

Senior Concert Choir Handbook 2023-2024

Welcome back to school! The following contains important information about the choral program at Rockwood High School! I am very excited to get back to making music with all of you! Students and parents should read over the following information and then sign and **return the last page by Friday, September 8, 2023**. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Doug Spiri
Rockwood Choral Director
dspiri@rockwoodschoools.org

Important Dates!

- Chorus Pre-Auditions (10th-12th gr.)-Cambria Heights-Sunday Oct. 15 (12:00pm-6:00 pm)
- Somerset County Chorus: Conemaugh Township-Nov. 20-21 (selected students)
- **Christmas Concert: Tuesday, December 12th – 7:00 pm****
- District 6 Chorus Festival: Westmont-January 25-27 (selected students)
- Regional III Chorus Festival: Somerset-March 7-9 (selected students)
- State Chorus Festival: Erie-April 17-20 (selected students)
- **Spring Chorus Concert: Tuesday, May 7th – 7:30 pm****

**Required Event

Festivals are being planned as in-person at this time. They may switch to Virtual if the need arises.

Areas of Focus

- Music Literacy-reading pitch and rhythm
- Knowledge of musical styles and related world and music history
- Performance Skills-vocal technique, diction, ear-training and sight-singing

Concert Dress

- ☐ Ladies-Black dress (solid color) with discreet neckline and hemline for the concert stage (must have straps or sleeves) or black skirt/pants with black top, black dress shoes. (Modest jewelry, nothing flashy or distracting)
- ☐ Gentleman-Black dress pants, black dress shirt, tie, black socks, black dress shoes.

Ensemble Behavior

Our choral ensembles are essentially music teams. It is essential for the members to display hard work and a good attitude. In return they will have a rewarding experience where they can learn qualities such as team work, perseverance and personal discipline. The actions of any individual can either help or hinder the entire ensemble in both rehearsal and performance. Self-discipline is not optional: it is required. Repeat offenders will be removed from the class at the director's discretion.

Expected Behavior/Daily Participation

- Class preparation
- In seat and quiet when class begins
- Quiet during rehearsal when not singing
- Demonstrates correct posture while singing
- Respect for self and others
- Participates appropriately during rehearsal

Each Class:

- Students will earn daily participation points by following the expected behavior outlined in the handbook. Every expected behavior not followed will result in a 1/2 point deduction.
- If disregard for expected behavior continues to occur, student will receive a Level I detention

Procedures and Routines

- ☒ Be on time and in your assigned spot- 1 minute after late bell.
- ☒ Participate in all classroom activities
- ☒ Be Prepared! Have your folder of music and a pencil.
- ☒ No food, GUM, soda, iced tea, etc.

Performances

As this is a performance-based class, attendance at all performances is mandatory. The dates are listed on the first page of this handbook. Please put these dates on your calendar now so that you can schedule around them. Why is attendance mandatory at performances?

- *Performance for an audience is a primary focus of this class. Concerts provide an experience that cannot be reproduced in the classroom.*
- *Performances are the means by which the skills learned in class are evaluated.*
- *Choral singing is a group effort. The performance is weakened by every missing voice. We rehearse together and we perform together.*

Grading

Grades are earned by assessing student's *knowledge* (classroom assignments, quizzes), *skills* (sight-singing and ear-training), and *participation* in daily rehearsals and required performances. Grades will be assessed on a point system as follows:

- **Rehearsals (one hundred points total)**
 - **Classroom assignments and quizzes (fifty points)**
 - **Performance attendance (one hundred points)**
- 1. The performance of the chorus is a primary function of the class and therefore attendance is required.**
 - 2. Written excuses may be considered when submitted at least two weeks prior to the concert if the excuse is valid.**
 - 3. Unexcused absences for the performance will result in no points being issued for that performance. A make-up assignment can be completed for 75% of the normal performance grade.**
 - 4. If the concert is missed due to an excused absence (extreme illness or approval by director), a make-up assignment will be assigned and will be due within five days of the student's return to school.**

Sectionals:

Vocal sectionals will be offered. These small group sectionals, scheduled according to individual voice parts, will be conducted through a “pull-out” program. You must be excused by your regular classroom teacher to attend sectionals. If you are failing a class, you may not be excused. You are requested to attend at least 2 sectionals each grading period. Sectionals will be offered Period 1 and Period 2. If needed, sectionals can be scheduled after school with prior approval from the director.

Materials:

Each student will be assigned a numbered rehearsal folder. **Folders** will be kept on the shelf inside the chorus room door. Each student will receive a **choir pencil**-keep this in your folder; if your pencil is lost or stolen, it is your responsibility to replace it by the next rehearsal. **MUSIC**-please keep up to date with current music that should be in your folder.

Communication:

The choir uses Remind to send out messages to you and the students. We will again be using this free service to provide quick and useful info to all of you via text, push notifications, or email. I have included a sheet with the information on the different ways you can sign up for Remind. You can choose which service works the best for you so you do not need to sign up for all 3 services. If you have any questions about this process, feel free to contact me! If you signed up last year, you don't need to do it again.

Thanks for signing up for my class on Remind! Here's some information that might be helpful:

- Your personal contact information is not visible to me or the school.
- I can send announcements to the entire class or direct messages in individual and group conversations (if the student is over the age of 13).
- I may choose to receive messages on Remind.
- All messages are recorded and easily accessible in case they need to be referenced in the future.
- Messages from my class will be sent directly to your phone or email account

Please read and discuss this entire handbook with your student before signing and returning the signature page. Remember to please return the completed signature page to Mr. Spiri by Friday, September 8th. (This is assignment #1-worth 10 points.) Make sure to keep the concert schedule, and mark the dates on your calendar. If any changes occur, you will be notified as soon as possible!

☒ *Due Friday, September 8th!*

I have read the Choral Handbook and understand the expectations. If I have any questions or concerns, I will contact Mr. Spiri.

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

The following information will be used only by Mr. Spiri to provide you with information about the Choral Program!

Please "Check" the preferred method of communication!

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

____ Home Address: _____

____ Phone #: _____

____ Parent/Family email address: _____

Our chorus program has been growing over the last few years and your child has been a vital part of this growth. With this in mind, we would like to invite you to be a part of our Choral Boosters to assist in providing these opportunities for our students. Please indicate below if you would like to be a part of this group as well as listing an email and phone number above so that we can contact you with information. Our first meeting will be on **Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 6:30 pm**. Thank you once again for the support of our Choral program!

_____ Yes, I am interested in being part of a Choral Boosters

_____ No, I am not interested in being part of a Choral Boosters