

Knightingales, Man Choir, Apprentice Singers

Springville Junior High Choir

Ms. Utrera (cheryl.utrera@nebo.edu)

Website: sjhschoir.org

Welcome to Choir! When you are in a choir, you are part of a musical team.

*If we all do our part, it will be a very exciting, fun-filled,
rewarding experience for all!*

THIS IS PERFORMANCE CLASS. OCCASIONALLY THERE WILL BE MANDATORY REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL DAY FOR WHICH ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED TO FULFILL GRADE REQUIREMENTS.

(See *Concerts* section and Concert Schedule below)

Materials needed: ½ or 1" binder with pockets, pencil

Objectives:

Choir students at SJHS will participate in a choral program that will develop basic musicianship skills in the following areas:

- Healthy singing habits and technical performance skills.
- Music literacy and sight singing skills
- Understanding and appreciation of music from a variety of styles, time periods and cultures
- Ability to evaluate both personal performance and the performance of others.

Classroom Policies and Guidelines

- Be on time, in your seat, with notebook or folder.
- No gum, food or drink. (A water bottle is allowed)
- Cell phones put in an assigned pocket of the cell phone holder in the front of the room.
- Follow directions and participate. Do not talk when when you should be singing or when Ms. Utrera is instructing.
- No teasing, bullying, or disrespectful behaviour. Period.
- Respect school property (piano, music, equipment, risers, etc.)
- Be positive! Be willing to try! Believe in yourself! You CAN Sing!
- All school and district policies will be followed.

Daily Attendance and Participation 30% of grade

Choir is a participation class. It is impossible to duplicate a rehearsal experience for students who are absent. Students are expected to attend class every day. Students are given 10 points each day for being on time, in class and fully participating. Tardies, lack of participation, and talking or other distracting behaviors will result in a reduction or loss of these points. **Participation points are not awarded when students are absent including excused absences.** Students are given three free absences per term. Long term illness or other extenuating circumstances will be worked out on a

case by case basis. Participation points that are lost due to absences can be made up by completing one of the following activities and filling out an *Absence Points Makeup* form:

1. Practice the music from class for 30 min. Students can do this on their own or by listening to the recordings on the website (sjhschoir.org) or youtube.
2. Watch an episode of the Tabernacle Choir broadcast. Episodes can be accessed on the website, sjhschoir.org, Homework/Make-up section. The purpose of the assignment is for students to learn from observing a choir in performance. They should watch for healthy singing habits and good choral technique. One episode = one class period.
3. Attend a **live** music concert or performance and complete an extra Live Music Performance Evaluation. One extra report can make up 2 absences. (See *Concert Reports* below for details)

Concerts - 50% of grade (See Concert Schedule Below)

Performing in the concert is a MANDATORY requirement. Not performing in the concert is the same as not taking a final. It's like being on a team and not showing up to play in the big game. **Any missed performance will have a significant effect on a student's grade (you will likely fail the class!)** Sports/Dance practice, lessons, church activities, etc are NOT valid reasons for missing a concert. **If an unavoidable conflict arises and a student needs to miss a performance, it must be cleared with me in advance with a note or email from a parent or guardian.** An alternate assignment must be completed to make up the missing points. The only exception to this would be for extreme emergencies such as sudden illness or other serious family emergency. If this happens, a parent or guardian must notify me through email or a phone call.

Assignments: 20% of grade

Most assignments will be done in class. The one main outside of class assignment is the Live Music Concert Evaluation. Here are the details.

TERM PROJECT ASSIGNMENT: Live Music Concert Evaluation - 50 pts

Each term, students are required to attend a live music performance, other than their own choir performance, and fill out a Live Music Concert Evaluation. The purpose of this assignment is for the student to experience live music as an evaluator and to practice being a good audience member. This fulfills one of the Utah State Choir Standards (Identify, analyze and evaluate strengths and weaknesses in live performances.) A qualifying performance can be school, university, church or community music performances which contain at least 30 minutes of LIVE music. This means the music is happening on the stage in front of you. Video and television performances do not count. Musical plays, band, orchestra and choir concerts, music recitals (not dance), are all acceptable. You cannot count a concert in which you are a performer. After attending the performance, the student must fill out an evaluation form. The evaluation forms are available on the choir website or in the classroom.

Use of Religious Music in the Choral Classroom

Choral music was originally designed for religious worship, beginning with plain-chant in the early Middle Ages. Today, much of the choral music we encounter still has a religious background attached to it. The singing of religious music does not promote any specific religion, however, as students experience music from a variety of times, cultures and styles, they will undoubtedly sing texts that may be religious in nature. It is my intent, to treat with honor and dignity, the singing of religious music. The separation of church and state will be fully practiced in the classroom.

Use of Videos, Movie Clips and Movies:

Occasionally an appropriate video, movie clip, or full-length movie (musicals) will be shown in class. These are screened carefully and used for educational purposes. The movies will all have a G or PG rating.

Communication & Website

The best way to communicate with me is through email. I will send reminders, updates on class progress and general information primarily through email. Parents, please provide a current email address with the signed disclosure document. If you do not have access to email, I will provide paper copies that students can pick up in the classroom. One of the best ways to get information is to go to the SJHS choir website (sjhschoir.org). My goal is to update it once a week so that the information is as current as possible. I am always happy to call you, or talk to you in person if you have any concerns or questions.

Concert Dress:

- **Apprentice Singers**
 - White Shirt (nice - no t-shirts)
 - Black Skirt - (at least knee length-no short skirts!)
 - Black Shoes (no flip-flops)
- **Knightingales:** The school has blue choir dresses for the students to rent. The fee for the rental is included in your choir fee paid at the beginning of the year. Students are expected to take care of the uniform and return it at the end of the year. Uniforms damaged or not returned will need to be paid for. Please fill in sizing information on the signature page. **Students provide their own black dress shoes.** No flip-flops or sandals.
- **Man Choir:** The school has blue choir shirts and ties for the students to use. The fee for the shirt rental is included in your choir fee paid at the beginning of the year. Students are expected to take care of the uniform and return it at the end of the semester or year. Uniforms damaged or not returned will need to be paid for. Please fill in sizing information on the signature page. **Students provide their own black dress pants and black dress shoes.**

Concert Schedule - put them on your calendar now!

- 1st Semester:

Oct 25 - 6:30 & 7:30 pm Fall Concert - All Choirs

December 19 - 6:30 & 7:30 pm Holiday/Christmas Concert - *All Choirs*

- Second Semester:

March 7th - 6:30 & 7:30 pm - Spring Concert - All Choirs

*March 14 - 9am - 12 - Intermediate Choir District Festival (During school)

May 21 - 5:30 pm End of Year Concert - All Choirs

**Please Note: Students are required to have good grades in all of their classes in order to participate in the District Festival. Students cannot have any D or F grades.*

I look forward to a great year in choir! Please let me know if you ever have concerns, questions, or if your child is having any struggles in my class. I am here to help.

Thanks,

Ms. Utrera

Disclosure Document Agreement

Return this page by Friday, Aug 25th

Student Name: _____

Girls (Knightingales Only): Dress Size _____

Boys: Dress Shirt Size _____

Parent Section: Please initial each box sign on the designated line.

_____ I have read this document.

_____ **I understand that there are mandatory rehearsals and performances outside the school day for which attendance is required to fulfill grade requirements.**

_____ I agree to help my child succeed in choir by helping them arrange their schedule to be at each performance and providing transportation to and from concerts.

Print Parent Name _____ Date _____

Signature _____

Email Address: _____

Student Section: Put your initials in each box

_____ I have read this document.

_____ I will be ready each day to energetically participate in choir rehearsals.

_____ I will follow class policies so that all the people around me can fully enjoy the experience of being in a great choir.

_____ I understand that if I am involved in bullying, teasing, or harassing another student I will be dismissed from the choir program.

_____ **I understand that there are mandatory rehearsals and performances outside the school day for which attendance is required to fulfill grade requirements.**