

Tri-City School District

Choir Handbook

Jr. High Choir & Sr. High Choir
2010-2011

Welcome to the **Tri-City School District Choral Department!**

Quality literature and dedicated singers will create the success of our vocal music department at Tri-City. **Many individual strengths in music combine to create a great ensemble.** For the success of this group, each member should contribute an individual voice, positive attitude, and solid commitment.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide information for you and your parents about the vocal music program at Tri-City. Please read the handbook and show the handbook to your parents. The last page of the handbook is a contract. Please print your name legibly where it asks for *student name*, sign your name on the *student signature* line, and have your parent/guardian sign and date the *parent/guardian signature* line.

Returning the signed and dated signature page by next **Friday, September 3** communicates your understanding of and compliance with all of the information in this packet. It also communicates your parent's agreement to support the implementation of the information in this packet.

Place your copy of this handbook in your assigned folder. Students who have their handbook in their folder at the end of the school year will receive extra credit. The administration will also have a copy of the handbook on file in the office.

Music is a lifelong skill that will be with you whenever you choose to use it. It is great to have you on board. Together we can shoot for the best, work as a team, provide support for each other, and keep communication lines open. The added bonus is a terrific musical experience.

Sincerely,

Rachel Ventress
Choral Director

Tri-City School District Choral Department

A public education must allow students to build a personal identity and self-confidence while learning. It must nurture creativity and productivity. A high quality choral program can contribute substantially to the achievement of these goals.

Basic musical aptitude and sincere interest are regarded as prime factors for membership in a musical ensemble. Every student enrolled will be expected to participate in the performances and activities of the choral program.

Goals

1. To provide, promote, and encourage interest and participation in choral music
2. To promote the development of good vocal technique
3. To increase musical literacy, skill, and knowledge
4. To foster confidence and self-esteem through creative expression
5. To instill the value of effort, cooperation, self-discipline, and dedication
6. To raise student awareness of many types of musical genres and their contributions to the music we have today
7. To best serve the interests of the students, school, and community while upholding high musical and artistic standards

Classroom Rules

1. Enter room correctly
2. Always participate
3. Follow all directions
4. Do not interrupt our learning

Expectations of a Choir Member

1. Students are expected to be prepared.
 - a. Be in your seat with your folder and pencil when the bell rings.
 - b. Prepare to sing with good posture.
 - c. Remain quiet until you are asked to sing.
2. Students are responsible for music and folder maintenance.
 - a. Take care of your assigned folder and its contents.
 - b. Your folder should not be written on for any reason.
 - c. If any music or folders are damaged or lost, students will be assessed the replacement cost of those items.
3. Students are responsible for music equipment and facilities
 - a. No gum, food, or candy in the choir room
 - b. No classroom equipment or technology should be used without permission from the director
 - c. Respect all school and personal property
4. Students are responsible for attending class, all performances and all choral activities.
 - a. Unexcused absences *will* result in grade reductions (see grading policy for details).
 - b. It is the students' responsibility to consult the teacher for any required make-up work for *any excused or unexcused* absence.
5. Students are expected to follow all Tri-City School District Rules at all times, on or off campus. **All cell phones out during class will be confiscated. Use of cell phones during class will result in a detention.**

Grading Policy

The following grading policy has been established to clarify how credit for this course is earned.

- I. Numerical values for letter grades as set by the district
 - A=93-100
 - B=85-92
 - C=78-84
 - D=70-77
 - F=69 or below

- II. Grade Breakdown
 - a. 50% Daily Class Attendance and Participation
 - b. 25% Choir activities and assignments in and out of class
 - c. 25% Performances

- III. Daily Class Attendance and Participation
 - a. Each week the student has the opportunity to earn 10 points toward a participation grade.
 - b. Those 10 points are earned and maintained by following the expectations of a choir member as started on the previous page.
 - c. Points will be taken from the student for the negligence of those expectations following a verbal warning from the director.
 - d. Points will be deducted for the following:
 1. Unexcused tardy
 2. No music/folder
 3. Music/folder left out after class
 4. Personal discipline
 5. Unexcused absence

Note: All deductions will be doubled if documented by a substitute teacher.

- IV. **Choir Activities and Assignments**
 - a. **Rehearsal Quizzes are given every other Friday. There are worth 10 points and will cover anything covered in class that week. Excused absences throughout the week will not be held against you on these quizzes.**

- b. **Memory Quizzes will be occasionally given in preparation for a concert. Memorization is an important part of the performance process and these quizzes are intended to provide an incentive for accomplishing that part of the process.**
- c. **3rd quarter Master Class Unit**
 - i. **Solo and Ensemble performances**
 - ii. **Composer Report**
 - iii. **Peer Critiques**
 - iv. **Personal Performance Reflection**

V. Performances

- a. **The dates for the choir performances are October 21, December 17, and May 19.**
- b. **All performances must be attended. A zero will be given for an unexcused absence. The dates for these performances are October 21, December 17, and May 19.**
 - i. Serious student illness, family matters, and school conflicts may be considered to receive an excused absence.
 - ii. Two weeks notice must be given to the director in order to receive an excused absence for any non-emergency conflict.
 - iii. A signed note from a parent/guardian is required for the consideration of an excused absence. (In the case of personal illness, a note from the doctor is required as well.)
 - iv. The final decision of the excusal of any absence is at the discretion of the director. All absences will be handled on a case-by-case basis
- c. If a student misses a performance for any reason, he/she will be given a written assignment due one week following the absence.
 - i. It is the responsibility of the student to come to the director for this assignment.
 - ii. Failure to complete this assignment will result in a zero.

Discipline

The following discipline actions will be taken in the event that any student chooses to not meet the expectations outlined in the previous pages.

First offense: verbal warning

Second offense: point deduction from class participation grade

Third offense: 1 detention

Fourth Offense: 2 detentions and parent notification

Fifth or Serious Offense: Office Referral

Performance Attire

Our formal concert attire is black and white. All choir members will be expected to wear an appropriate white top and black bottom for our formal concerts in December and May.

GENTLEMEN SHOULD WEAR:

1. White dress shirt
2. Black tie
3. Black pants (no jeans)
4. Black socks
5. Black shoes

LADIES SHOULD WEAR:

1. Black blouse or sweater
2. Black skirt or slacks (no jeans)
3. Black dress shoes
4. Black pantyhose or socks
5. Black pantyhose or socks (I mean it!)

Ladies MUST wear black hose or socks REGARDLESS of skirt or pant-length! A deduction in the performance grade will be taken for those not following the approved dress code.

Choral Contract

I, (student name), understand all the information in this handbook. I will abide by the outlined expectations and rules to the best of my ability and understand that my failure to do so will result in the consequences explained in this packet of information.

Student Signature _____

Date _____

I, (parent/guardian name), understand all the information in this handbook. I will support the discipline plan and grading policy found within it and understand that my child is expected to meet the expectations outlined in this packet of information.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

I, Rachel Ventress, will implement the policies found within this handbook fairly and objectively. My main goal in upholding the outlined rules and expectations will always be to provide a safe learning environment for all students so that they may reach their full potential while in my classroom.

Teacher Signature _____

Date _____