

7th & 8th CHORUS SYLLABUS

Welcome to Holston Choir 2023-2024

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 Director

Name: Natalee Elkins

Technology: Watch Aspen & Canvas for updates

Tutoring Schedule: Available by appointment

Email: natalee.elkins@knoxschools.org

Choir Grading Policy

(1) Performing 90%

(2) Assessments 10%

Choir Grading Policy

(1) Performing (90% of overall grade)

→ **Daily Grade from singing participation...** 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 40% of a student's 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)
- 6 pts

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

→ **Theory Work...** Music literacy is a National and State Standard for chorus ensembles. Students will be taught the basics of reading and notating music and will be assessed on these skills. Written or digital theory work will often be given once a week during a regular rehearsal (Thursdays). If the student is absent at the time of an assignment and the absence is excused by school policy, he/she will be allowed to make-up the missed assignment in Canvas. Absences must be approved by the school administration and the make-up work must be completed in compliance with the student handbook. Theory work accounts for 15% of a student's total grade.

→ **Concerts...** 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. The concert grade accounts for 30% of a student's total grade.

- **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, 2023 (ALL GRADES)
 - Concerts @ 9:00 AM, 10:15 AM, 1:15 PM
 - Winter Concert: Monday, December 11, 2023 @ 6:00pm Chorus Concert (ALL GRADES)
 - Students report to assigned seats in auditorium @ 5:45pm
 - Approximately one hour in length
 - Spring Concert: Monday, May 6, 2024: Choir Concert (ALL GRADES)
 - Students report to assigned seats in auditorium @ 5:45pm
 - Approximately one hour in length
- **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 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...**
 - Black pants (You may find examples on Canvas beginning August 25th)
 - Black Dress Shoes & Socks (You may find examples on Canvas beginning Aug. 25th)
 - Holston Music 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.
 - ⇒ **The Shirt Order Form** is attached to this document for all new choir students and any returning choir students that need to purchase a new shirt (for whatever reason). Please fill out the form fully and send it to school with payment by Friday, August 25th.

(2) Assessments (10% of overall grade)

- **Smart Music & FlipGrid Recordings...** Students will be required to record in Smart Music several times throughout the semester as they learn warm ups and portions of songs. These recordings will allow students to track their progress and see what percentage accuracy they have when singing a piece of music. Students may also record in Flipgrid when songs are not available in the Smart Music library. These recording assignments are worth 15% of a student's overall grade.

Choir Procedures & Expectations

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 classroom
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! It is unsafe to chew gum and sing.

Ladder of Consequences within a class period

1. Verbal or Non-Verbal Warning
2. Student will be given a ticket, Parent Contact (if 4th or 5th ticket).
3. Student will be moved to a different seat.
4. Office Referral

Classroom Procedures: This is what will be expected of students when entering and exiting.

- 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 October 23-November 3, 2023. Orders will be delivered on Thursday, November 16, 2023. The fundraiser is **VERY IMPORTANT** for the success of the choir program. The money raised will help us pay for purchasing music, sound equipment, bussing for Dollywood and more.

[*CLICK HERE TO SIGN CHORUS SYLLABUS & ORDER CHORUS SHIRT*](#)

Music with Sacred Text

Parents and guardians,

During the study of choral music at Holston Middle School, it is likely that students will come into contact with music containing sacred text. Please read the statements below from the National Association for Music Education regarding the use of music with sacred text in public schools. The full article can be found on the organization's website (www.nafme.org). If you have questions or concerns throughout the school year, please contact your student's choir director by phone or email. It is our goal to provide your student with a complete music education experience while he/she attends Holston Middle School.

Thank you,
Holston Chorus Directors
Natalee Elkins & Amanda Kapp

Sacred Music In Schools from the National Association of Music Education

Does music with a sacred text have a place in the public schools? It is the position of the National Association for Music Education that the study and performance of religious music within an educational context is a vital and appropriate part of a comprehensive music education. The omission of sacred music from the school curriculum would result in an incomplete educational experience.

The First Amendment... The First Amendment does not forbid all mention of religion in the public schools; it prohibits the advancement or inhibition of religion by the state. A second clause in the First Amendment prohibits the infringement of religious beliefs. The public schools are not required to delete from the curriculum all materials that may offend any religious sensitivity. For instance, the study of art history would be incomplete without reference to the Sistine Chapel, and the study of architecture requires an examination of Renaissance cathedrals. Likewise, a comprehensive study of music includes an obligation to become familiar with choral music set to religious texts.

The chorales of J. S. Bach, the "Hallelujah Chorus" from George Frideric Handel's Messiah, spirituals, and Ernest Bloch's Sacred Service all have an important place in the development of a student's musical understanding and knowledge.

Full article here:

<https://nafme.org/about/position-statements/sacred-music-in-schools-position-statement/sacred-music-in-schools/>

District Policy

Board Policy I-431

Issued: 7/95 Revised 6/08

The Board affirms that it is essential that the teaching about religion—and not of a religion be conducted in a factual, objective, and respectful manner in accordance with the following:

Music, art, literature, or drama with a religious theme or basis are permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs, provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively;

The emphasis on religious themes in the arts, literature, and history shall be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of these areas. Such studies shall never foster any particular religious tenets or demean any religious beliefs; and

Student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated. For example, students are free to express religious belief or non-belief in compositions, art forms, music, speech, and debate.

- **Additionally, if a course features religion within the curriculum and instructional materials, this information must be included within the syllabus, and the syllabus must be publically posted. Within the syllabus, teachers must include specific religion-aligned selections that will be used throughout the year or semester.**