

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 (provided)
2. A pencil – for marking your music

Fees

1. The choir fee is \$30.00 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. There will be a uniform fee which covers a choir t-shirt, dress rental/cleaning, ties & jewelry.
 - a. Singers Women & Bella Voce: \$30.00
 - b. Luminosa & All Men: \$20.00

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.)**

CHOIR UNIFORM:

Singers Women/Bella Voce: Dresses/Necklaces provided

All Men: Tie provided

Luminosa: Choir Jewelry Provided

All women need black tights/nylons, black closed-toe shoes

All men need black dress pants, black shoes, black socks, white dress shirt (collared, long-sleeved & button up)

Luminosa need all black attire: must hit the knee or longer, no bare shoulders or low cut tops, no bare leg showing

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:

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. 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 assignments are. Points will be deducted for not following the classroom expectations. Rehearsal points will be assessed on a 4-pt. scale.

(4=0-4 absences, 3=5-6 absences, 2=7-8 absences, 1=9-10 absences, 3 tardies = 1 absence)

- 1) Each student will be given 4 “free” absences (excused, unexcused, or school excused) per term.
- 2) After 4 absences, students will need to do make-up work in order to earn their missed rehearsal points.
- 4) I do not tolerate sluffing-parents/guardians will be notified immediately and daily rehearsal and behavior points will be forfeited and citizenship will automatically be a “U”

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.

VIDEO RECORDING ASSIGNMENTS: 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 year showing individual part-learning on specific songs and choral habit proficiency.

The best way to practice is:

- **With a piano-going over your part specifically**
- **Using the practice links found on the choir website and singing along with your voice part while tracking your part in your music**

SCORE MARKING: Students will color code their musical scores each term to demonstrate an understanding of musical terms, symbols and notation.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE: Participating in and demonstrating excellent behavior at our Concerts and Festivals is a **MAJOR** portion of the grade each term. You will sign for each date and are expected to be there.

CITIZENSHIP:

Because of the team nature of this course, Behavior Skills are graded and are also logged on Citizenship. Please note this class policy:

- If a student ends a term with an “N” in citizenship they will be placed on probation
- If they end a second term with an “N” they will need to choose another class to take
- If a student ends a term with a “U” in citizenship they will need to choose another class to take

This is an elective course and is a choice-students are expected to behave well. If they lose citizenship points they can make them up, but it is completely student driven-they must ask for, plan, and complete the make-up. 1 week of make-up can earn back 1 week of citizenship points. You cannot make up multiple weeks at the very end of the term.

The skills of participating appropriately, treating the teacher and others with respect, treating materials and the space correctly, using devices prudently, and turning in work on time are not just necessary skills in my classroom, but for life in general. If your behavior skill level is hurting the learning and progress of the choir class we may have to find another elective option for you.

Late Work Policy

If work is not turned in on time, students may still complete the work for the full points, but each assignment will get longer if it is past the due date. There are some due dates that are absolute and no late work will be accepted after that point. For example, Video Recordings are only accepted up to the date of the Concert. Students practicing the music and showing they know the part does not help the team after the performance occurs.

Smart Pass

This year, our school is excited to introduce SmartPass as our new hall pass system. With SmartPass, students will be able to request and track their hall passes electronically helping to ensure a more efficient and secure environment. This system will also allow teachers and staff to monitor hall pass usage in real-time, further supporting a safe and organized school experience. We encourage you to reach out to administration with any questions or concerns.

AI in the Classroom

Artificial Intelligence is a type of computer program that can think and learn like a human. I will let you know when it is appropriate to use AI and when it is not. It is not appropriate to use on a test or to submit as original work. If it is used in those instances a “zero” grade will be given with no possibility of make-up.

PART 2: CONCERT INFORMATION

CHOIR CALENDAR 2024-2025 (on choir website)

- 1) You will sign for each date for the school year-this signifies that you have no conflicts and will not schedule anything over these dates after this point. You will communicate these dates in advance to coaches, dance instructors, bosses, etc... in a timely manner so they know you have commitments. If you already know of a conflict, you will mark it on the calendar now.
- 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 2 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.

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▪ *Let me give some examples:*

▪ Reason for an *EXCUSED* absence:

- 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:

- I couldn't find a ride.
- My family decided to plan a vacation to Disneyland over the performance date after we signed the choir calendar document
- I have a soccer practice or youth activities that night

▪ Acceptable *EMERGENCY* absence:

- Contagious Illness
- Sudden Hospitalization
- Death in the family

▪ In case of emergency, please EMAIL Mrs. Thomson to let her know.
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PART 3: DISCLOSURE ASSIGNMENT

Disclosure Document Assignment DUE FRIDAY, AUGUST 23rd

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. 23rd

SaJHS Choir Disclosure **At-a-Glance**

PART 1: GENERAL CLASS POLICIES

Daily Materials:

- *Music/Folder/Pencil
- *Water bottle

Fees:

- \$30.00 choir fee
- \$30.00/\$20.00 uniform fee

Classroom

Expectations:

Present & Proactive
Prepared & Productive
Polite & Positive

Grades:

Your grade will be earned based on:

- Rehearsal Points (4-pt. scale)
Attendance (4 freebies)
Follow all classroom rules/procedures
Be a kind human being with a great work ethic
- Learning Targets
These projects will vary each term
- Concert/Festival Attendance
REQUIRED. Everyone. Every time. Forever.
- Video Recording Assignment
Several Video Submissions per Year
- Score Marking

PART 2: CONCERT INFORMATION

CITIZENSHIP

- 1 "N" = Probation/Parent Meeting
- 2 "N"s = Another Class
- 1 "U" = Parent Meeting/Another Class

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 2 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, sudden hospitalization, or death in the family) email Mrs. Thomson ASAP.

CHOIR CALENDER

- *Each choir member is required to be at **3 concerts and 1 festival** this year.
- *There will be some after school rehearsals.
- *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.***

