

SaJHS Choir Course Disclosure



Teacher: Leni Thomson

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Choir Website: www.salemjhchoir.org All course documents, updates, and voice part recordings will be available on the choir website. Check it out!

PART 1: GENERAL CLASS POLICIES

Supplies:

These should be brought to class **every day**:

1. Your music/folder/colored pencils (provided)
2. A pencil – for marking your music
3. A water bottle (optional, but recommended)

Fees

1. The choir class fee is \$20.00 and should be paid to the front office asap. This is used to purchase new music, pay for festivals and other classroom supplies throughout the year.
2. **Women's Chorus, Bella Voce and Singers:** there is a \$25.00 uniform fee for these choirs. This includes a choir t-shirt (which you will wear at our Spring Concert and you will keep!) and cleaning fees for the rented choir dresses, vests, and ties.
3. **Men's Chorus:** there is a \$15.00 uniform fee.

Classroom Expectations

Present: in class & on time

Prepared: have all materials and assignments/practice done

Polite: do not talk while Mrs. Thomson is talking, respect others & materials

Productive: actively participate, sing out, and complete your at-home practice

Proactive: no gum, no food/drink, no electronic device/cell phone usage

Positive: speak kindly, be helpful, have a great attitude

***All Nebo School District and SaJHS policies/rules apply in our choral classroom and at all out of class activities (concerts, festivals, etc.)**

Religious Music

Choral music was originally designed for, and used strictly in religious worship. Today, much of the choral music we encounter still has a religious background 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 music and its texts is historically and musically significant and an important part of teaching and learning the choral curriculum. The study of religious music at SaJHS does not, therefore, promote any specific religion, its beliefs, tenets, or purpose. It is our intent to treat the study of religious music with honor and dignity and be limited to its musical, historical, and cultural elements.

Grading System: Grades will be earned based on the following:

- 1. REHEARSAL POINTS:** Unlike many other classes, a performing ensemble requires the presence AND participation of all singers in order to be most effective. When a student misses, it affects the entire group. A major part of being a musician and team player is being able to respectfully participate in daily rehearsals. I consider this as important as learning to sing with supported tone. It will therefore be a major portion of the term grade. Points will be deducted for not following the classroom expectations & ideals.
 - a) Rehearsal points will be assessed on a 4-pt. standards based grading scale.
 - 4**=0-2 absences, excellent behavior
 - 3**=3-4 absences, few behavior issues,
 - 2**= 5-6 absences, continuing behavior issues
 - 1**= 7-8 absences, constant behavior issues
 - b) Each student will be given 2 “free” absences (excused or unexcused) per term. After 2 absences, students will need to do make-up work in order to earn their missed rehearsal points. Sluffing class cannot be made up.
 - c) Because being in class is essential in order to learn and perfect the music together, if you miss more than half the class periods in one term, you will not perform onstage with your choir in concert unless you meet with Mrs. Thomson and pass off all your choirs’ songs memorized before the concert.
 - d) This is an elective class-one you **CHOSE**. I expect you to be present, to participate, and to have a good attitude. If you are going to be negative the entire time and refuse to participate, you will need to choose another elective class. It is not fair to the team.

2. CONCERT/FESTIVAL ATTENDANCE

This is a performance class-we learn and prepare in order to **PERFORM!** Participation in and excellent behavior at our choir concerts are essential. This makes up a **MAJOR** portion of your grade. If you are not present and well behaved at the events on the Choir Calendar, you cannot get higher than a ‘D’ in this class for the term. Put the dates on your calendar/in your phone now!

3. MUSICAL SCORE READING

We will be focusing on reading and interpreting musical scores. We will mark and color code our music and there will be periodic score checks to make sure students are understanding and marking their scores. There will also be periodic quizzes to make sure they understand musical terms present in their scores.

- 4. AT-HOME VIDEO RECORDINGS:** While there will not be a certain amount of practice time required, it is expected that students will make at-home practice a daily habit. This will be demonstrated in several video recording assignments per term showing individual part-learning on specific songs and choral habit proficiency.
The best way to practice is:
 - 1) With a piano-going over your part specifically**
 - 2) Using the practice links found on the choir website and singing along with your voice part while tracking your part in your music**

PART 2: CONCERT INFORMATION

CHOIR CALENDAR 2021-2022 (on choir website)

- 1) Put these dates in your calendar/phone NOW. I cannot stress this enough.** Your student will be held responsible for being at these rehearsals/concerts. Do not plan anything over these dates and if there is something already planned, let me know now. Do not wait! You are signing the calendar saying you have noted all the dates and I will hold you and your student to that.
- 2) If there are any changes to the calendar they will be sent out via I-Campus. Please make sure your email information is up to date.**

Missing a Concert:

If you know in advance that you will be absent from a concert, I must be notified of that expected absence **AT LEAST 4 WEEKS BEFORE** the scheduled performance. I will determine whether the absence will be excused or not, **depending on the reason**. Excused absences will be granted on a case by case basis and a request for an excused concert absence can be made by filling out the requisite form found in the choir room and on the choir website. ****Please note, informing me early of a concert absence and filling out the requisite form DOES NOT necessarily mean that it will be excused****

If your absence is *EXCUSED*, you must complete a difficult make-up assignment to earn those points back. If your absence is *UNEXCUSED* you will lose the points for the performance.

Let me give some examples:

Reason for an *EXCUSED* absence:

- 1) My sister's wedding is that day, has been planned for months, and I communicated this conflict in the timeframe discussed in the disclosure document.

Reason for an *UNEXCUSED* absence:

- 1) I couldn't find a ride.
- 2) My family decided to plan a vacation to Disneyland over the performance date after signing the Choir Calendar document.
- 3) I have a soccer practice, a regular season game, or youth activities that night.

Acceptable *EMERGENCY* absence:

- 1) Contagious illness
- 2) Sudden hospitalization
- 3) Death in the family

In case of emergency, please EMAIL Mrs. Thomson ASAP to let her know.

PART 3: DISCLOSURE ASSIGNMENT

Disclosure Document Assignment DUE FRIDAY, AUGUST 27th

There are **2 parts** to the disclosure document assignment:

- 1) Students AND Parents will **read** the disclosure document on the choir website
- 2) Students AND Parents will **initial/sign** the Choir Calendar Assignment **and sign** the Disclosure Signature Page – this must be **turned in** to Mrs. Thomson by Friday, Aug. 27th

SaJHS Choir Disclosure AT-A-GLANCE

PART 1: GENERAL CLASS POLICIES

Daily Materials:

- *Music/Folder/Pencil
- *Colored Pencils
- *Water bottle

Fees:

- 1) \$20.00 choir fee
- 2) \$25.00 uniform fee (S, BV, WC)
- 3) \$15.00 uniform fee (MC)

Classroom

Expectations:

*Present & Proactive
Prepared & Productive
Polite & Positive*

Grades:

Your grade will be earned based on:

- 1) Rehearsal Points (4-pt. scale)
 - 2 absence freebies (excused or unexcused-it's still an absence)
 - Follow all classroom rules/procedures
 - Be a kind human being with a great work ethic
- 2) Musical Score Reading
 - Score Checks (mark your scores and use the markings)
- 3) Concert/Festival Attendance
 - REQUIRED. Everyone. Every time. Forever.
- 4) Video Recording Assignments
 - Several Video Submissions per Term
 - (Part-learning/Choral Habits proficiency)

PART 2: CONCERT INFORMATION

CHOIR CALENDER

- *Each choir member is **required** to be at **3 concerts and 1 festival** this year.
- *There are also some mandatory after school rehearsals.
- *You and your parents are initialing each date on the choir calendar and signing that you have put them in your calendar and won't schedule *anything* over them- I will hold you to this! Your team needs you.
- *You cannot get higher than a 'D' if you miss the events on the choir calendar. BE THERE!

***I EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM YOU.
EXPECT GREATNESS FROM YOURSELF.***

MISSING A CONCERT

- *Do not do this!
- *If you have a legitimate concert conflict you must:
 - a) Fill out the Excused Concert Absence Request Form
 - b) Turn it in to Mrs. Thomson at least **4 weeks** before the performance.
 - c) ***This does not guarantee that it will be excused!***
 - d) **Do not plan family vacations over concert dates-concert attendance is a MAJOR part of your grade. (Missing = no higher than a D for term grade)**
 - e) In case of an emergency: contagious illness, sudden hospitalization, or death in the family) email Mrs. Thomson ASAP.

IDEALS TO LIVE BY...

1. Leave EVERYTHING better than you found it. (people, the room, your things, the equipment)
2. If it's not yours – don't touch it. Period.
3. Treat others the way you'd like to be treated.
4. Attention and RESPECT are two different things. (don't sacrifice lasting respect for momentary attention)
5. If you can't say something nice, don't say anything. (constant negative/silly comments don't help the team or your abilities – focus your time & energy on improving)
6. The #1 reason for being here is to SING!
7. You are ALWAYS auditioning.
8. Always treat your teachers with respect, in word & action.
9. Being in this class is a commitment you CHOSE – I expect you to KEEP it by having a GREAT attitude and work ethic.
10. This class is NOT chat time, phone time, nap time, or snack time. (your grade is earned by being more than a body in a chair)
11. Write it down or you will forget it.

ANSWERS to FAQs

1. Please ask someone who was listening.
2. If it's turned in late, my only guarantee is that it will be graded by the end of the term. If you'd like it graded on time, turn it in on time.
3. Don't ask me if we did anything important while you were gone - we did. Don't ask if you missed anything – you did. Ask me what you need to make up or do to catch up.
4. I am not your maid – clean up after yourself.
5. It's on the choir calendar you & your parents signed – it is MANDATORY.
6. Please refer to the disclosure online at salemjhchoir.org for a reminder.
7. All "Request for an Excused Concert Absence" forms must be turned in FOUR weeks in advance to even be considered for make-up – remember the form is not a guarantee.
8. Surprise vacations are not acceptable excuses for missing concerts – tell your parents to check the choir concert dates before planning them.
9. Acceptable concert-missing emergencies (that will be given make-up) = contagious illness, sudden hospitalization, death in the family.
10. Before you ask for mercy, deadline extensions, or excused assignments, ASK YOURSELF – Have I done MY part? Did I just leave this until the last minute? Is this behavior a pattern with me? Did I follow directions? Did I keep track of my assignments by writing them down somewhere? Am I making an excuse instead of an effort?
11. EVERYTHING IS A LEARNING TARGET