

# Policies

## 1. Performance Attendance

- A performance is a culminating activity. In classes such as Math or Language Arts unit tests are given and expected to be taken by every student. In Choir, we do give some written tests/quizzes but our major “unit tests” are the concerts that we schedule for the students. Because we prepare each piece as a group, it is mandatory that everyone in the group is at every performance.
- An **unexcused** absence will result in the 9 week grade being lowered 2 letter grades.
- Unexcused absences result in a loss of credit, with no opportunity to make up the work missed.
- Babysitting, Little League practices and games, retreats, *rehearsals* for other activities, and your birthday are all examples of UNexcused absences.
- Occasionally, there may be another school-related event or conflict that keeps you from attending a concert. Please let Mr. Waters know immediately when a situation develops. The earlier you communicate this, the better. Mr. Waters will then determine whether the absence will be excused or unexcused. Serious illness or a death in the family is an **excused** absence. Please submit a written excuse from the parent to Mr. Waters when the student returns to school.
- Since a performance is considered to be a major exam, students who have excused absences from performances have, under normal circumstances, one week to make up the missed work and submit the written excuse. This make-up work may include, but is not limited to, singing the student’s voice part a cappella and writing a performance critique.
- It is expected that when missing school because of a choir event, homework/test/quizzes, etc. will be completed the day **before** they are due.
- Please remember that on concert day, we rehearse in the performance hall. It is imperative that students attend so please try not to schedule doctor/dentist/job shadowing type appointments during the day on concert days. **If the student misses the rehearsal on performance day, they will not be allowed to perform that evening but will be allowed to make up the missed performance.**

## 2. Performance

- Uniforms required
- No gum chewing, candy or beverages
- Best behavior on and off the risers
- Use assigned seating and standing position

### 3. Uniforms

Our choral dept. takes pride in our motto: Building Life Skills Through Choral Excellence. How you present yourself in the working world can be the deciding factor between getting or not getting a job or promotion. It can make the difference between a very good performance and an inspired performance. It's amazing to see and hear the effect on students when they are in uniform as they are more focused mentally and they look it! Our choirs have and continue to perform all over the state of Michigan and the Midwest. Being in a uniform helps to send the message that the Jenison community is a class act. We encourage you to read the following information carefully and follow it completely. The word uniform means to be exactly alike. One charcoal shirt instead of pure black. A pair of navy blue pants instead of black etc., **really** does stand out on stage and pulls down the appearance of our group. Please be sure your uniform is clean and not wrinkled when you come to a performance so it doesn't look like you just pulled it out of a drawer. Paying attention to these details truly matters to **every** student in the group. Thanks for your help, it DOES make a difference!!!!

#### Ladies

- Female Choir members will wear a black floor length gown for a **usage and seamstress fee of \$20.00.**
- One pair of black knee-high nylons will be provided.
- **Ballet Slippers:** Black. May be purchased through the school for \$15.00. Make checks payable to Jenison Public Schools. If you already have slippers from dance school, or an older sister, you may use those. If you will be using your own from dance class, please bring them to school and have them approved by the uniform committee.
- **Accessories:** You may not wear jewelry such as necklaces, bracelets and watches, but may wear post *earrings* only. Please, no facial piercings. Hair color must be within the general spectrum of "natural" colors (no neon, purple, etc.--If in doubt, please check with Mr. Waters far ahead enough to adjust if necessary). Students will not be allowed to perform if their hair color or style defeats the purpose of the Choir Uniform. Hair must be secured out of the face so the audience can clearly see your eyes.
- **Make-up:** Please don't wear stuff like bright eye-shadow, glitter or shiny lip gloss on concert night. You may only wear clear nail polish on concert night.

Choir Boosters will gladly help defray the cost of your outfit if you are having financial difficulties. Please contact Mr. Waters if you need this assistance.

## Gentlemen

- Shirt: **Black**, pressed, long sleeved dress shirt. Parents please inspect this shirt to make sure it doesn't have stains, etc. No logos, and buttons must be clear or black.
- Slacks: Pure black. Be careful that they are NOT navy blue. **Dressy (no cargo pants or black jeans)**.
- Shoes: Black. **Dressy**. A pair of standard dress shoes from Meijer's or Payless are sufficient.
- Belt: Black, with buckle as inconspicuous as possible.
- Ties: Provided by students. Each person in the male chorus wears their favorite cartoon tie! (Don't abuse this...)
- You may not wear jewelry such as necklaces, bracelets and watches, but may wear post *earrings* only. Please, no facial piercings. Hair color must be within the general spectrum of "natural" colors (no neon, purple, etc.--If in doubt, please check with Mr. Waters far ahead enough to adjust if necessary). Students will not be allowed to perform if their hair color or style defeats the purpose of the Choir Uniform. Hair must be secured out of the face so the audience can clearly see your eyes.

Choir Boosters will gladly help defray the cost of your outfit if you are having financial difficulties. Please contact Mr. Waters if you need this assistance.

#### **4. Daily Rehearsals**

- Best behavior and attitude at all times.
- No put-downs allowed.
- Constant energy/effort.
- No gum chewing, or candy (this is mostly for your safety!)
- Use assigned seat.
- Have a pencil every day!!
- Bring assignment notebook daily.
- Shape and OPEN mouth when singing.
- Use correct posture.
- Turn in assignments on time.
- Always give the director your attention.
- The pianos and audio/visual equipment are off limits for all students without permission.

#### **5. Materials**

Bring these daily to class:

1. A pencil for marking music and taking notes. Never use a pen to mark music.
2. Student Assignment Notebook.

Pick up daily as you enter the choir room:

1. Sight-reading book
2. Music folder

#### Additional information about materials:

Students will have their own music folder. Be sure to bring it to class or you will be without music for rehearsal. And you DON'T want to be without your music for rehearsal, DO you...

**FOLDERS AND MUSIC THAT ARE LOST OR RETURNED IN DAMAGED CONDITION WILL BE PAID FOR BY THE STUDENT.**

# Grading Policy

## **Letter Grade: “A” = Excellent.**

Attention is always focused on the director during rehearsal.  
Exhibits a high level of energy.  
Work ethic is strong.  
Always brings materials to class.  
Sight-singing skills are high.  
Shapes and opens mouth when singing.  
Test, quiz, and homework scores are high.  
Attends all performances and extra rehearsals within the marking period.  
Posture is tall.  
Clearly strives for excellence.

## **Citizenship Grade: “1” = Excellent.**

Uses assignment notebook.  
Turns in forms and homework on time.  
Has their own music, pencil, assignment notebook, and sight-reading book in class daily.  
Exhibits mannerly conduct at all times.  
Respects school and other people’s property.  
Participates in class discussion.  
Does not socialize during rehearsal.  
Does not chew gum, candy, etc. in class.

Choir is a group effort and the majority of the work we do is in class. In most other classes, student behavior and achievement really only affects the individual grade of the student. In choir, everything a student does has an impact on the total product of ALL the students in the choir. Therefore, it is our policy to add/subtract points to the grades of students depending on “daily performance” in rehearsal. Points are given for appropriate conduct in rehearsal, concert performances, returning forms on time, and some written assignments. There is a 25 point deduction each time a student misses his/her attendance number, is not prepared for class, is tardy without a pass, or for inappropriate behavior. On concert day, this deduction is worth 100 points. Students have numerous opportunities to earn extra credit points (up to 100 only) and should talk to Mr. Waters for more details.