

Sahuarita Middle School

Choir Handbook

2019-2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Attached you will find the handbook for the 2019-2020 school year. This document outlines the academic and behavior expectations, procedures, and grading policy for the SMS Music Program. Please read through the handbook and discuss the information with your student(s). After reading the information, please indicate that you understand the program requirements by signing and returning the bottom portion of this letter by August 9th.

Sincerely,

Jessica England

Choir and Orchestra Director

SMS Choir Handbook Agreement

I acknowledge that I have received the course syllabus for choir 2019-2020.

Student Name

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Welcome to SMS Choir! During this year you will be introduced to the art of vocal sound production and will learn to apply those skills to a vocal ensemble. It is very important that you have every chance to review the fundamentals of singing in your choir and we will work on these skills every day. As you improve in your singing you will have opportunities to demonstrate your singing to your fellow choir students in class, and in two or more concerts given to the community.

Our SMS Choir curriculum is aligned to the state and national standards. To meet these standards, you will be asked to:

- Sing/written assignments on up to 12 major scales, each semester
- Sing 1 solo, using good technique, each semester
- Demonstrate competence in basic music theory
- Learn many new terms describing how we perform music expressively
- Maintain passing scores on all tests and quizzes and reports
- Demonstrate exemplary rehearsal discipline
- Attend all performances, as required or as needed

During the course of the academic year, you can expect from me:

- Adequate notification in advance of performances
- Adequate time to prepare any solo or performance
- Individualized instruction whenever needed
- Clear expression of performance expectations
- Precise information on grading procedures
- Fair and impartial treatment

Supplies

- Pencil
- 3 ring binder, one-half inch, black
- Page protectors

Grading

Your grade in choir will conform to the grading guidelines as outlined in the Sahuarita Middle School Student Handbook. To summarize:

- **Assessment: 60%**
 - 20% Written Tests and Quizzes
 - 20% Performance Assessments
 - 20% Concerts
- **Skill and Development: 40%**
 - 10% Daily Warm Up
 - 10% Rehearsal Participation
 - 20% Written Assignments

Assessments in choir include oral, aural and written tests of basic music theory, sight-singing, concert performance evaluations and technical vocal sound production skills. Practice may include your work outside of school to prepare for a rehearsal or announced lesson objective.

Students will be allowed one week to turn in missed work for partial credit (1 day late is a 10% penalty; 2 days late is a 20% penalty to a maximum of 5 days late for 50% penalty). After 5 days no make-up is permitted. Zeros may be entered for missed work and parents will be notified.

Classroom Procedures

I have high expectations for SMS music students when it comes to your behavior and citizenship. The school disciplinary handbook will be followed, and students are expected to be familiar with all rules and procedures.

- **Entering the Classroom**
 - Enter calmly and quietly
 - Place backpack along the wall
 - Set up chair
 - Read objective, agenda, and announcements
 - Complete bell work
- **During Rehearsal**
 - Asking a question: Raise your hand when there is a break in instruction and wait patiently to be called on
 - Restroom: At an appropriate time (break, individual practice, when finished with written assignment), raise hand and ask to use the restroom, sign out, take appropriate color badge, sign in when you return
 - Drinking fountain: At appropriate times only (no lines, please)
 - Sharpening pencils: At the beginning of class during set-up time only, if pencil breaks in the middle of class, please wait until break in instruction
- **Exiting the Classroom**
 - Wait for teacher dismissal
 - Put away music
 - Return chair and materials
 - Gather your belongings
 - Exit calmly and quietly

Behavior Expectations

Classroom Rules/Expectations

- Be on time
- Be prepared every day for rehearsal with music/book and pencil.
- Be respectful.
- Act in an appropriate manner at all times.
- Unless otherwise directed, no eating or drinking in the classroom, including gum chewing.

Six Pillars of Character/Character Counts

- Trustworthiness
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Fairness
- Caring
- Citizenship

SMS Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies

- Get There/Responsibility
- Respect/Citizenship
- Own Up/Fairness/Trustworthiness
- Watch Out/Caring
- Learn

Discipline Procedures

- **Level One**
 - Written up on discipline tracking form
 - Phone call home
 - 3rd offense, discipline tracking form is sent to administration
- **Level Two**
 - Discipline tracking form sent to administration
 - Phone call home
 - Time-Out, sent to another classroom
- **Level Three**
 - i. Immediate removal to the office

Performance Dates for 2018-2019

Please mark your calendars!

8th Grade Step-Up Night: TBD at the SHS Football Field

SUSD Choir Day: November 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the SUSD Auditorium

Winter Concert: December 3, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the SUSD Auditorium

Spring Concert: May 1, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the SUSD Auditorium

Students who are involved in conflicting school activities are usually excused from some music events; however, **students must take all possible precautions to prevent these conflicts.**

Absences due to illness require a note from home, and will not exempt a student from point losses. These will be treated on a case-by-case basis. All excused absences from school conflicts or illness are to be made up with a written assignment within one week of the student's return date.

Office Hours, Contact and Webpage Information

I may also be seen by appointment during lunch or after school. My office phone/extension is 625-3502, ext. 1474. I can also be contacted by email at **jengland@sahuarita.net**. The class webpage, with calendars, assignments and other class information may be found at: **smsjaguarmusic.weebly.com**. We also have a Facebook page titled SMS Jaguar Music. To receive text message reminders from me, please text @musicSMS to 81010.