

CHOIR HANDBOOK

Welcome to Holston Choir 2017-2018

Choir Objectives

1. **Music Performance:** Singing and playing alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
2. **Music Evaluation & Creation:** Listening to, analyzing, & describing music; composing & improvising
3. **Music Literacy:** Reading and notating music
4. **Music Appreciation:** Understanding music in relation to history, cultures, and other disciplines

Tennessee State Standards for Chorus

http://www.state.tn.us/education/ci/arts/doc/ART_MUS_6-8_Vocal.pdf

Meet Your Directors

Name: Natalee Elkins & Amanda Kapp

Technology: Watch Aspen & Canvas for updates

Tutoring Schedule: Available by appointment

Email: natalee.elkins@knoxschools.org
amanda.kapp@knoxschools.org

Choir Grading Policy

(1) Attendance & Participation (In-Class)	50%
(2) Theory Work & Sight Reading (In-Class)	25%
(3) Concert Attendance & Participation (Outside of Class)	25%

Choir Grading Policy

(1) Attendance & Participation (50% of overall grade)

→ **Daily Grade...** Our choir is essentially a musical team. We will study and make music together. The actions of any individual can either help or hinder the entire ensemble. Self-discipline is not an option; it is required. You receive 6 points every day for being present and actively participating in rehearsal. That totals to 30 points per week. This accounts for 50% of your overall grade.

You will begin each class with 6 points that you keep for full credit if you follow these rehearsal expectations.

1. Sing	(3 pts)
2. Mark music	(1 pts)
3. Participate appropriately	(2 pts)
	<u>6 pts</u>

→ **Deductions from daily grade**

- Absence
- Not singing
- Failure to participate in classroom music activities
- No music folder or pencil
- If a student is removed from class due to behavior, he/she will not earn the daily participation points.

(2) Theory Work & Sight Reading (25% of overall grade)

→ **Theory Work...** Music literacy is a National and State Standard for chorus ensembles. Students will be taught basics of reading and notating music and will be assessed on these skills. Performance tests and written work may be given in class during a regular rehearsal or outside of regular school rehearsal. If the student is absent at the time of an assigned test and the absence is excused by school policy, he/she will be allowed to make up the missed assignment/test. Absences must be approved by the school administration and the make-up work must be completed in compliance with the student handbook.

→ **Sight Reading...** Students will be assessed on singing in small groups and through individual online submissions. The goal of these assessments is for directors to provide feedback on the growth of individual student voices. Students will **not** be expected to sing alone in front of the class. However, students will be assessed in small groups.

(3) Concert Attendance & Participation (25% of overall grade)

- **Performing...** Students enrolled in a performing ensemble are required to attend the activities and events of these ensembles during and after school hours. It is the responsibility of the directors to give students a complete performance schedule at the beginning of the year. The directors should make any changes, additions, or deletions to the calendar at least one month in advance. Students failing to attend a scheduled activity or event of a performing ensemble will be excused for documented illness, death in the immediate family, observance of a religious holiday, or official school business.
- **Concert Absence...** The student and parent(s) of a student must communicate absences to the director for approval at least **two weeks in advance**. The two-week notice may be preempted in special circumstances. These would include emergency situations such as illness or death in the family and special circumstances related to State and District Activities (Some State and District Activities are decided inside of two weeks).
- **Alternative Assignment...** Students who have made arrangements to be excused from a scheduled chorus concert may be required to complete an alternate assignment to fulfill the requirements for that performance. This assignment will be given to the student upon request and will reflect the goals of the original assignment.
- **Required Concert Dates**
 - Veterans Day Concert: Friday, November 10, 2017 (This is a concert during the school day, time TBA)
 - Winter Concerts
 - 7th & 8th Grades: Monday, December 11, 2016 @ 7:00 pm
 - 6th Grade: Tuesday, December 12, 2016 @ 7:00 pm
 - Festival Concert – TBA (7th & 8th ONLY)
 - Spring Concerts
 - 7th & 8th Grades: Monday, May 7, 2018 @ 7:00 pm
 - 6th Grade: Tuesday, May 8, 2018 @ 7:00 pm
- **Concert Dress...** Concert attire is required. It is intended to compliment the formal nature of a performance and to visually enhance a solid musical presentation. A concert is not a casual T-Shirt event. However, concert attire is not intended to complicate anyone's life. Experience has taught us that required dress for concerts can almost always be found already existing in a student's closet. If you find that the requirements for concert dress present a hardship, please contact me at school prior to the week of the concert, and together we will find a solution.
- **Here is what we wear to concerts...**
 - Khaki or tan dress pants (You may find examples on Canvas)
 - Black Dress Shoes & Socks (You may find examples on Canvas)
 - Holston Music Polo Shirt
 - You **must** order this through the school music department at the beginning of the school year.
 - This is the performance shirt for all grade levels of chorus and band.
 - **6th graders:** If you know someone who was in 8th grade last year, you may be able to purchase his/her polo at a reduced price.
 - **7th & 8th Graders:** If you were in HMS Chorus last year and still have your polo (and it still fits), there is **no need** to purchase another one.
 - **The Polo Order Form** is attached to this document for all new choir students and any returning choir students that need to purchase a new polo (for whatever reason). Please fill out the form fully and send it to school with payment by Friday, August 19th.

Materials for Class

Students are expected to have these materials with them in every class.

1. Pencil or Pen (You can leave it in your folder)
2. Plastic Folder (provided by directors) and stored in the room
3. Music (provided to students and it is their responsibility to keep it in their folders)
4. Laptop, charger, and case

Classroom Rules

These are the rules that should guide your daily behavior and decision making.

1. Follow Directions Quickly
2. Raise Your Hand for Permission to Speak
3. Raise Your Hand for Permission to Leave your Seat
4. Make Smart Choices
5. Keep Your Dear Teacher Happy ☺
⇒ Absolutely **NO** gum. It's a safety hazard!

Ladder of Consequences

1. Verbal or Non-Verbal Warning
2. Student will be given a ticket, Parent Contact
3. Ticket, In Class Assignment in a safe seat, Parent Contact
4. Ticket, Behavior Conference, Parent Contact
5. Office Referral

Daily Class Schedule

This is what will be expected of you in every class:

- Enter the room quickly and quietly
- Put your bag down at the “Stop and Drop” area, but keep a pen/pencil WITH you
- Get your folder from the shelf and move quickly to your seat
- Class starts at the posted time
- We will warm-up, sight read, and work on our current literature
- You will be dismissed in small groups to put folders away before the bell

Fundraising

There will be **ONE** fundraising campaign for the choir during the school year. The dates are Wednesday, September 20th-Monday, October 2nd pending district level approval. The fundraiser is **VERY IMPORTANT** for the success of the choir program. The money raised will help pay for purchasing music, sound equipment, bussing for festival, and more.

CHOIR CONTRACT

8/7/17

Dear choir student and parent(s)/guardian(s),

We are thrilled that you have chosen to participate in choir this year! We have some great music to sing and will have a lot of fun making music inside and outside of the classroom. It is important that you understand what is expected of you as you join our musical team. I hope you have taken some time to read over the Choir Contract and mark dates on your calendar. Please read the statements below, sign, and return them to Ms. Kapp or Mrs. Elkins by Friday, August 18th.

Looking forward to a great year!

Ms. Kapp & Mrs. Elkins

STUDENT

I have read and I understand the choir contract for this school year. By signing my name, I know I am becoming part of a team that depends on me to keep my word. I will attend concerts and rehearsals and put forward by best effort.

(print your name)

(sign your name)

PARENT

As a parent/guardian, I understand that my choir student relies on me to provide transportation and concert attire for choir events. I will provide these for my student, or let the directors know about any problems with the schedule or clothing at least two weeks in advance.

(print your name)

(sign your name)

PLEASE RETURN BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 18TH

Attention Music Students: You must have a polo to perform!

POLO ORDER FORM

Student's First & Last Name: _____

Class Period: _____

→ Circle One: My child is in... Band Chorus

→ Circle One: My child's shirt size is...

Adult Small

Adult Medium

Adult Large

Adult XL

Adult 2X

Adult 3X



→ Check ONE statement below:

_____ I have enclosed \$15 cash.

_____ I have enclosed a \$15 check made payable to Holston Middle.

_____ I am not ordering a polo because my child has one from last year.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Polo Orders Due by Friday, August 18, 2017