

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!

Welcome to an exciting and memorable new year! As you might expect, there are some changes coming to the choir program. *Communication and flexibility* will be paramount as we approach this year. I will strive to create a safe, fun, and energetic learning environment. I will strive to keep you well informed as things change. Please be flexible, patient, and communicate any issues/concerns to me in a timely manner. Remember, we're all in this together - let's get started!

PART 1: GENERAL CLASS POLICIES

Supplies:

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

1. Your music/folder (provided)
2. A pencil – for marking your music

Fees

1. The choir fee is \$20.00 and should be paid to the front office asap. This is used to purchase new music, theory books, pay for festivals and other classroom supplies throughout the year.
2. **This year only**, there will be a \$15.00 uniform fee for all choir students (instead of the normal \$25.00 fee) which will cover a choir t-shirt for several of the concerts and reduced cleaning fees for the choir uniforms.

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 of all singers in order to be most effective. When a student misses, it affects the entire group. Rehearsal points will be assessed on a 4-pt. scale.
(4=0-2 absences, 3=3-4 absences, 2=5-6 absences, 1=7-8 absences)
3 tardies = 1 absence
 - 1) Each student will be given 2 “free” absences (excused or unexcused) per term.
 - 2) After 2 absences, students will need to do make-up work in order to earn their missed rehearsal points.
 - 3) **School excused absences will not affect rehearsal pts. and, of course, any quarantine related issues will need to be communicated to me so we can make a plan.**
 - 4) I do not tolerate sluffing-parents/guardians will be notified immediately and daily rehearsal and behavior points will be forfeited.

- 2. BEHAVIOR:** Behavior will be graded on a 4-pt. scale. (4=no infractions, 3=few infractions, 2=multiple infractions, 1=consistent infractions)
A major part of being a musician is being able to respectfully participate in daily rehearsals. I consider this as important as learning to sing with supported tone. It will be graded just as assessments and rehearsal points are. Points will be deducted for not following the classroom expectations.

3. LEARNING TARGETS

We will be doing units in theory, sight singing, dictation, ear training, music maps, and music history/composition in addition to our daily vocal training. We will have assignments, projects, and quizzes to check for understanding and improvement.

4. CONCERT/FESTIVAL ATTENDANCE

Participation in and excellent behavior at our choir concerts are essential. This makes up a **MAJOR** portion of your grade.

- 5. AT-HOME PRACTICE ASSESSMENTS:** 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 submission 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**

Late Work Policy

All late work will be docked 15%. This will only affect the work completion score (turning things in on time is a life skill and there are consequences for tardiness), but it will not affect the learning target score-students may always work on obtaining proficiency in a learning target.

PART 2: CONCERT INFORMATION

CHOIR CALENDAR 2020-2021 (on choir website)

- 1) Due to COVID-19, all dates are subject to change. This calendar represents our best plan and our best hopes for this year. Any changes will be communicated to you ASAP. Please be flexible as we try to navigate this together!
- 2) **For safety we will not be having traditional choir performances for at least the first half of the year; however, we are working on some exciting alternatives. STUDENTS WILL STILL BE REQUIRED TO BE AVAILABLE FOR ALL THE PERFORMANCES AND REHEARSALS LISTED ON THE CALENDAR.**
- 3) 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.
- 3) I have a soccer practice or youth activities that night

Acceptable *EMERGENCY* absence:

- 1) Sickness (Quarantine)
- 2) 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 28th

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** the Choir Calendar Assignment **and sign** the Disclosure Signature Page – this must be **turned in** to Mrs. Thomson by Friday, Aug. 28th

SaJHS Choir Disclosure AT-A-GLANCE

PART 1: GENERAL CLASS POLICIES

Daily Materials:

- *Music/Folder/Pencil
- *Mask
- *Water bottle

Fees:

- 1) \$20.00 choir fee
- 2) \$15.00 uniform fee

Classroom

Expectations:

Present & Proactive
Prepared & Productive
Polite & Positive

Grades:

Your grade will be earned based on:

- 1) Rehearsal Points (4-pt. scale)
2 freebies
- 2) Behavior (4-pt. scale)
Follow all classroom rules/procedures
Be a kind human being with a great work ethic
- 3) Learning Targets
These projects will vary each term
- 4) Concert/Festival Attendance
REQUIRED. Everyone. Every time. Forever.
- 5) At-Home Practice Assessments
Several Video Submissions per Term
(Part-learning/Choral Habit proficiency)

PART 2: CONCERT INFORMATION

CHOIR CALENDER

- *Each choir member is required to be at **3 concerts and 1 festival** this year.
- *There will be some after school rehearsals.
- *Some of the concerts will look different this year due to COVID-19, but you are still required to be there!
- *Not coming to a concert or concert recording session will cause a LARGE grade drop.
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.***
 - e) In case of an emergency (personal illness, quarantine, or death in the family) email Mrs. Thomson ASAP.

