

Fine Arts Policy

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This policy is designed to create a nurturing and disciplined environment for all students, grounded in Christian principles of respect, dedication, and excellence. We believe that through the arts students have the opportunity to glorify God, grow in their talents, and contribute to the body of Christ with a spirit of humility and service.

Purpose

The purpose of the Fine Arts Committee is to

- Create and promote opportunities for students to participate in fine arts (music, speech, visual art, performing art, and debate), and identify and develop teachers/leaders to lead fine arts events and opportunities.
- Facilitate, recruit and encourage student participation in fine arts opportunities.

Definitions

BAFA is an acronym for Bible, Academic, and Fine Arts. This competition is held annually at three levels: Elementary Regional Competition, Junior High and Senior High Regional Competition, and Senior High National Competition.

BAFA Manual is the listed rules and regulations as well as a code of conduct for all BAFA related competitions. Cornerstone Family Schools must abide by these written rules in order to participate in competition. Failure to do so can result in our school being disqualified from competition.

MAACS is an acronym for Mid-American Association of Christian Schools. This is a service organization that oversees the BAFA competition and other activities that we do not currently participate in.

AACS is an acronym for American Association of Christian Schools. This is an organization that oversees the national level of BAFA competition.

Treble Choir - this choir is composed of students in 4th - 6th grades with soprano and alto voices.

SATB - this choir includes soprano, alto, tenor, and bass voices and comprises students in 7th through 12th grade.

Deo - Deo Gloria is an audition-only Honor's Choir that performs for the community. This choir has special requirements that students must meet to take part.

General Fine Arts Procedures

The Fine Arts Committee does not allow non-member participation in any of their activities (Choir, BAFA competition, etc). In addition, due to the nature of our competition, families that join CFS at mid-year will need to wait until the following fall to participate in Fine Arts Activities.

The Fine Arts Committee will hold a parent meeting each fall to let families know of any changes for the year and to provide information about BAFA competition. All families are encouraged to attend this meeting, but it is especially helpful for new families to attend.

Each Fall, families will be given the opportunity to sign up for Spring competition. Families will pay participation fees as set forth by the BAFA committee including a family fee as well as a per item fee. These fees go towards the costs of materials, preliminary competition, and other financial needs of the committee.

The Fine Arts Committee will work towards providing a choir clothing sale each fall to help enable families to purchase the required choir performance wear at a reduced cost assuming the appropriate parent volunteers to lead the sale can be found. Families should be aware that they may not be able to find the choir pieces their child needs at this sale and should be prepared to purchase such pieces as needed to meet the performance wear requirements.

Each Winter (typically in January), the Fine Arts committee will hold preliminary competition to help determine which two CFS students can move forward to regional competition.

Upon completion of the preliminary competition, the Fine Arts committee will collect fees as set forth by the committee and BAFA that go towards the participation costs of regional competition.

Existing CFS families with students wishing to participate in choir, must notify the choir director by August 1st. New CFS Member families must notify the director by August 15th that they wish to participate in choir.

Participation in choir is not guaranteed. Generally speaking, Treble choir is a great place for your son or daughter to try out their voice and have the choir experience. Students wishing to be in the SATB choir that have not previously been in choir will be asked to come and sing for the choir director. Those students who struggle with pitch, rhythm, and dedicating time to practice and improvement should not participate in the SATB Choir.

Please do not make choir a required subject for your junior and senior high students against their will. Students that are being forced to participate in choir tend not to practice or listen diligently during choir time. These students are often vocal to their peers that they are being “forced” to do choir and don’t enjoy it, thus bringing down the whole group.

Requirements for which choir students must attend regional competition in order to participate in choir shall be determined by the choir director.

Additional Information for Choir Students

1. Practice at Home

- Students are expected to practice choir music at home regularly to develop their God-given talents and contribute to the overall success of the choir.
- Consistent practice is necessary for growth, and students should practice at least **2 times per week** for a minimum of **20 minutes per session**.
- Remember that practice is not just about improving performance, but also about honoring God with the gift of music and using it for His glory.
- Students should approach practice with a heart of gratitude and dedication, aiming to give their best in everything they do (Colossians 3:23).

2. Attendance and Punctuality

- Attendance at all scheduled rehearsals and performances is an act of commitment and respect for God, the choir, and fellow members.
- Students should arrive on time, prepared, and with a heart ready to participate fully in the choir’s mission to glorify God.
- If an absence is unavoidable, students should inform the choir director as soon as possible and make efforts to catch up on missed work.
- Consistent absences or tardiness without valid reasons may result in removal from choir, as it undermines the team’s unity and the pursuit of excellence in God’s service (1 Corinthians 10:31).

3. Dress Code

Choir students are asked to dress in a manner that reflects both the unity of the group and the reverence of the occasion. Our goal is not only to look cohesive but also to honor God through our appearance and attitude.

- **Performance Attire:**
All students are required to wear the designated choir uniform for performances. The uniform is a symbol of unity and service, and students are expected to uphold the integrity of the group by dressing according to the guidelines. These uniforms allow the focus to remain on our shared message and ministry.

- **Rehearsal Attire:**

During rehearsals, students should wear clothing that is comfortable and that does not cause distractions. Attire should allow for ease of movement and proper vocal technique, while also demonstrating respect for those around them.

- **Heart Behind the Attire:**

We encourage students to view clothing as an opportunity to reflect Christ with grace and humility. Our appearance should not draw attention to ourselves but should support the message we are sharing through music (1 Timothy 2:9-10).

Thank you for helping us maintain an atmosphere of respect, unity, and worship through all aspects of our choir experience—including how we dress.

4. Professionalism, Respect, and Christian Attitude

- Choir members are expected to demonstrate Christian virtues of respect, kindness, patience, and humility in their interactions with the choir director, fellow students, and any other involved volunteers or parents.
- A positive attitude that encourages others and uplifts the group is essential for building a cohesive and harmonious choir.
- All members should work together to foster an environment that reflects the love of Christ, whether in rehearsal, performance, or fellowship (Philippians 2:3-4).

By adhering to these guidelines, students will not only hone their musical skills but also grow in their Christian faith and contribute to the choir as a ministry of service and worship. May our music always be a reflection of our love for God and our desire to honor Him in all that we do.

VERSION HISTORY

| Version | Description | Date |
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