

Disclosure Document

Women's Chorus, Men's Chorus, Concert Choir, Bella Voce, and Chamber Singers

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Welcome to Choir! I am very excited to teach choir! I believe *music* is a vital part of education in a child's life. The joys of music making cannot be duplicated! Through participation in music, creativity is encouraged, sensitivity is increased, and self-image can be greatly enhanced. I love being a teacher, and I absolutely love music! Let's make this year fantastic!

What will I learn this year?

Choir is an exciting and fun course in which we will concentrate on the Utah State Core Standards comprised of performing, creating, listening/analyzing/evaluating, and discovering meaning.

- *Perform* – Students will use the body and voice as a means of musical expression, and reinforce techniques and skills involved in singing. Students will perform in concerts, assemblies, and festivals throughout the year.
- *Create* – Students will improvise and compose music
- *Listen/Analyze/Evaluate* – Students will expand music listening skills and use music vocabulary to analyze and evaluate music.
- *Discover Meaning* – Students will find avenues of understanding and communication through connecting music to personal growth, the joy of living, traditions, culture, and history.

Are there required materials?

Yes, but only 1. Students are required to purchase a 1 inch, black, 3 ring binder. This binder should have a side slot for identification. This will allow students to carry their music in a safe manner without it getting lost.

What do I need to bring to class?

Pencil, planner, music folder, your singing voice, and a positive attitude EVERY DAY! A water bottle is highly encouraged.

Do I have to practice?

Yes! Practicing outside of class is an essential part of being a successful musician. I require that each student practice **10 minutes** every day. Frequent, short practice sessions are proven to be much more beneficial than long cram sessions. If you practice daily, you will sing better, be more confident, learn your music faster and have a better experience in choir.

The best way to practice is with a piano and going over your part specifically. If you do not have a piano to help you practice, our website (salemjchoir.org) has practice links to each of the songs being performed.

When do we perform?

The calendar of events is on the choir website (salemjchoir.org). Please review all dates and plan ahead to be present at every concert. **Performances are mandatory!** The concert is your **final exam** and the culmination of all of our work that term, so those points are *critical* for your grade. If you know in advance that you will be absent from a concert, I must be notified of the expected absence **at least 3 weeks before** the scheduled performance. I will determine whether the absence is excused or not, depending on the reason. Let me give some examples:

Reason for an *excused* absence: My sister's wedding is that week and has been planned for months and I notified you in the timeframe discussed in the disclosure document.

Reason for an *unexcused* absence: I have a family trip to the bahamas planned the week of the concert. I couldn't find a ride, etc.

(while family vacation time is important, the decision to miss a concert and abandon the ensemble is not free from consequence. All are free to make the choice they would like, but may not choose the consequences)

Excused absences will be granted on a case by case basis and must be made by filling out the requisite form located in the choir room. While this is a necessary part of the process, filling out the form does not guarantee that an absence will be excused.

If your absence is excused, you must complete an equally difficult make-up assignment to earn those concert points back. If the absence is not excused, you will lose all points for that concert, which will *kill* your grade!

The only way you will be excused from a performance without advance warning is in the case of an emergency (personal illness, death in the family, etc.)

Will there be assignments?

Assignments are designed to express your creativity and enhance your knowledge of music. There will be 1 major "project" due each term, usually a week before the end of term. The project is completed online through our website. Each term focuses on a different topic. Term projects are only accepted during the term in which they are assigned.

1. Comfort Zone Report (Term 1)
2. Concert Report (Term 2)
3. Analysis of Favorite Song (Term 3)
4. What I Learned This Year (Term 4)

The requirements for each paper will be discussed as the assignments draw nearer. The requirements will be available on the choir website. These reports are worth a lot of points, so make sure you plan ahead and don't forget to do them!

Occasionally, there will be assignments that are to be completed during class or on the choir website. Use your planner to keep track of any homework that is assigned.

Are there tests and quizzes?

There will be occasional quizzes and tests on basic music theory concepts. If you attend and participate in class, pay attention, and follow the rules, you will do great.

Is my behavior graded?

Yes! A major part of being a musician is being able to respectfully participate in daily rehearsals. Behavior is graded on a 4 point scale, just like your attendance. I will deduct points for things like: talking without permission, no music folder, not singing, being rude, breaking a classroom rule, etc.

Because this is such an important skill for a Choral Musician, many aspects of behavior will be part of your *Learning Targets* grade (the big one). As a professional choral singer myself, I would count my ability to focus and behave during a rehearsal JUST as important as my ability to produce a beautiful singing tone.

Use of Religious Music in the Choral Classroom

Choral music was originally designed for, and used strictly in religious worship, beginning with the codification of plain-chant by Pope Gregory in the early Middle Ages. Today, much of the choral music we encounter still has a religious background attached to it and will undoubtedly lead students to sing texts that may be religious in nature. As music educators, we believe that the study and analysis of this music and its texts is historically and musically significant, an important part of teaching and learning the choral curriculum, and able to improve musicianship and musical understanding. The study of religious music at SaJHS does not therefore promote any specific religion, its beliefs, intents, or purposes. It is our intent, and also the intent of Salem Jr. High School and Nebo School District to treat the study of religious music with honor and dignity and be limited to its musical, historical, and cultural elements.

What are the classroom rules?

Classroom rules are based on Nebo School District's character traits of responsibility, trust, caring, honesty, and respect. Some general expectations are:

1. Do not talk when Mr. Guthrie is instructing. This will help class run smoothly
2. Participate fully every day. Have your music folder and sing out!
3. No gum!
4. No food or drink, except for water
5. Respect each other by not distracting, touching, or playing with another student's belongings
6. Respect school property – don't touch/play the piano without permission, don't damage the music, don't lean in the chairs or put your feet up, etc.

What are the consequences for breaking the rules?

1. Verbal Warning
2. Points off your Citizenship grade
3. Phone call home
4. Removal from class

Are there Choir Uniforms?

Each choir has a specific uniform they are to wear at performances. We want to proudly represent our school and look professional when we present our music. The uniforms are listed on the next page....

CHORUS 1 (Men & Women's Sections): Each student is responsible for their own wardrobe following the guidelines below...

MEN

- Black Slacks
- White, button-up dress shirt
- Tie that matches the color scheme of the concert
- Black dress shoes with BLACK socks.

WOMEN

- Solid dress shirt (color will change depending on the color scheme of the concert)
- Black skirt, at least knee length
- Black, close-toed shoes

WOMEN in *Concert Choir* and *Advanced Women's Chorus*: These classes have a required uniform that will be rented out to each student for the entire school year, then returned at the end. Rental fees are due by **September 9th**. The uniform is:

- Choir Gown – **\$20 rental fee**
 - Concert Choir dresses are machine washable, but hang them to dry.
 - Women's Chorus dresses must be HAND WASHED in the sink, then hung to dry
 - Dresses may be hemmed if needed, but only with a basting stitch. No cutting of the material is allowed, and stitching must be removed at the end of the year.
- Black, closed-toe dress shoes (your own)

Concert Choir MEN: This class has a required uniform that will be rented out to each student for the entire school year, then returned at the end. Rental fees are due by **September 9th**. The uniform is:

- Blue tie - **\$5 rental fee**
- Black slacks (your own)
- Black, long sleeve, button-up dress shirt (your own)
- Black dress shoes with black socks (your own)

Chamber Singers WOMEN: This class has a required uniform that will be rented out to each student for the entire school year, then returned at the end. Rental fees are due by **September 9th**. The uniform is:

- Choir gown & jewelry -- **\$25 rental fee.**
 - The dresses are machine washable, but hang them to dry.
 - Dresses may be hemmed if needed, but only with a basting stitch. No cutting of the material is allowed, and stitching should be removed at the end of the year.
 - Be careful with the jewelry (rhinestone earrings and necklace) so that it doesn't get broken or lost.
- Black, close-toed dress shoes (your own)

Chamber Singers MEN: This class has a required uniform that will be rented out to each student for the entire school year, then returned at the end. Rental fees are due by **September 9th**. The uniform is:

- Green vest and tie - **\$25 rental fee**
- Black slacks (your own)
- White, long-sleeve, button-up dress shirt (your own)
- Black dress shoes with black socks (your own)

DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT ASSIGNMENT!!!!

Due Friday Aug. 24th

The disclosure document and assignment for each class are located online this year:

<http://www.salemjhchoir.org/disclosure-document.html>

Each student is expected to complete the disclosure document assignment with their parents.

The assignment is to sit down and completely read through the disclosure document **together**. By doing so, you will understand the academic and financial obligations of each student and will better understand the flow of class.

After you have read through the disclosure document, Fill out the google form and click the appropriate boxes to indicate that you have completed the assignment.