



Children's Chorus of Blanco County

PARENT AND STUDENT HANDBOOK

Welcome the Children's Chorus of Blanco County. Being a part of the CCBC is a family commitment. Please read this handbook carefully.

ABOUT CCBC

The Children's Chorus of Blanco County began as a dream to bring children's choral music to the Texas Hill Country, particularly communities along Hwy 281 and Hwy 290. Upon moving to the area in 2020, our director, Marisa Gauthier, discovered that children had limited opportunities to sing with others. After years as an elementary music teacher and choral director, Mrs. Gauthier knew the profound difference participating in a choir can make in a child's intellectual, emotional, physical, and personal development. She felt called to create a choir for children and youth in Blanco County. After retiring from public school teaching in 2024, Mrs. Gauthier turned her focus to making her dream a reality. The Children's Chorus of Blanco County was Born!

CCBC is a non-profit children's choir serving children in grades 3-8 who live in Blanco County and surrounding areas. Our season runs from the middle of September until the end of May. We rehearse weekly, with choristers attending either Mondays from 4:00-5:30 pm in Johnson City or Tuesdays from 5:30-7:00 pm in Blanco.

TUITION AND FEES

Tuition pays for your singer's membership in CCBC. These monies are used to buy sheet music, folders, name badges, uniform shirts, instruments, storage space for supplies and our sheet music library, director compensation, website hosting, software licensing, copyright licensing, printing, and all the administrative costs required to run a growing organization. Gracious volunteers and donors offset a small portion of these costs so that your cost per singer is \$300 for the 2024-2025 season. Youth can register semester by semester or for the entire year. Installment plans are available. If you need assistance, please visit txccbc.org to apply for financial aid.

Payment Options	Total Due	Payment Plans	Due Dates
Full Year	\$300		On or before the first day of rehearsal (September 23rd in Blanco, September 24th in Johnson City).
Full Year Payment Plan	(\$300)	60\$ every 2 months. 5 payments total	
Fall Semester	\$150		
Spring Semester	\$150		Due on or before first day of rehearsal (January 13th in Blanco, January 14th in Johnson City).

Please make payments on the website at txccbc.org or in person via touch pay.

ATTENDANCE

Being a performer in a musical ensemble is a joy but also a responsibility. Choir is a team sport. Missing team "practice" affects everyone on the team. We understand that life happens, but if a student is excessively absent, they will be unable to contribute their best to performances and likely to confuse, distract, or frustrate those around them.

To fully learn the music and develop the confidence to give a high-quality performance, choristers are expected to attend one weekly rehearsal in either Johnson City or Blanco. Additional combined rehearsals will be required before performances.

Please make every effort to adhere to our attendance policy for the benefit of the entire choir.

If your child is going to be absent for any reason, please notify Mrs. Gauthier, by email at info@txccbc.org or by calling or texting (830) 225-3830.

Rehearsal Attendance

Singers are required to attend one regular rehearsal a week. However, we understand that unavoidable circumstances may arise. There are two types of absences: Regular and Music/Extracurricular.

Regular Absences

A singer may be absent 3 times per semester for illness, too much homework, nausea, doctor's appointment, vacation, "forgot", etc. These are called "regular" absences.

Regular absences are tracked as follows:

- One (1) absence for missing a regular rehearsal
- Three (3) tardies count as one (1) absence. Singers are considered tardy if they arrive more than ten (10) minutes after the start of rehearsal or leave a rehearsal ten (10) minutes early.
- Three (3) late pick-ups of 10 minutes or greater will count as one (1) absence.

If your chorister is absent, they always have the opportunity to attend a rehearsal in the opposite location of where they typically rehearse.

For example, Zach usually rehearses in Blanco on Monday. His baseball coach scheduled an extra Monday practice. He is absent for his Blanco rehearsal but attends a Tuesday rehearsal in Johnson City to make up that absence. He is not charged with an absence.

Penalties for Excessive Regular Absences

After three (3) "regular" absences, you will be sent an email informing you that your child has reached their absence limit.

After the fourth absence, the singer may be suspended from the choir for the remainder of the semester and will not be permitted to perform at concerts. Singers may be reinstated the following semester. There are no refunds for tuition.

Music/Extracurricular Absences

Many of our singers are involved in outside performing arts, academic competitions, and athletic activities. We want our young musicians to be well-rounded, so performances, contests, or competitions related to these activities are considered Music/Extracurricular absences and will not count toward the three (3) “regular” absences. *Practices and rehearsals are not eligible for this exception.*

You must let Mrs. Gauthier know of the performance/competition absence at least one (1) week in advance and submit the appropriate contact information of the other activity’s organizer. Please complete the online absence request form at txccbc.org

Penalties for Excessive Music/Extracurricular Absences

This will be handled on a case-by-case basis. On occasion, there may come a point when the singer is simply not present at enough rehearsals to fully participate. You will receive a phone call if extracurricular absences become a concern.

Performance and Mandatory Rehearsal Attendance

Performance and mandatory rehearsal attendance is different from regular rehearsal attendance. ***Failure to attend a performance or mandatory rehearsal will result in a double absence.***

All performances and mandatory rehearsals of the CCBC listed on the website calendar by October 30th are required. If you have a conflict with a performance or mandatory rehearsal, please email Mrs. Gauthier immediately at info@txccbc.org.

There is room for compromise, but your child must be present at CCBC rehearsals and performances to fully participate.

Parents will receive notice as far in advance as possible of changes to the concert and event schedule. We will use the website and emails to keep you apprised of performance changes.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Appropriate conduct is expected of CCBC members and their families.

Singers

Singers who are unable to abide by the CCBC Code of Conduct will be dismissed from the choir. The following are choir-specific expectations.

- Be in your place on time and be prepared.
 - Make sure there is a sharpened pencil in your folder. You may borrow one from the pencil box before rehearsal begins.
 - Take care of your restroom and water needs **before** rehearsal.
 - Do your choir “homework”
- Only talk with permission.
 - If you need to share or ask a question, raise your hand and wait for permission to speak.
 - It is never acceptable to talk while the director is speaking or when anyone is singing.

- Always be respectful of the director, other choir members, the sheet music, volunteers and guests.
 - Do not “doodle” on or tear up the music or your folder.
 - Be kind if someone makes a mistake. You might be next.
- Follow directions
 - Listen silently when you are supposed to listen.
 - Sing when you are supposed to sing.
 - Always participate.
- Represent your family, school, and community by always giving your best.
 - Be respectful.
 - Be responsible.
 - Be kind.

We will contact parents if a student is finding it difficult to follow the Code of Conduct. If interventions and support are not successful, the chorister will be dismissed from the choir after the third parent phone call.

Parents

- Support your student. - CCBC members are expected to practice at home. Not only will this make for more efficient use of rehearsal time, but it will help singers improve their vocal skills and confidence. **After you have selected and made at least your first payment toward your tuition, you will have access to the CCBC Families group page on the CCBC website.** You will find part recordings, sample performances, communications, and special forms in this folder. *Please help your child access these materials.*
- Social media - Share the positives! Tell your friends and neighbors. Be a vocal supporter. Share our posts. But, when you have a problem or complaint, please contact CCBC rather than complaining on social media. We will make every effort within the scope of this handbook to address your concern.

Your family is making a big commitment, and we honor that by respecting you, your child, and your family. We want to be a joyful and meaningful part of your child's growth. However, as problems and challenges arise, please follow the golden rule and be gracious to the volunteers, other families, and the Director. Your child can only be dismissed from CCBC for three reasons: excessive absences, repeated violations of the Code of Conduct, or parental misconduct

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

Uniform	Where to get it
Girls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCBC Polo Shirt • Black Uniform Pants for Girls: French Toast Straight Fit Twill Pant • Black Belt • Solid black dress shoes (closed toe, up to 1 inch heel) • black dress socks (must cover the ankles) 	Girls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choir will order • Online - French Toast Girls' Straight Fit Twill Pant - Item# 1573

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hair neatly brushed, out of the face, and off the shoulders (bun or ponytail if possible) • No visible jewelry of any kind (necklaces, watches, earrings, rings, bracelets) 	
Boys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCBC Polo Shirt • Black Uniform Pants • Black Belt • Solid Black dress shoes • Black crew length dress socks • No jewelry of any kind • Hair neatly combed, off the shoulders, and out of the face • No visible jewelry of any kind 	Boys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choir will order • French Toast Boys' Straight Fit Stretch Twill Pant - Item #1694

SPECIAL NOTES

- Parents are responsible for pants, belt, socks, and footwear.
- The cost of attire varies by student and size.
- If have trouble finding or affording any of these items, please email Mrs. Gauthier at info@txccbc.org or call (830)225-3830.

COMMUNICATIONS

To conserve paper and improve efficiency, most communications will be electronic.

1. Join our website
2. Once you have made at least one payment toward tuition or paid your entire tuition in full, you will have access to the CCBC Families group page.
3. For mobile access to the CCBC Families group page, download the Spaces app by Wix
3. Brief updates and reminders to check the CCBC Families group page will be sent via text message.
4. For downloadable pdf copies of important documents and copies of paper communications, check the CCBC Family Communications folder.

If you experience problems accessing information on the website, email Mrs. Gauthier at info@txccbc.org or call (830)225-3830.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are needed at rehearsals to help monitor children, handle minor issues, and supervise visits to the restroom. We also need extra help on the Board of Directors or as a committee chairperson. If you are interested in volunteering as a rehearsal assistant or serving as a board member or committee chair, please check the box on your registration form or contact Mrs. Gauthier at info@txccbc.org or call (830)225-3830.

REHEARSAL ARRIVAL DISMISSAL

Please follow these safety procedures to drop off and pick up your child.

Arrival

Blanco

- Park and walk with your child to the south side of the building and enter through the metal gates. Make sure your child signs in.
- Be on time. If you will be more than 10 minutes late, please call Mrs. Gauthier at (830)225-3830. *Three (3) late arrivals (10 minutes after the beginning of rehearsal) will equal one absence.

Johnson City

- Your 3rd-5th grade child will meet the director or a volunteer in the fifth-grade hallway at elementary school at 3:45pm, immediately after dismissal. They will be signed in and walk to First Christian Church with adult supervision.
- Middle School students will check in at the entrance gate outside the band hall and walk to the church at dismissal.
- On non-school days, Park and escort your child to the door and make sure they sign in.
- Be on time. If you will be more than 10 minutes late, please call Mrs. Gauthier at (830)225-3830. *Three (3) late arrivals (10 minutes after the beginning of rehearsal) will equal one absence.

Dismissal

1. Be on time. If you will be more than 10 minutes late, please call Mrs. Gauthier at (830)225-3830. *Three (3) late pick-ups (10 minutes after the end of rehearsal) will equal one absence.
2. Park your vehicle and come in to get your child.
3. Sign your child out with a volunteer.
4. Your child will only be permitted to leave with a parent or guardian.
5. If anyone other than a parent will be picking up your child, you must email or call ahead.

PARENT STUDENT STATEMENT AND SIGNATURE

I have read the CCBC Parent and Student Handbook and agree to the following:

Parents

- I understand and will abide by the attendance policy.
- I will follow the arrival and dismissal procedures.
- I will read all emails and texts from CCBC.
- I will regularly check the CCBC Families group page to stay up to date and make sure my child accesses the practice materials.
- I will provide my child with the required pants, belt, shoes, and socks.
- I agree to bring all concerns to the CCBC.
- I will pay my tuition in a timely manner.

I understand that if the Board of Directors vote to dismiss my child from CCBC for lack of payment, singer misconduct, excessive absences, or parental misconduct; the decision of the Board of Directors is final.

Students

- I understand and agree to follow the student Code of Conduct.
- I will practice my music on the CCBC Families group page at least once a week.

These statements will appear when checking out with your selected tuition payment plan. Your purchase indicates you and your child agree with these statements.