

Kayhi Choral Department

2019-2020 Handbook

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Concert Schedule

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| Oct. 16 | Fall Band and Choir Concert | Kayhi Auditorium | All Choirs |
| Oct. 20-22 | SE Honor Festival | Thunder Mtn | <i>Auditioned group</i> |
| Nov. 21-23 | All-State Honor Festival | Anchorage | <i>Auditioned group</i> |
| Dec. 10 | Winter Band and Choir Concert | Kayhi Auditorium | All Choirs |
| Dec. 11 | Sam Pitcher Jazz Concert | Kayhi Auditorium | Vocal Jazz |
| Mar. 11-14 | ACDA All-NW Honor Choirs | Spokane, WA | <i>Auditioned group</i> |
| Mar. 31 | Pre-Fest Band Concert | Kayhi Auditorium | <i>Band</i> |
| Apr. 7 | Pre-Fest Instrumental Solos/Ensembles | Kayhi Auditorium | <i>Band</i> |
| Apr. 8 | Pre-Fest Choir Concert | Kayhi Auditorium | All Choirs |
| Apr. 16-18 | SE Music Festival | Sitka | All Choirs |
| May 19 | Spring Band Concert | Kayhi Auditorium | <i>Band</i> |
| May 27 | Kayhi Choirs Spring Show | Kayhi Auditorium | All Choirs |

Parent Meeting

There will be a music department parent meeting at 5:30pm on **Wednesday, September 4th** in the Kayhi library. We will be discussing various events upcoming this year including concerts, fundraisers, and travel. This is a great opportunity for your parents to ask any questions they may have about the music department, volunteer to help out, and take care of activities paperwork. I look forward to meeting them!

Uniform

Concert Choir wears choir robes provided by the school. Underneath your robe: guys wear black dress shoes, black socks, black pants, and either a white collared shirt or a shirt without a collar; girls wear black dress shoes, black tights or nylons, and no sleeves or skirts that are longer than the robe.

Women's Choir wears dresses provided by the school. You are responsible for black tights or nylons and black dress shoes.

Vocal Jazz wears dresses and vests provided by the school. Girls are responsible for black nylons and black dress shoes. Boys are responsible for black dress pants with a black belt, black socks, and black dress shoes. Boys may see me to purchase or borrow a white tuxedo shirt.

For informal performances, we wear blue jeans with our long-sleeved choir T-shirts. You need to order a shirt through me when you join choir – they are approximately \$13 each.

At the end of the year you will take your robe to be dry cleaned. The cost is approximately \$12 and I will need to see the dry-cleaning receipt attached to the robe when you turn it in.

Other fees

Activities fee: While choir is a class, it is also an activity and any member who travels with the group is required to pay the school activity of \$150 if music travel is your first activity of the year, or \$50 if you have already participated in another activity this year. Your fee and completed activities packet should be turned in to Ms. Wadley in the activities office well before the date of travel. For most of you, this means by mid-March, as we will all be traveling for SE Music Festival in April (except in years when we host).

A separate music festival participation fee of \$20 will be due to me before spring break.

Music: You will keep a copy of each piece we sing in your choir folder. After each concert, music will be turned in and a \$2 fee will be charged for each missing piece.

Honor Choirs

Beginning the second week of the year I will have times available after school to record auditions for those interested in trying out for Southeast Honor Choir. Recorded auditions will be reviewed by music directors from Southeast schools at the end of September. Those chosen to participate will rehearse outside of class before leaving for honor fest in late October. Travel for this activity is paid by the school (though the Kayhi activities fee will still need to be paid).

Of those who audition for SE Honor Choir, any who are of possible All-State level will be invited to send their auditions to Anchorage for a chance at participating in All-State Choir in November. Of those, I will invite a select few to also send their auditions to All-Northwest Choir which will take place in February or March. The costs of travel and participation for both of these trips are the responsibility of the students.

Music Festival Solo/Ensemble

During SE Regional Music Festival held in April, students will have the opportunity to be adjudicated in solo or small ensemble performances. Anyone who is interested will need to see me to begin preparing shortly after winter break. Vocal solos and ensembles must be ready to perform on the Pre-Fest Choir Concert in order to qualify to perform at Music Fest.

Academic Eligibility

Music ensembles are considered both classes as well as co-curricular activities. Academic eligibility rules do not apply for our home concerts – these can be likened to exams in core classes. However, students must meet school eligibility rules when traveling for music activities. A student is ineligible to travel if they received a failing grade in any class for the previous quarter or if they currently have more than one D or any F's one week prior and up to the date of travel.

Sacred text

Historically and today, much of choral music was and is written for the church. Any pieces we sing based on a sacred text are not meant to promote any specific faith or belief system, but are included in an effort to provide an education that surveys quality literature from various styles, cultures, and historical periods. If you would like to discuss the singing of sacred text in this class further, feel free to see me. More information on the subject can also be found at: <http://www.menc.org/about/view/sacred-music-in-schools>.

Illness

The best remedy for a sore throat is vocal rest. A student may notify me at the beginning of class that they will not be singing that day due to illness. They will still be expected to follow along with the day's activities and "lip sync" the music being rehearsed so that they are still benefiting from rehearsal and keeping up with what the group is doing. Any student too ill to stand with the group or participate in what we are doing should not be in school.

Grading

40% class participation - What is class participation? You will not receive a grade on how well you sing. You will, instead, receive a grade based on attention and effort in class (see "expectations" below). If you are absent (for any reason, including doctor's appointments and school related travel), you will receive a zero for the day. There will be various opportunities throughout the semester to make up a maximum of 10 points lost for days absent (five days).

40% concert attendance – A choir is a team. Obviously, if any member is missing at the game the team suffers. Over time, we will build a sound together that will be altered if the make-up of the group is altered. It is expected that you will stay for the entire concert and full points will only be given when this is the case.

20% quizzes – Quizzes in choir??!! Contrary to what you may think, the goal of this choir is not to produce incredible performances (though we have every intention of doing so!!), but to learn and grow as musicians. We will be studying a bit of theory, a bit of history, some foreign languages, and maybe some other surprising applications of music in the real world. Quizzes may take the form of a written evaluation of the themes we've been studying as well as quartet/octet singing to ensure you have fully learned your parts.

Expectations

First, and most important: keep a positive attitude! Though you may feel that you are only one person in the midst of many, your actions and attitude affect those around you more than you know. Singing is an activity that is greatly affected by our mental state and emotions and you can positively or negatively influence what we do as a group by what you bring to class. Choir must be a safe, encouraging environment where each singer feels supported and free to express himself or herself musically.

Be on time to class. If you are tardy, you will receive half credit for the day. As I see no reason for being late to class, there will be no opportunity to make up points lost for tardies. *(This is in addition to the school policy regarding tardies.)*

Have a pencil at all times. If you are in this choir, you are serious about music and striving to accomplish as much as you can. This includes marking your music (so we don't keep rehearsing the same mistakes) and writing down new concepts as they are encountered.

Cell phones are absolutely not tolerated during class. You must be present in the moment and focused on what we are doing. The only exceptions will be for certain class activities when a phone is a useful tool and I will specify these instances. Otherwise, I will confiscate any phone I see.

If you must use the restroom, go quietly and quickly. I do not want to interrupt class to give permission to leave the room or deal with bathroom passes. Because you will be missing whatever we are doing, I will assume that you have an immediate need and that you will return as soon as possible. If this policy is abused, I will deal with each student on an individual basis. Students are not to leave the room during the first and last ten minutes of class.

Bottled water is perfectly appropriate and a good idea. Getting up in the middle of rehearsal to use the drinking fountain is not. Surely, I don't need to mention that any kind of food or gum just might get in the way of correct vowel formation, diction, breathing, (you can add just about any other aspect of singing here), and is therefore not allowed?

Respect your section leaders. These people are representing me in your section and are responsible for taking roll, noting tardies and any other inappropriate behavior during rehearsal, and organizing and running sectionals.

Attend all sectionals. If I feel your section needs an extra rehearsal outside of class, your section leader will find a time (often a lunch period or after school) when all can attend. You will receive a participation grade for a required sectional. It is also possible that your section leader will call an extra sectional that may not be required. Given your sense of group and desire to improve as a section, you should inform your section leader and me if there are extenuating and unavoidable circumstances for which you absolutely cannot attend.