've got you!) :-)

## **2nd 9 weeks**

Varsity classes will continue on to the 2nd round of All-State music (for those who participate in the audition process and advance). If you choose not to participate in the All-State process for the 2nd 9 weeks, you will switch to solo contest literature (like the other choirs - see below). If you did not audition for the 1st round, you can still learn the 2nd round of music (without auditioning) or you can switch to a solo.

Intermediate/freshman classes will work on solo contest literature. We have selected 14-16 different solo songs, in a variety of languages, tempos, etc that you will peruse and choose. Again, if you DO NOT want to actually compete, you do not have to do so, you will simply turn in your solo to the directors only, for grading purposes (and no one else will see it).

Solo contest (which is normally 2nd semester) has been moved to first semester and will be conducted virtually (with judges and ratings, etc). At this time, we will not be offering a masterclass option, only single solo performances by video. If you do not like any of the music we have selected, you are welcome to sign up for voice lessons and your private lesson teacher will work with you to select your song. We are still working on what voice lessons would look like this year.

We are currently keeping the Winter Concert (Dec. 16) on our calendar, in case we are cleared to perform a traditional concert at that time. In that case, we would think outside of the box and the solos you learned might be put together in small groups, or outstanding solos would have the chance to compete. Varsity classes might perform some of the All-State repertoire. We are also open to virtual concert experiences, as well.

## **2nd Semester**

We are tentatively planning two major performances for the Spring Semester (dates to be determined later)--Pop Show (our theme is "Hollywood" this year) and Masterwork Concert (we will attempt to perform the "Gospel Mass" and invite the 2020 alumni to collaborate).

We know nothing right now about UIL Concert & Sight Reading (normally in March/April). We know nothing right now about Region Clinic/Concerts. Your directors in our Region are discussing moving this event to the Spring, maybe even after All-State in February, but nothing is solidified yet. As of right now, there are no field trips allowed by any Alvin ISD organization, therefore, we do not currently have one on the calendar.

Thank you for reading this long letter and we hope it helps to ease your mind. Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns. We miss you and hope you are safe.

**REMEMBER - Being bored is better than being sick. We love you!**

**Jennifer Gallagher (jgallagher@alvinisd.net) & Frankie Espinoza (fespinoza@alvinisd.net)**