

# **St. Clair Concert Choir Handbook**

## *Class Requirements*

1. Punctual attendance and active participation in all rehearsals, sectionals, concert performances, etc.
2. Completion of all voice tests, written assignments & tests/quizzes, and scale & sight-singing evaluations.
3. Completion of at least THREE individual voice lessons each quarter.
4. Active participation in the local solo/ensemble contest.
5. Successful completion of a final test or project to be given at the end of each semester or school year.

## *Class Goals – For Students to...*

1. Increase their musical knowledge and vocal skills.
2. Experience/learn choral music that represents a wide variety of historical periods, styles, & cultures.
3. Develop healthy vocal habits and the self-confidence necessary for them to sing as a soloist.
4. Increase the enjoyment of music listening for themselves and their audiences.
5. For students to develop the selfless & respectful attitudes necessary for successful active participation in a choral ensemble.

*“The Quest to Be the Best We Can Be”* involves:

- **Commitment**
- **Integrity**
- **Respect**
- **Excellence** and
- **FUN**

## *Performance Schedule*

The calendar for performances is set at the beginning of the school year to allow students and parents ample opportunity to plan ahead. **All students AND parents are expected to make plans such that they can be present for all performances.** The instructor will make every effort to give students at least two weeks notice of any changes or additions to the schedule. Excused absences may include family conflicts, sickness, church conflicts, and conflicts with other school activities. However, every effort should be made to ensure students are at all performances. Students who have an excused absence will be given make-up assignments to earn points missed for a performance/rehearsal. **CONFLICTS WITH WORK SCHEDULES ARE NOT CONSIDERED EXCUSED AND POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED!! NO MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENT WILL BE ALLOWED!!**

**The 2015-2016 schedule is as follows:**

*Homecoming Coronation*

**Sunday, September 27 @ 6:00pm**

**Required Choir Performance**

*MSU Choir Festival*

Thursday, November 5

Selected Singers Only

*Veteran's Day*

Wednesday, November 11; 1<sup>st</sup> Hour

**Required Choir Performance**

*Holiday Choral Concert: 5-12 Choir*

Monday, December 14; 7:00pm

Warm-ups begin at 6:00pm

*Dorian Vocal Festival*

January 10-11, 2016

Selected Singers Only

*Band/Choir Contest Concert*

Monday, February 29; 7:00pm

Warm-ups begin at 5:45pm

**Required Choir Performance**

*Region 2A Large Group Contest*

Monday, March 7 @ Waseca

**Required Choir Performance AND**

*Local Solo/Ensemble Contest*

Monday, March 7; 4:00-8:00pm

Warm Up on your own before

*Region 2A Solo/Ensemble Contest*

**Saturday, April 16 @ MSU**

Selected Singers Only

*Senior Awards Night*

Date TBD

Senior Performances

*JOINT 5-12 Band & Choir Spring Concert*

Friday, May 13 @ **8:00pm**

Warm-ups begin at TBD

*Graduation*

Sunday, June 5; 2:00pm

**Required Choir Performance**

## Grading Procedures

Students will be given points for virtually everything they do during a grading period (a quarter). At the end of the grading period the points earned will be totaled and the grade determined on a percentage basis. In addition, the instructor reserves the right to take the student's behavior and attitude into account when determining the final grade. Points will be awarded in the following manner:

Daily Rehearsal Participation: Students may earn up to 5 points for attendance at daily classroom rehearsals. Points are multiplied by 2 when entered into the JMC grade book and are given as follows

- 5 = **Outstanding Effort;** ready to go at the start of posture alignment, always a positive example.
- 4 = **Good Effort;** ready to go at the start of class, usually an active participant, usually has a pencil, usually demonstrates proper posture, usually a positive example.
- 3 = **Average Effort;** Needs to be reminded to get ready, participates with group, needs to be reminded to use pencil, needs to be reminded to use better posture, follows class rules.
- 2 = **Poor Effort;** Late to class, low level participation, rarely uses pencil, poor posture, does not follow class rules.
- 1 = **No Effort;** no participation, disruptive.
- 0 = **Absent;** student is not in class.

In addition the following attendance guidelines will apply:

1. Unexcused absences from class will result in a loss of points as per school policy each grading period.
2. Students who are tardy may lose up to three points per tardy. In addition, students who exceed three tardies in a quarter will lose 1% of their overall grade per tardy, and will be referred for Saturday detention as per school policy
3. If a student is removed from rehearsal for disciplinary reasons, he/she will lose all points for that period.

Concert Participation: Attendance at concert performances is a firm requirement. Up to 100 points may be earned for each concert performance.

Extra Rehearsals: Extra rehearsals are sometimes necessary for concert performances. Up to 50 points may be earned for each extra rehearsal. Extra rehearsals will generally take place during the school day.

Voice Lessons: Students are required to attend a minimum of three voice lessons each quarter. Student may earn up to 33 points for each lesson. Extra credit may be given to those students who attend all of their regular scheduled lessons each quarter.

Practice Log Time: **Beginning 2nd quarter**, each student will be required to practice at least 30 minutes outside of class each week. One point per minute will be earned. The student will be given a log sheet to record practice time on, which must be signed by a parent/guardian and turned in on the due date each week in order to receive credit. (Maximum of 60)

Voice Tests/Part Checks/Scales/Sight-Singing Proficiency Tests: Students will be evaluated at the end of the 4th quarter regarding their vocal skills. They may be asked to demonstrate their proficiency on their scales/sight-singing skills, and by singing portions of the music they have been rehearsing with the choir.

Assignments and/or Tests: Students will periodically be given written assignments and/or other tests covering things like music terminology, scales, melodic and rhythmic dictation, etc.

**Final Grade Breakdown:** The final grade will reflect the following:

- 30% - Daily Rehearsal Participation Points
- 20% - Voice Lessons
- 30% - Vocal and/or Written Tests and/or Assignments & Practice Log Time
- 20% - Concert Participation & Extra Rehearsals

**QUESTIONABLE ABSENCE FROM ANY ACTIVITY DUE TO ILLNESS, FAMILY EMERGENCY, OR OTHER UNFORESEEN AND UNCONTROLLABLE CIRCUMSTANCES WILL BE DISCUSSED BY THE INVOLVED STUDENT, INSTRUCTOR, PARENT(S), AND ADMINISTRATION TO DETERMINE WHAT/IF MAKE-UP WORK WILL BE ALLOWED OR ASSIGNED.**

## *Classroom Expectations & Guidelines*

1. Be in your assigned seat with folder when the bell rings. Deviation in this will result in a tardy.
2. Bring all the needed materials to class.
3. Have a pencil in your folder at all times and USE IT!
4. No GUM, CANDY, POP or FOOD allowed in the choir room!!
5. Sit in your assigned seat and remain seated during the class period. NO ONE will be allowed to leave the room without having a signed pass from an authorized staff member.
6. Develop a “listening” attitude.
7. Take pride in respecting your classmates, director, and school property.
8. **Profanity of any sort will not be tolerated and may result in the immediate dismissal from the classroom!**
9. Wait to be dismissed by the teacher at the end of the period. You are expected to remain in the choir room and/or your seat until the bell rings, or Mrs. Bennett dismisses you! **If Mrs. Bennett ends class early to rehearse with a smaller section or group, students are expected to remain in the music room hallway.** Failure to do so will result in a discipline referral to the office.
10. NETBOOKS will only be out and used in class when Mrs. Bennett authorizes. Emails will be sent to students in advance if a student needs their NETBOOK for choir. For all other times, NETBOOKS should not be in choir!!!
11. Cell Phones are not to be used under ANY circumstance. If you have a cell phone on your person, it must be **turned off** and placed in the “Cell Phone Basket” when you enter the room. Failure to do so may result in detention, confiscation of your phone, and/or other disciplinary action as per school policy.
12. Ipods or other listening devices are NOT TO BE USED, unless you obtain permission from the instructor. Misuse or abuse of this privilege WILL result in the confiscation of your listening device, and NO ONE will be allowed to use listening devices for the remainder of the current semester.
13. Choir Time is not Social Time. You are expected to participate, and conduct yourself in a respectful manner at all times. Failure to do so may result in detention, and/or other disciplinary action as per school policy and discretion of the teacher.
14. Your choir folder and everything in it are to be considered the same as a text book. If folder and/or folder contents are lost or damaged beyond reasonable wear and tear, **you will be responsible for the cost to replace them.**
15. Content in the Concert Choir and Junior High Choir Handbooks, as well as the information on this page may be altered at any time as per discretion of Mrs. Bennett.

## **Cheating**

In the Choral Department, cheating will be defined as copying another student’s work on written assignments/exams or depending on another student when asked to sing independently. If cheating, a student’s grade will be lowered as per school policy.

## **Make-Up Assignments**

Make-up assignments are available and can be used by students to make-up lessons, sectionals, or assignments that must be unavoidably missed. Make-up assignments may include reports on composers, arrangers, or other music related articles, analyses of music and/or text, listening, worksheets, etc. Make-up projects must be approved in advance (if at all possible) by the instructor and completed within two weeks of the missed or incomplete activities/assignments unless other arrangements are made. **Make-up assignments will not be given for unexcused absences!!!**