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# JEFFERSON CAVALIERS

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## Choir Handbook 2023 - 2024

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## **Mission Statement**

The Jefferson High School Choir program's mission is to be a place for anyone who loves to sing, dance, and be a part of the family that we create. Choir will always be a community that is welcoming to all. Through choir, students will gain music literacy skills, understand musical expression, and discover how to be life-long participants in an artistic community.

## **Program Objectives**

1. **Vocal Technique** - developing each singer's talent to the fullest, expanding upon basic knowledge of the voice and learning how to use the body to produce the best tone quality which results in confidence and poise.
2. **Music Theory** - teaching the rudiments of music-reading so that graduates may continue use of developed skills beyond high school (college, community, church choirs, theater, etc.).
3. **Discipline** - encouraging self-discipline, motivation and a drive for excellence.
4. **Teamwork** - nurturing a supportive and safe environment for each individual to thrive and be successful; it is when all feel safe and supported that we can then be selfless enough to support the greater good. It cannot be required to like everything about everyone, but it is required to respect each other.
5. **Music History** - teaching basic music history through repertoire appreciation. Students learn to appreciate the music of many time periods and cultures.

## Concert Attendance Policy

Concert attendance is *required*, and *will* impact grades. Consider each concert a “final exam” for all the studies introduced each quarter.

If a student knows they are going to miss a performance, they must communicate the absence by emailing the directors in a timely manner (two weeks preferred). Examples of excused absences are: serious illness, death in the family, or family emergency. Non-school trips, camping, shopping, etc. are NOT considered excused. Please be prepared to provide documentation for any excused absence at the director’s discretion. Communication of the absence must be made to the directors. If no communication is forthcoming, the absence will automatically be considered unexcused.

If an absence is unexcused, the student will NOT have an opportunity to make up the points, and they will receive a zero. If an absence is excused, the student will have an opportunity to make up the points.

In order to participate in activities at JHS, each student must have passed at least four (4) classes during the previous semester and must not have drug, alcohol, or other activity violations. Each student represents Jefferson High School during any activity and must demonstrate acceptable behavior as a student AND as a citizen.

Two weeks prior to a performance, all participants must satisfy at least a 70% rehearsal attendance rate in order to perform. If attendance does not meet or exceed 70% the student may be asked to perform the concert material for the director before being allowed to perform. If the student is not allowed to perform because they are not familiar with the material, they must make up the concert points by completing two concert makeup assignments.

## Concert Make-Up Requirements (excused absences ONLY)

Concert point recovery is only available to students who have gotten a pre-approved, excused concert absence. To make up points, students must sing excerpts of their music in front of the directors/class AND write a two-page paper.

1. Singing Requirements - the student must schedule a time to sing excerpts from their concert music *by memory*. Students will sing in a quartet/octet as needed per piece.
  - a. Mixed chorus students will sing in front of the directors.
  - b. Chorale and Concert Choir students will sing in front of the directors, and their class.
2. Write a two page (double space, times new roman, size 12) paper about either a piece that was sung at the concert, or a concert review of a high school or collegiate choir.
  - a. Paper on a Piece - write a two page paper on one of the pieces your choir sang at the concert. You must include:
    - i. The title and genre of the piece
    - ii. Details about the composer
    - iii. The meaning of the piece
    - iv. What you like and dislike about the piece

- b. Concert Review - write a two page concert review on a high school or college choir concert (must provide the program to document attendance). You must include:
  - i. Two things that impressed you
  - ii. Two things that the groups could work on
  - iii. What piece was your favorite and *why*

## **Concert Dress**

All choir members will wear choir robes (from the school) for formal concerts. Before each concert, students will check out their assigned robe. After the concert, students must return their robe to the robe room, hang up their robe, zip up the robe, and return the robe and stole to the correct place on the rack.

Underneath the robe, the following will be worn:

1. A dark color (black or forest green preferred) lightweight t-shirt or blouse with NO HIGH COLLAR. (Should not stick out the top of the robe around your neck.)
2. Black dress pants, long black skirt/dress, or dressy leggings with black socks or tights/nylons. No skin should be seen - we should only see black fabric between the shoe and the robe.
3. Black dress shoes: close-toed, flats, and up to a 1.5" wide heel are acceptable. No clogs, sandals, flip-flops, casual or work boots, or platforms will be accepted. Shoes should be SOLID black. No accent colors, white sole, etc.

At all performances, hair should be styled/placed out of the students' eyes in a professional manor. No bows, ribbons, or barrettes. All hair clips and accessories should be discreet and blend with the hair color.

Jewelry should be worn under the uniform or removed before the performance. All earrings should be small hoops or studs and not distracting.

Please shower before the concert/performance and put on deodorant. No cologne, perfume or excessive hair spray. You will likely be standing for the entire concert; and under stage lights, any odors/smells (even the good ones) will be magnified and can become overwhelming.

Your robe is your concert dress. Once your robe is on, the robe should always be zipped up with your stole in place. Once your robe is on, you need to stay in the assigned choir area. The audience should not see you until you walk on stage.

Students who are not properly dressed for the concert will not be allowed to perform and grades will be impacted.

## Rehearsal Expectations

1. Be on time! (On time is late, early is on time, and late is...)
2. Cell phone away
3. Rehearse appropriately
  - a. Proper posture and technique
  - b. Address teacher properly
  - c. Follow instructions
  - d. Do not talk excessively
  - e. Do not speak or make noise when the teacher is speaking.
  - f. Raise your hand if you have a question
  - g. Use school appropriate language
  - h. Do not mess around
4. Do not eat, drink, or chew gum in the classroom. Water is okay.
5. Bring your music
6. BRING A PENCIL

## Cell Phone Policy

Students will put their cell phone in their assigned folder slot at the beginning of class. If a student's cell phone is not in their folder slot, they will be counted absent from choir for that day. If a student does not have a cell phone, a parent/guardian should inform the directors via email.

## Grading Policies

We will grade in four categories: Music History, Music Theory, Music Performance (including concerts), and Class Work/Daily Assignments. As in every class, 15% of the overall semester grade will come from the semester test.

Once a grading window is closed, it is impossible for teachers to go back in and change grades for late work or missed performances. We are able to have the registrar go in and make the change. However, while the overall semester grade (and final grade) will reflect that change, it will not change the quarter grade as it appears in Infinite Campus.

## District Grading Scale

A - Excellent	90% - 100%
B - Above Average	80% - 89.9%
C - Average	70% - 79.9%
D - Below Average	60% - 69.9%
F - Failing	59.9% and below

## **Fundraising**

We ask that each student in a curricular choir try to raise \$100 each school year. This helps cover sheet music, clinicians, accompanists, busing and various expenses throughout the year. Students in show choir have additional fundraising targets that we ask them to reach. Any fundraising above and beyond the \$100 goal can go towards rotational travel and show choir costs.

We will offer various fundraisers throughout the year.

## Calendar

Date	Event	Time	Location
September 13, 2023	All State Chorus Auditions (Concert Choir only)	3:15p	JHS Choir Room
October 16, 2023	All State Prep Day (select Concert Choir students only)	ALL DAY	Augustana University
October 17, 2023	FALL CHOIR CONCERT	7:00p	JHS Auditorium
October 26-28, 2023	All State Chorus (select Concert Choir students only)	ALL DAYS	Rapid City, SD
November 28, 2023	Choir Booster Meeting	6:30p	JHS Choir Room
December 21, 2023	WINTER CHOIR CONCERT	7:00p	JHS Auditorium
February 27, 2024	Choir Booster Meeting	6:30p	JHS Choir Room
March 12, 2024	Solo/Ensemble Contest (select students from Mixed Chorus, all Chorale, all Concert Choir)	ALL DAY	Augustana University
March 23, 2024	Show Choir Auditions	ALL DAY	JHS Aux. Gym
March 28, 2024	SPRING CHOIR CONCERT	7:00p	JHS Auditorium
April 4-5, 2023	SD Honor Choir Auditions (current sophomore and juniors only)	ALL DAYS	Jefferson High School
May 14, 2024	FINAL CHOIR CONCERT & AWARDS	7:00p	JHS Auditorium