

Hillsboro Junior High School

6th Grade Choir

7th/8th Grade Choir

2019-2020 Handbook

Class Objective

The primary purpose of the choir program is to create an environment where students can develop a love of music. It is also intended to give students the tools to listen to and analyze music intellectually. Students will learn about basic singing posture, breath control, phrasing, tone color, dynamics, reading musical notation, and the physical development of the voice. The choir provides opportunities for students to perform for parents, peers, and at community functions. Students will also be taught proper etiquette for concerts and performances. These performances are designed to build students' confidence in performing, and also be an enjoyable, fun experience for them.

Attendance

Concert Absences

An absence from a concert will require a makeup assignment to be completed to receive the full 100 points. This assignment will be a recording of the absent student singing all of his/her part from all of the choir pieces that were performed on the concert. This recording will be sent to Mrs. Lemons within one day of the student's return to school. **Students may email or share their recordings with alemons@hillsboroschools.net.**

School Absences

Since we rehearse during the school day, students' attendance is very important to ensure that they are prepared and contributing to the ensemble. Students receive 5 points for every day they are present, actively participating, and adequately prepared. Students will not be penalized for absences. **However, if school absences become chronic, Mrs. Lemons may assign makeup work to account for the missed rehearsal time.**

Grading Factors

The majority of your grade depends on your participation in class and at performances. Therefore, it is not difficult to get an "A" if you work hard during class, attend all performances, and hand in all assignments. However, it is also easy to fail this class if you choose not to participate and follow the rules during class, or if you choose not to attend performances (or complete the makeup assignment). In short, your grade completely depends on your hard work and commitment!

Grades are determined by the following:

1. Classroom participation and behavior (5 points per rehearsal)

- Are you on time for class?
- Do you have your folder and pencil?
- Do you have your music ready for rehearsal?
- Is your folder complete?

- Are you singing and not talking?
- Do you pay attention when Mrs. Lemons is talking to the group?
- Are you putting forth your best effort?
- Being caught with a cell phone gives you a zero for the day!

2. Concert/Performance attendance and behavior (100 points per concert)

-All concerts and performances will count as a large part of your grade! This includes, but is not limited to, the Christmas concert and the spring concert. 10 points will be deducted for every 5 minutes you are late to a dress rehearsal, warm-ups, or a performance. **Students and parents are responsible for arranging transportation to the concerts. If this is an issue, please see Mrs. Lemons so that we can work something out! Do not wait until the day before a performance. There are many other students and parents who would be happy to provide a ride to and/or from performances.**

3. Various written assignments (10-50 points)

-We will review videos of our concerts and listen to performances where students are required to respond on paper.

Performance Attire Standards

It is the sole responsibility of each member to appear in proper performance attire for each occasion specified by the director. Members must observe these specific uniform standards and may not appear with the choir until the appropriate attire standards are met. No student will be excluded because of financial reasons. If you cannot afford the appropriate attire, please talk to the director immediately. Do not wait until the week before the concert to notify the director that you do not have the proper attire. Appropriate concert attire is required at all performances. Students who come to a performance inappropriately dressed may be asked to leave and will receive an unexcused absence for the performance. See below for specifics concerning concert attire.

Men:

Dress shoes with socks
Dress pants
Dress shirt

Women:

Dress pants or dressy skirt
Dressy shoes or dressy sandals
Dressy shirt
Dress

Inappropriate items include (but is not limited to!): halter tops, spaghetti straps, shirts cut too low, shorts/skirts that are too short or too tight, tennis shoes, shirts with words or large logos, jeans, etc. If you have to question whether or not it is appropriate, it is probably inappropriate!

Classroom Rules and Expectations

1. Be respectful to all people, places, and things. Treat others as you would like to be treated!
2. A break in rehearsal is not an invitation to talk to your neighbor.
3. Come prepared to class with your pencil, folder, and paper.
4. No gum, food, or drink in the classroom, unless permission is given by Mrs. Lemons.
5. All HJHS handbook rules apply in the classroom.

*Students are to use the restroom between classes. If there is a medical condition in which you must use the restroom daily, please bring a note from your parents and/or doctor.

Classroom Behavior Consequences

As the teacher and director, I reserve the right to deal with behaviors as I see fit. The severity of the behavior will affect the consequence that I provide. Do what you are supposed to be doing at all times, and disciplinary action will not be necessary! In the event of an excessive or repeated behavior, such as talking, chewing gum, etc., I will issue warnings before issuing a referral.

There will be days where one specific section of the choir will be working. Mrs. Lemons will let students know at least one day in advance so that they may bring a book or homework to work on while another section is singing.

8th graders interested in stage crew must not have any behavior points taken off. This includes chewing gum, talking, inappropriate phone use, unexcused absences, etc.

Entering and Exiting the Classroom

Students are NOT allowed to leave the classroom without Mrs. Lemons' permission. Students will automatically be issued a referral if they leave the classroom without Ms. Lemons' permission.

Cell Phones and iPods

Cell phones and iPods will NOT be permitted for use during choir time. Students will likely have down time every once in a while when I am working with other sections. Mrs. Lemons may allow the use of iPods with special permission.

One warning will be given for inappropriate phone use. After that, a referral will be issued.

Performance Behavior Expectations

1. Students must be appropriately dressed.
2. Students must be on time (including warm-ups before the concert).
3. The Hillsboro Junior High School Handbook policies and rules apply to students when a performance is given outside of school. You are responsible for knowing the rules and consequences in the HJHS handbook.
4. The students' attendance is more than a physical presence. Bring your best effort to each performance.

Music Folders

Each student will be assigned a choir folder in which they share with a folder partner. Students are responsible for any damage done to their folders and music. If damaged music is turned back in, both students will share the cost of the music. Music folders will stay in the choir room and are not to be taken out without permission from me. Students are responsible for putting their folder back in the assigned slot!

Parent Contact

Due to the high volume of activities outside of class, staying in contact with parents is vital to our success. I will be communicating with parents three different ways:

Remind – Remind is a program that allows me to text or email parents so that neither one of us will give out our personal phone numbers. You can sign up for text messages or emails, or both. This will be used to remind parents of due dates for permission slips, rehearsals, activities, concerts, etc. I hope this decreases the amount of

notes that must be sent home with students. Please see the sheet attached with more information on how to sign up. I **highly encourage** parents to sign up for this service. Students are so busy that I hope reminders from me will help parents keep these busy schedules organized. There are two groups on Remind for each choir. Please see the attached document for instructions on joining the appropriate group. If you were a member of the Remind group from the past years, it is still the same group for the 7/8th grade choir.

Email – I will occasionally send out emails. However, I hope that the Remind program will eliminate the need for most emails. Please provide your email on the signature sheet if you would like to receive these.

If at all possible, please avoid calling me at school. I go back and forth between the junior high, so I am rarely here to answer the phone. Email is always the best way to get in contact with me. Of course, if a phone call must be made, please leave a voicemail, and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Students are responsible for taking all notes, permission slips, etc. home.

Students are to turn in all permission slips, etc. to the blue tray on the top of the music cabinet. This is to prevent slips from getting misplaced or lost. **However, any money that is to be turned in must be given to the choir treasurer, who will then give it to me for safe keeping.**

Stage Crew

All 8th graders are eligible to participate in stage crew for the musical at the high school. Mrs. Lemons will choose up to ten 8th graders to participate. Students will disqualify themselves if they have any disciplinary issue in class in which Mrs. Lemons has to address – excessive talking, chewing gum, cell phones, off-task behavior, not participating, and general misbehavior. More information will be forthcoming in December concerning stage crew.

Handbook Contract 2019-2020

The purpose of this handbook is so that our choir program can be as successful as possible! Because of the size of the group we have and the many activities that we participate in, it is vital that choir parents and students abide by the guidelines and expectations laid out for them in this handbook. Parents, please take the time to read through this syllabus carefully with your son/daughter and return only this back page to Mrs. Lemons by **Tuesday, August 27th**. Please note that all members of both ensembles must have this contract signed and put on file in the choir room in order for them to participate in the program.

If this sheet is turned in either before or on Tuesday, August 27th, students will receive a grade for 10/10 points. Students will lose one point for every day that it is late.

"I understand that expectations of this classroom and music program. I will do my best to follow classroom procedures and the rules in the Hillsboro Junior High School Handbook. Furthermore, I acknowledge that as part of this choral ensemble it is mandatory that I attend all concerts and performances. In the event that I have an excused absence from a concert or performance, I am willing to earn my grade fairly for the class by completing the make-up work that has been assigned."

Print Student Name

Print Parent Name

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Phone Number

Parent Email (if applicable)

Please remember to sign up for the **Remind** service!