SaJHS Choir Course Disclosure

Teacher: Leni Thomson
Email: leni.thomson@nebo.edu Feel free to contact me at any time!
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 $40.00 for full year/$20.00 for half year and should be paid to the front office asap. This is used to purchase new music, theory books, pay for festivals and other student supplies.
2. The uniform fee is $30.00 for full year/$15.00 for half year and covers dress rental/cleaning, ties & jewelry, choir t-shirt

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=0-5 absences, 3=6-7 absences, 2=8-9 absences, 1=10-11 absences, 3 tardies = 1 absence)

1) Each student will be given 5 "free" absences (excused, unexcused, or school excused) per term.
2) After 5 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 studying theory, sight-singing and music history 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 tracked on student's Citizenship Grade.

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.

Smart Pass

Our school uses the SmartPass 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. Hall passes are limited in the choir classroom and excessive use will affect citizenship.

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.

SaJHS Cell Phone & Smart Watch Policy

To support a focused and respectful learning environment, SaJHS will be following the new policy issued by Nebo School District regarding phones and smart watches. Students may not use cell phones or smart watches (or wireless earbuds/headphones) during school hours (7:55 AM – 2:35 PM), including lunch and passing periods. Notifications must be turned off, and phones must be stored out of sight in a backpack, bag, or purse. Smart watches may be worn but must remain silent and not be used for messaging. Devices may not be used in hallways. If you need to contact a parent or guardian, ask to use your phone in the front office with permission.

Consequences are as follows:
1st Offense – Device is taken to the office or placed in a locked pouch and returned at the end of the day.
2nd Offense – Same as above, plus a phone call home.
3rd Offense – A parent must pick up the device and meet to discuss next steps.

PART 2: CONCERT INFORMATION

CHOIR CALENDAR 2026-2027 (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.

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 and we didn't communicate this appropriately
- 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.

PART 3: DISCLOSURE ASSIGNMENT

Disclosure Document Assignment DUE MONDAY, AUGUST 24th

There are **2 parts** to the disclosure document assignment:
1) Students AND Parents will **read** the disclosure document
2) Students AND Parents will **initial** the Choir Calendar Assignment **and sign** the Disclosure Signature Page

SaJHS Choir Disclosure At-a-Glance

PART 1: GENERAL CLASS POLICIES

Daily Materials:
*Music/Folder/Pencil
*Water bottle

Fees:
- $20/$40 choir fee
- $15/$30 uniform fee

Grades:

Your grade will be earned based on:
- Rehearsal Points (4-pt. scale)
  - Attendance (5 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 Assignments
- Score Marking

CHOIR UNIFORM:
Singers Women/Bella Voce: Dresses/Choir Jewelry provided
All Men: Tie provided
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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

PART 2: CONCERT INFORMATION

MISSING A CONCERT
*Do not do this!
*If you have a legitimate conflict you must:
a) Fill out the Concert Absence Request Form
b) Turn it in to Mrs. Thomson at least 2 weeks before the performance.
c) ***If the request is granted, you will be given a difficult make-up assignment to earn your points***
d) **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.

Concert Dates 26-27:
Fall: October 6th
Winter: December 10th
Festival: March 4th or March 9th
Spring: May 19th

*Not coming to a concert will cause a LARGE grade drop. BE THERE!

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