

# **Sound Surge**

## **Biloxi High School Show Choir**

### **Fees and Policies for Singers**

#### **Student/Parent/Guardian Contract**

#### **2021-2022**

### **FEES**

It is important to understand that it is necessary to have fees in order to participate in **Sound Surge**. We are very fortunate that Biloxi School District does provide a budget to help us with the cost. It is absolutely necessary for fees to be paid in full and paid on time so that **Sound Surge** may remain fully functional. Failure to pay fees in full and on time can result in the following: not receiving costumes for performances, not being allowed to perform, and ultimately removal from the group. **All fees are non-refundable whether a student is removed from the group voluntarily or involuntarily.**

### **Fundraising**

**Sound Surge** is committed to providing fundraising opportunities to help offset the cost of fees. It is our goal to make participation in **Sound Surge** a possibility through fundraising even for those with financial hardships. Some fundraising opportunities are for individual accounts and participation is optional, but some fundraising activities are for the whole group and participation is mandatory. Should a financial hardship occur, parents/guardians may file an extension request with the **Sound Surge** Executive Board. Please contact the director to request an extension form.

### **Payment Calendar (all payments are non-refundable)**

May 18th - \$225

June 18th - \$138.75

July 18th - \$138.75

September 18th - \$138.75

October 18th - \$138.75

We are skipping August due to back to school expenses.

# POLICIES

## Rehearsals and Performances

All **Sound Surge** members will be given a calendar with a list of rehearsals and performances on the first day of school (if not before). **Sound Surge** members are encouraged to participate in other activities. However, they are expected to be at all rehearsals and only miss a **Sound Surge** rehearsal when absolutely necessary. If a student needs to miss a rehearsal, then the parent or student should email Mrs. Cokely in advance, requesting approval (I would prefer the student contact me if possible). Not attending rehearsals/performances will be reflected in the student's grade. This is a performance based class and grades are received for both rehearsals and performances and participation in class. Only an excused absence by the director will result in the student's grade not being affected.

All singers and crew are expected to attend ALL performances.

Excused absences from rehearsals or performances include:

**Personal illness** - A doctor's excuse is preferred, however, there are illnesses that do not require a doctor's visit (ie. 24 hour stomach virus).

If a student is sick, the student or the parent needs to email the director before the rehearsal begins. If the student is absent from school, an email is not required.

**Conflict with another school activity** - must be approved by the director in advance, so possible arrangements can be made.

**Death in the family**

**Unusual circumstances** - with prior director approval and this must have written documentation.

From the BHS Student Handbook: In order to be counted present, a student must be in attendance 63% of his or her instructional day. In order to participate in any extracurricular function, students must attend school a minimum of four (4) periods on the day of the activity. (this would include the Friday before a Saturday performance)

Students must have their own transportation to and from rehearsals and performances. Transportation arrangements should be made in advance and not the day of the event. Students **MUST** be picked up from rehearsals and performances on time. Students are required to ride the bus to all show choir events. If a student wishes to leave with a parent/guardian only at the conclusion of the event, they must bring a written letter from the parent to the director by the end of the school day on the day before the performance/competition with the parent's signature. Students are allowed to leave with **THEIR PARENT/GUARDIAN ONLY!** Parents must sign the student out on the check-out form that will be with the director/assistant director.

## **Behavior**

**Sound Surge** members represent Biloxi High School on and off campus. Therefore, they will be disciplined for behavioral issues. Students will be expected to follow all Biloxi School District policies, Biloxi High School rules and regulations and Mrs. Cokely's classroom rules. Failure to comply with these rules will result in disciplinary consequences including but not limited to detention, principal involvement, removal from rehearsals, removal from performances, removal from trips or removal from the group.

### **Behavior at Show Choir Competitions**

When students are not preparing for warm-up, eating in the cafeteria, or competing in solo competition, they **MUST** report to the auditorium and watch other groups compete. While we are there to compete, we also attend to learn and support other ensembles. If you are found "hanging out" in the homeroom (without a chaperone present), wandering around a campus, you will face disciplinary action by the director and risk **NOT** competing at the next competition.

Every representative of Biloxi High School (students, parents, and staff) will compose themselves with poise, professionalism, and maturity. Show choir members and parents will demonstrate good sportsmanship, promote a positive spirit, and display a genuine concern for others. If the director finds that a student or parent is not promoting these positive behaviors, you will receive counseling by the director and will risk not performing at the next competition.

### **Show Design and Stage Placement**

The design of the show, the choice of soloists, and the placement of the **Sound Surge** members in their individual stage positions are executive decisions on the part of the directors and/or choreographers. (Solos will be judged by director, choreographer, and a panel of vocal judges.) The director will not discuss soloists and placement decisions with the parents/students. However, a student can request feedback on their solo audition if they would like feedback. Students are expected to give their best at all times.

### **Parent Participation**

**Sound Surge** is a community effort. It is expected and required that parents donate their time and energy when possible wherever needed. This can include moving and setting up backdrops, risers, sound equipment, chaperoning trips, planning events, producing events, fundraising or numerous other activities in which **Sound Surge** requires assistance. All parents will be expected to contribute in some way to this wonderful program!

### **Social Media Etiquette**

**Sound Surge** members are to conduct themselves with class and dignity **AT ALL TIMES**. This includes on social media whether they are on or off campus. Students may not post videos, pictures, statuses, etc... to social media that contain inappropriate language, poses, dances, gestures, and/or prohibited items such as, but not limited to: alcohol, tobacco, vapes, e-cigs, Juuls, drugs, and/or any other illegal product.

Any form of Cyber-Bullying will not be tolerated and will be turned over to administration for further disciplinary action.

Violation of these guidelines will result in probation or immediate dismissal from the group.

Due to licensing laws, parents and students are not allowed to record performances and post them to social media. We will find another way to do it safely and legally!

## **Costumes**

Guys will be expected to have a clean-cut hairstyle for all performances. No bangs will be allowed to hang in eyes.

Guys should have a cleanly shaven face for all performances.

Highlighted or colored hair must look natural and not harsh.

The director should be notified before any dramatic hair changes are made (haircut more than 1 inch, hair dying, etc.).

Female students will not be allowed to wear jewelry of any kind during performances except that chosen by the director.

Male students will not be allowed to wear jewelry of any kind at any time!

All tattoos are to be covered at all times.

Any alterations to costumes must be done by the seamstress of the director's choice unless given permission to do otherwise.

Any student that finds his or her costume damaged in any way should report it to the director immediately.

A "Hair and Makeup" clinic will be scheduled after the start of school and attendance by all female members will be required to attend. This will be addressed the same as a rehearsal.

THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS MADE TO THESE POLICIES. STUDENTS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WILL NOT PERFORM!

## **Removal from Sound Surge**

**Sound Surge** is a year long commitment. Please note that **Sound Surge** is a class. Being removed from **Sound Surge** requires a schedule change. Students generally have the first two weeks of school to make schedule changes as needed, but once that deadline is passed, only extenuating circumstances will be considered for removal from **Sound Surge**. If a student is required to be removed from **Sound Surge**, either voluntarily or involuntarily, then that student may face the possibility of having to enter a class that they would not have initially chosen. There will be absolutely no refunds for students that are removed from **Sound Surge** regardless of whether the decision is voluntary or involuntary. The full participation fee is due even if the student is removed before school begins.

## **Grades**

Please understand that **Sound Surge** is a class period for Singers. Therefore, singers will receive a grade for their participation in class and after school rehearsals. **Each performance is counted as a major grade.**

**REQUIREMENTS FOR PERFORMANCE-BASED CHOIR AND SHOW CHOIR  
TRY-OUTS AND ELIGIBILITY FOR CONTINUATION AS A PERFORMANCE-BASED  
CHOIR AND SHOW CHOIR MEMBER**

Performance- Based Choir and Show Choir members must meet the following requirements to be eligible for try-outs, and all requirements must be maintained to be eligible for continuation as a performance-based or show choir member.

1. Must not have failed the previous year and must maintain an overall 70 average for the semester preceding the try-outs. Grade averages will be calculated by the guidance office with data available from cumulative records and carried out four decimal places. Grades will not be rounded.

2. Must not be or have been placed on step 5, 6, or 7 of the disciplinary ladder for the previous school year for tryouts and during the time he/she serves as a member of the show choir.

A parent or legal guardian of the prospective Performance-Based choir member and Show Choir member must sign the "Performance-Based and Show Choir Rules/Student Participation" packet before the try-outs.

Eighth grade students who live in the Biloxi Public School District may try out for the ninth through twelfth grade Performance-Based and Show Choir provided that they have met all other requirements of this policy.