

St. John's Lutheran School

Choir Handbook

Mission Statement

The St. John's Lutheran School Performing Arts Department exists to nurture students' artistic abilities through standards-based instruction and give glory to God through hands-on learning and performance.

Overview

The purpose of this handbook is to inform students and parents of the procedures and expectations of the St. John's Choir Program. Students and Parents/Guardians should read this handbook in full and refer back to it as needed.

Class will be held on Mondays and Tuesdays in the church sanctuary. Students' music binders will be stored in the sanctuary and retrieved at the beginning of class.

Music and Binders

Students will be provided a folder or binder to keep their music. These items are property of St. John's Lutheran School and should be treated with care. Binders may also be used during performance(s) and should be in good condition. Music or binders that are damaged or destroyed will need to be replaced by the student.

Grading Policy

Students' grade will consist of a daily rehearsal grade, assignments, and performance attendance.

Rehearsal Grade (40%): Students will receive a ten-point rehearsal participation grade for every class period. Being disruptive to rehearsal will result in loss of points for the day. After one warning, disruption to rehearsal will result in loss of one point every time behavior must be corrected. Absence from school will NOT result in a grade penalty.

Assignments (30%): Assignments will range from assessments of students' understanding of musical concepts, listening evaluations, and singing and memorization tests.

Performance Attendance (30%): All students undertake the obligation to appear with their ensemble for scheduled performances. Every student is important to the makeup of the choir, and the absence of even one member causes the need for readjustment in sound production. Concerts are also considered a group final exam, and an unexcused

absence with no parent communication, the student will receive no more than half-credit for the performance in the grade book.

Examples of EXCUSED ABSENCES

include:

- Emergency beyond the control of student or parent
- Illness
- Other reasons with advance approval (see below)

Examples of UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:

- Lack of transportation
- Non-school sponsored sporting event
- Other reasons not approved in advance (see below)

Under exceptional circumstances, an UNEXCUSED ABSENCE may be EXCUSED when arrangements are made in advance of the performance and approved by the director. (Example: planned family vacation). All excuses must be made in writing to the director by the student's parent/guardian(s).

For major performances (Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, etc), notice is required 14 days in advance of the performance. For minor performances (church services, etc), notice is required 24 hours in advance of the performance.

Please make sure all events that involve your student are marked in your family calendar, and avoid scheduling things such as doctor's appointments on those days! Any changes to the calendar will be communicated to families and students in a timely manner prior to the event.

Concert Dress

For all major choir performances, students are asked to wear plain WHITE or BLACK on top (collared shirt, blouse, or sweater) and plain BLACK on bottom (pants or appropriate-length skirt). Girls may wear an all-black dress if they prefer. Please make sure that any belt, socks, and shoes are also black. Please no heels that will affect your ability to balance.

Performance Schedule

Middle School Christmas Concert: December 12

Spring Concert: TBD

Handbook Family Form

We have read, understood, and agree to the policies in the Choir Handbook as they relate to performance attire, performance attendance, use of equipment and facilities.

We have also reviewed this semester's performance calendar and noted all applicable performance dates.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____