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## **CHORAL ENSEMBLE COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Staley High School Choral Program are to:

- Teach students the proper singing techniques for choral ensembles.
- Explore a variety of musical literature.
- Encourage cooperation, responsibility and respect through group participation in the learning and performance of finished musical products.

## **GRADING POLICY**

Each student in the choral ensemble will receive a composite grade based on the following distribution:

- 50% Attendance at Rehearsals and Performances

Graded by Percentage

Unexcused absence from a performance could result in dropping one letter grade.

- 50% Behavior, Attitude and Contribution Graded by Descriptive Commentary

**Important Note:** Mr. Resseguie's planning period is third block on A days and fourth block on B days. Please call him during this time with any questions at (816) 321-5979. Mr. Resseguie's email is: [tracy.resseguie@nkcschools.org](mailto:tracy.resseguie@nkcschools.org).

**LETTERING POLICY**

\*You need 32 points to letter

**YEARS IN CHOIR AT SHS**

Four years (8) \_\_\_\_\_ Three years (6) \_\_\_\_\_ Two Years (4) \_\_\_\_\_ One Year (2) \_\_\_\_\_

**YEARS LETTERED IN CHOIR**

(Including this year) \_\_\_\_\_

**DISTRICT/STATE EVENTS**

State Large Group Rating of 1 (10 pts per choir) \_\_\_\_\_

MMEA District Choir (3) \_\_\_\_\_ MMEA State Choir (5) \_\_\_\_\_

District Solo (5 for II, 10 for I) \_\_\_\_\_ District Ensemble (5 for II, 10 for I) \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICERS**

President (5) \_\_\_\_\_ Vice-President (5) \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary/Treasurer (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Librarian/Robes (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Section Leader (7) \_\_\_\_\_

**MUSICAL**

Lead (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Cast (5) \_\_\_\_\_ Audition (2) \_\_\_\_\_

**EMERALD CITY**

Auditions in class (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Solo (5) \_\_\_\_\_

**SUMMER ACTIVITIES (2)**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**PRIVATE VOICE LESSONS (7) \_\_\_\_\_**

Students must take a minimum of 6 months or 20 lessons per year to qualify for points.

To receive points for participation in a concert or some type of production outside of school, turn in programs for points to be awarded. Performances during the school year do not count.

1<sup>st</sup> Year to letter? (Yes/No) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_

You need 32 points to letter.

Number of Years Lettered in Choir (including this year) \_\_\_\_\_

## ATTENDANCE

Rehearsals are a unique, combined group phenomenon that cannot be re-created. Similarly, the performance is the sole purpose of rehearsals and participation is a class requirement. Regular attendance is critical to the success of the individual in this class as well as the ensemble itself. The student's attendance percentage will be obtained using the number of rehearsals/performances attended and the total number scheduled for the ensemble. Due to the special nature of each performance ensemble, the following stipulations apply:

## REHEARSALS

**Participation points:** Students will receive participation points for every rehearsal they attend and in which they demonstrate the optimum level of participation. Because of the performance nature of this class, absences will impact the other elements of the student's composite grade. Rehearsals cannot be "made-up".

**Frequent Absences:** Missing a rehearsal seriously impairs the student's ability to perform and robs the group of the student's input. Students missing more than 5 rehearsals per quarter will, therefore, not receive credit for that performance. *Special circumstances must be discussed with the teacher by a parent.*

**Tardiness:** Students arriving late to class are expected to carry a pass according to school policy. Students are expected to use the restroom between classes and arrive to class on time and ready to sing. The district policy regarding tardies will be followed strictly. Excessive tardies will result in disciplinary action and will impact the student's grade.

**Dress Rehearsals:** Because many performances are the combined effort of various personnel and ensembles, it is often necessary to call special rehearsals outside of the school day. These are mandatory.

## PERFORMANCES

**Weight:** Performances count as the equivalent of ten rehearsals in the attendance percentage grade.

**Scheduling:** All major performances are listed in the school calendar and in the back of this handbook. It is the students' responsibility to adapt their schedules to the calendar to eliminate conflicts with performance dates. Additional performances may be scheduled or moved, parents and students will be notified of changes to the performance calendar.

Parents and students are asked to please avoid scheduling appointments during class time during the week preceding and the week of a concert. These rehearsal times are critical for our students, both individually and as a group. All concert dates are on our calendar, both in this handbook, and on our website, [www.staleychoirs.com](http://www.staleychoirs.com). Please plan accordingly.

**Excused Absences:** If a student is excused from a performance, the attendance points will not be applied against the attendance grade. The following "special circumstances" qualify for an excused absence from a performance:

- Prolonged illness requiring the care of a physician.
- Illness that prevents the student from attending school the day of the performance.
- Family emergencies, accidents, or sudden illness.

**\*\*Please call Mr. Resseguie as soon as possible to notify him of the absence!**

**Unexcused Absences:** The following events are unexcused and will result in a penalty:

- Work conflict with a part-time job.
- Family vacation.
- Non-emergency medical or dental appointments.
- Rehearsals/practice for extra-curricular events.

All of these can be worked out if you call in advance. It is very difficult to plan on your student and find out a day or two before the concert that they are unable to attend. Please have your student talk to me well in advance.

### **STATE LARGE GROUP FESTIVAL (held in the spring)**

This festival is held on a Saturday, typically in April. This performance is worth 200 points.

**ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE – NO EXCEPTIONS.**

### **BEHAVIOR, ATTITUDE AND CONTRIBUTION EFFORT AND COURTESY**

Because of the production focus of the choral ensembles, students are required to give their best individual performances each day. Students are expected to demonstrate proper rehearsal decorum at all times and to give appropriate consideration and respect to their peers and their instructor and accompanist. Students will exercise this type of courtesy at all types of artistic performances, whether peer or public.

### **USE OF PROPERTY AND FACILITIES**

**Music:** Students are responsible for the condition and the location of their music folders and scores. Students will be assigned a numbered folder at the beginning of the year. All music that is in that folder will have the corresponding number. If there is music missing from the folders, the student will be responsible for replacing all missing music. If the entire folder is missing, the student will be responsible for both the cost of the music and the replacement cost of the leather folder.

**Robes:** Students in Varsity Choir, Chansonettes and Falcon Chorale are assigned a numbered robe and a stole at the beginning of the year. Students will take the robe home and are responsible for wearing it and the stole to each concert. Parents and students are required to sign a robe contract, acknowledging receipt of the robe and their understanding of the cleaning/return policy. After state music festival, each student is required to dry clean his/her robe and return it to the choral music office with the dry cleaning receipt attached (stole and hanger are to be returned with the robe). Stoles may be laundered at home or dry-cleaned with the robe.

Students not returning robes dry-cleaned at the end of the year will have an obligation of \$400. Seniors who have not returned robes will not receive their diplomas until the robe is returned (dry-cleaned) or until \$400 has been paid to the Staley High School office to replace the missing robe and stole.

**Food, Beverages and Gum:** Students are not allowed to bring candy, food or drinks into the choral music classroom, with the exception of water in clear plastic containers with lids. Gum chewing prevents proper use of the vocal mechanism and is not allowed.

### **REHEARSAL RULES**

The following is a summary of correct classroom behavior for the choral ensemble rehearsal.

## ATTITUDE

This is the single most important element in the behavior portion of the student's grade.

A student's attitude is reflected in body language and attentiveness, as well as in adherence to rehearsal procedures. Attitude is most apparent in a student's facial expression. Since facial expression is paramount to correct vocal technique, a student must learn to use appropriate facial animation in all singing applications. Facial expression will not only give students a better tone and clearer diction, it will help put more emotion and expression in the music. This will allow the choirs to more effectively communicate the musical interpretation to the audience or judges.

## POSTURE

**Singing:** Whenever students are asked to sing in rehearsal, they must assume the correct posture.

**Sitting:** On the edge of the chair with back straight and ribcage high to facilitate proper breathing. Music held high at shoulder level.

**Standing:** Feet shoulder width apart with body weight equally distributed and slightly forward on balls of the feet. Ribcage is high, shoulders relaxed, and head is up with chin parallel to the floor. Arms are relaxed at the sides. Music at shoulder level.

**Note:** If you are not using correct posture, you are not singing correctly. Slouching, leaning, resting with hands in pockets, etc. affects your ability to make a proper sound.

It also reflects poor attitude and diminishes your ability to concentrate.

**NOT SINGING:** Whenever a section is not singing, students may relax and sit comfortably toward the back of their chair. This time is to be used in the *quiet* study of the score, by memorizing words, mentally reviewing the part and listening to become aware of the other vocal parts. Talking is not allowed. It interferes with the momentum by interrupting other singers and wastes music study time.

## MUSIC REHEARSAL

Once rehearsal of a piece of music has begun, only the Conductor and Accompanist may talk.

Rehearsals must move quickly, and students cannot afford to miss a single direction. Students should direct all questions to the Conductor. DO NOT ask your neighbor. Not only will you cause a disturbance, but they may not know the correct answer. Listeners are as guilty as talkers in rehearsal disturbances. If a constant talker bothers you, talk to Mr. Resseguie.

When the rehearsal of a piece of music is over and you are asked to get out the next piece, you may relax briefly.

## **GROUP SINGING TESTS**

Students will be tested each quarter in a small group setting, such as a mixed quartet or trio, so the Director may have a better idea of an individual's musical contributions to daily rehearsals. Students may be called on at any time to demonstrate their growth through solo or ensemble singing.

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

If a student does not comply with the stated rehearsal and/or classroom policies, the following steps will be taken:

- After-school detention with teacher.
- Phone call to parents to discuss the problem.
- Office referral, administrative action.

If the behavior persists, the student can expect permanent removal from the class.

## **DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND CIGARETTES**

**Policies on drugs, alcohol and cigarettes will be strictly enforced in all choral music classes and at all performances. This includes those performances at SHS as well as any outside the regular school day or off school property. During choir trips, students reflect on the reputation of Staley High School and its Choral Program. School rules and Missouri laws apply in all cases.**

In addition, it is strongly suggested that students gathering for "unofficial" choir parties at student homes, follow school and state regulations relating to drugs and alcohol. Parents hosting groups of choir students are requested not to serve alcohol or allow the consumption of alcohol at official or unofficial choir gatherings.

## **CHORAL PLACEMENT**

All incoming freshmen will be placed in the Concert Choir. All other choirs will be determined through the audition process. Generally once students are placed in a choir, they may enroll in that choir again the following year unless they have not followed the rules in this handbook. Returning Chamber Singers will need to re-audition. Choir placement does not follow a "natural progression". After a year in Concert Choir, it is up to the Director to place students in the other choirs. As in all stages of development, some voices need longer to develop than others. An additional year in one choir does not reflect poorly on the ultimate ability or enthusiasm of the singer. Pushing a voice that is not ready for more difficult work can damage the voice, possibly causing permanent harm. Placement will involve formal auditions, random solo and small group singing, attendance, participation and attitude. When final placement results are posted, it is the **final decision**. It is inappropriate and unethical to question placement decisions. You may, however, discuss with the Director ways to improve for future auditions. Placement is a difficult process. The SHS Choral Department makes the best decisions and placements it can.

## **AUDITIONS FOR CHOIRS**

The audition for choir placement is an ongoing process from the first day of class through formal auditions during second semester. Students wishing to audition for Chamber Singers must have followed all the rules in this handbook and attended all performances. They must enroll in Chamber Singers and be in Falcon Chorale.

## **CONCERT ATTIRE**

Choir members should not wear perfumes or scented after-shave lotions for performances. Deodorants should be unscented or have a light scent. Students will be standing close together during concerts and strong scents can provoke allergies or nausea under the hot stage lights.

- Men: Black dress pants, black dress shoes, and black dress socks. Black long-sleeved dress shirts with a PLAIN (no design) black tie.
- Women: Black dress, knee length or longer, and black character shoes. No stockings. (Black character shoes may be purchased at the Dance Shoppe on Englewood Road, a discount may be applied if the student identifies herself as a Staley High School choir member).

## **FALCON CHORALE, CHANSONETTES (Women's Chorus), and VARSITY**

**CHOIR (Men's Chorus)** wear choir robes and stoles provided by the school. For a uniform appearance, choir members are expected to wear the concert attire underneath their robes.

- **CHAMBER SINGERS** are responsible for the purchase of their performance attire. Men wear black tuxedos and white shirts to performances with matching vests and ties. Black patent shoes and dress socks should be worn. Women wear formal dresses, matching jewelry and shoes. Every effort is taken to keep costs down. The cost runs between \$200 and \$250 for the complete outfit.



**STALEY HIGH SCHOOL  
2022-2023 VOCAL MUSIC CALENDAR**

**Tuesday, October 4** – Footloose Auditions, after school, Choir Room

**Thursday, October 20** – 5:30p dress rehearsal, 7p Fall Concert, PAC  
(ALL CHOIRS)

**Thursday, October 27** – 6:30p dress rehearsal, 7p Feeder Concert, PAC  
(FALCON CHORALE, POTENTIALLY OTHER CHOIRS)

**Thursday, November 17 and Saturday, November 19** – Footloose PERFORMANCES, 7p  
(FOOTLOOSE PARTICIPANTS)

**Tuesday, November 22** – Chipotle Tour, all day  
(ALL MEN)

**Thursday, December 8** – New Mark Holiday Concert, 7p, New Mark Middle School PAC  
(CHAMBER CHOIR ONLY)

**Thursday, December 15** – 5p dress rehearsal, 7p Holiday Concert, PAC  
(TREBLE CHOIR, BASS CHOIR, AND CHORALE ONLY)

**Tuesday, February 28** – NKC A Cappella Fest 10:00, PAC  
(FALCON CHORALE)

**Thursday, March 2** -5:30p dress rehearsal, 7p Pre-Festival Concert, PAC  
(ALL CHOIRS)

**Wednesday, March 8 and Thursday, March 9** – State Large Group, all day  
(ALL CHOIRS)

**Friday, March 16 through Friday, March 24 (Spring Break)** –Chorale Let Me Listen Tour  
(FALCON CHORALE)

**Monday, May 8 through Friday, May 12** – Emerald City Week  
(ALL CHOIRS)

SHS CHORAL MUSIC CONTRACT (please print legibly)

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Cell Phone (Student): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Information:

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

\*The purpose of the cell phone information is so that I can communicate with you when the need arises. For example: if a concert would be canceled due to bad weather, I could send out a group text message and keep you informed.

Choir members and parents who have social media accounts are asked to follow @StaleyChoirs on Facebook and Instagram and @Singing\_Falcon on Twitter. Updates will be sent on these accounts throughout the year.

**Your signature below acknowledges the following:**

We have read the SHS Choral Music Handbook and Grading Policies. We understand the class requirements and evaluation procedures that will advance the achievement and assessment of the course objectives. We agree to follow these course guidelines and will support the employment of all rewards and penalties which may apply to the final grade product.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_