

Stanberry
Junior High & High School
Choir Handbook

Mrs. Michele Kelley
Director



Course Objectives

Choir is an elective vocal music course for junior high and high school students desiring to perform. The goal of this course is to teach students to become better singers and develop an appreciation for vocal music.

OBJECTIVES

- Demonstrate proper singing posture
- Demonstrate expanded rib cage breathing.
- Demonstrate proper breath support.
- Sustain vocal phrases
- Demonstrate correct tone production.
- Demonstrate vertical vowel formation.
- Sing diphthongs correctly.
- Demonstrate correction diction and articulation of consonants.
- Sightsing musical excerpts of various difficulties.
- Dictate musical excerpts of various difficulties.
- Sing degrees of the scale using solfege syllables.
- Blend and balance with the choir when singing.
- Demonstrate knowledge of musical terms and symbols.
- Listen analytically to themselves and critique their performances.

Grading Policies

Grades will be determined each quarter through the following criteria:

1. Sightsinging tests / dictation tests / portfolios / rehearsal attendance / web-based software work / concert performances / worksheets / written tests.

These periodical evaluations are 50% of your quarter grade. They may or may not be announced by the director, so it is to your advantage to be prepared musically for each rehearsal.

2. Participation

This portion will comprise 50% of your quarter grade. The student will determine this portion of the grade from self-evaluation in the following areas: Class readiness, attitude, behavior, effort, and leadership.

Performance Absence Policy: If a student is absent from a scheduled graded performance (such as the Winter/Spring Concerts), to make up the grade, the student will perform his/her concert part in its entirety for an audience selected by Mrs. Kelley. This make-up performance will take place at Mrs. Kelley's convenience and as soon as possible following the missed performance.

Extra-Credit: A student may drop his/her lowest test grade of the quarter by donating a large box of Kleenex to our classroom. The donation must be made before the end of the quarter in which the grade is to be dropped.

Grading Scale:

96-100 = A

90-95 = A-

87-89 = B+

84-86 = B

80-83 = B-

77-79 = C+

73-76 = C

70-72 = C-

67-69 = D+

63-66 = D

60-62 = D-

59 or less = F

Classroom Rules

- No gum, candy, or food are allowed in the classroom.
- You may bring a bottled drink into the classroom as long as it has a lid.
- Keep a pencil in your choir folder for use in marking music.
- Dictation tests must be completed in pencil or they will not be accepted.
- Late homework is not accepted.
- Report any inability to sing, due to illness or injury, before class begins. Your participation level for that day will then be determined by the teacher.
- You will NOT be leaving the room during regular class time. The only exceptions to this rule are to see the nurse or go to the office. This rule is for your own good, my friend!
- A student arriving late to class disrupts the educational process. For every three tardies accrued during a quarter, a student is subject to a 30-minute detention.
- Choir students will be expected to attend some before-school rehearsals in preparation for upcoming performances. Mrs. Kelley will announce required rehearsals as needed. Attendance at required rehearsals will be graded. Students who attend optional choir rehearsals will be awarded lettering points.
- Students who are dismissed for any reason from participation in required events will be given alternative assignments to make up for missed rehearsals following the dismissal. The concert will be made up through the Performance Absence Policy.

Lettering Criteria

TO EARN A LETTER IN VOCAL MUSIC:

A vocal music student must participate in both semesters of choir, participate in all required vocal events, and earn a total of 100 points or more during one academic year.

POINTS AWARDED:

1. Audition for All-District Choir	20 pts.
2. Perform in All-District Choir	40 pts.
3. Audition for All-State Choir	20 pts.
4. Perform in rehearsals for All-State Choir	30 pts.
5. Perform in All-State Choir	80 pts.
6. Earn an A/A- in choir for a quarter grade	10 pts.
7. Perform in GRC Choir	25 pts.
8. Perform in an Honor Choir	25 pts.
9. Participate in an optional rehearsal	10 pts.
10. Participate in a solo/small ensemble event at District Contest	45 pts.
11. Perform in a solo/small ensemble event at State Contest	45 pts.
12. Help with the Elementary Winter Concert	15 pts.
13. Sing the National Anthem at a ballgame	10 pts.
14. Set up/Tear down equipment for a concert	10 pts.
15. 30 minutes of volunteer time with Mrs. Kelley	10 pts.
16. Participate in a Music Booster fundraiser	15 pts. (per goal)

****Please note that the Vocal Music Letter is not automatically given to each student involved in the vocal music program; rather, it is an honor to be earned by vocal music students through active and exceptional participation in the vocal music program.**

Optional Activities Rules

1. All Extra-Curricular activities are subject to Stanberry High School's and MSHSAA's eligibility policies.
2. The director reserves the right to substitute for any student participating in an ensemble at contest who is involved in a legal case within 3 weeks of the event. This is to ensure fairness for the other members of the ensemble and enable them to perform regardless of a case's outcome.
3. Absences from rehearsals detract from the total ensemble effort and need to be kept to a minimum. Each student will be allowed three unexcused absences from rehearsals for an extra-curricular event. Upon a third complete absence, the student will be dismissed from the event.

Excused absences: School sponsored activity, family emergency, excused absence from school, doctor or dentist appointment.

4. Punctuality to rehearsals is a reflection on personal work ethic and attitude. Tardies will be tallied. An accumulated total of 40 minutes of missed rehearsals will equal one unexcused absence. A total of 120 minutes will lead to dismissal from the event.
5. No cell phones are to be used during rehearsal.

Extra-Curricular Choir Rules

1. Extra-Curricular Choir is EXTRA-CURRICULAR and is subject to Stanberry High School's eligibility policies.
2. Extra-Curricular Choir is not for academic credit.
3. Extra-Curricular Choir members are required to participate in the Veterans' Day Program, Winter Concert, and Spring Concert. Failure to do so will result in dismissal.
4. Extra-Curricular Choir members who are dismissed from Extra-Curricular Choir are ineligible for Extra-Curricular Choir for the remainder of the academic year.
5. With the exception of student transfers, enrollment in Extra-Curricular choir must be completed by September 1st.
6. Absences from rehearsals detract from the total ensemble effort and need to be kept to a minimum. Each student will be allowed three unexcused absences from rehearsals for an extra-curricular event. Upon a third complete absence, the student will be dismissed from the event.

Excused absences: School sponsored activity, family emergency, excused absence from school, doctor or dentist appointment.
7. Punctuality to rehearsals is a reflection on personal work ethic and attitude. Tardies will be tallied. An accumulated total of 40 minutes of missed rehearsals will equal one unexcused absence. A total of 120 minutes will lead to dismissal from the event.
8. No cell phones are to be used during rehearsal.

Choir Events

Tentative Schedule

1st Semester	2nd Semester
<u>September 1, 2023</u> Last day to complete enrollment in Extra-Curricular Choir	<u>#February 17, 2024#</u> Junior High Music Contest @ NWMSU
<u>September 16, 2023</u> All-District Choir Auditions	<u>March 16, 2024</u> High School District Solo/Ensemble Contest
<u>October 28, 2023</u> All-District Choir	<u>April 26, 2024</u> High School State Music Contest
<u>*November 10, 2023*</u> Veterans' Day Program	<u>*April 29, 2024*</u> Spring Concert
<u>December 4, 2023</u> Elementary Winter Concert	
<u>*December 5, 2023*</u> Junior High/High School Winter Concert	

***Denotes events required of all choir students.**

#Denotes event required of JH choir students who meet during class time.

Choir General Guidelines & Information

1. NATIONAL ANTHEM: The “Star Spangled Banner” is an anthem that embodies honor and respect for our country. Students who perform it at athletic events are expected to dress in an appropriate fashion. No hats or revealing/inappropriate apparel of any kind will be tolerated.
2. CHOIR ROBES: The Stanberry Choir robes are to be treated with utmost care. When not being worn, they are to be neatly hung inside the Choir garment bags and placed in the Choir closet. Any mistreatment of a robe on the part of a student will result in detention/written assignment, and the student paying for any necessary cleaning, pressing, repair, or replacement (approximately \$150) of the choir robe.
3. POLO SHIRTS: The Stanberry Choir polo shirts will be issued to each choir student to be used for special events throughout the year. Students will be held accountable for the replacement cost of any shirt that is lost or damaged (approximately \$50).
4. SOLOS: Concert solos will be awarded on an audition basis.

Choir Performance Attire

1. Students will wear SHS Choir robes and stoles for the Winter Concert.
2. Students are responsible for acquiring and wearing black dress pants, black socks, and closed toe black dress shoes with less than a 2" heel with choir robes. A school appropriate collar-less shirt should be worn beneath the robes. NO PART OF THE NAKED FOOT SHOULD BE VISIBLE.
3. Khaki pants, A BELT, brown/black closed toe shoes, and the Choir polo shirt will be worn for Veterans' Day, District & State Solo/Ensemble Contest, the Spring Concert, and other events as announced. POLO SHIRTS MUST BE TUCKED IN AND AN UNDERSTATED BELT MUST BE WORN. Again, no part of the naked foot should be visible in this attire.
4. No tongue or lip piercings are allowed at performances.
5. Limit jewelry. Nothing too flashy or distracting.
6. Hair shall not cover any student's eyes. It must be worn short or pulled back so that eyes and facial features are clearly visible.

Choir Information Sheet

Student Information

Name	
Grade Level	
Cell Phone #	
Class Schedule	Pride Time:
	1 st Hour:
	2 nd Hour:
	3 rd Hour:
	4 th Hour:
	5 th Hour:
	6 th Hour:
	7 th Hour:

Parent Information

Parents' Names	
Cell Phone #	
Email	

Through the signatures below, you acknowledge that have read, understand, and support the rules and policies set forth in the SHS Choir Handbook

Student Signature & Date	
Parent Signature & Date	