

# Decatur Central Choir Handbook 2021-2022

*Mr. Archer – Choir Director - [sarcher@decaturproud.org](mailto:sarcher@decaturproud.org) - ext. 01624*

*Mrs. Pollard – Accompanist - [jpollard@decaturproud.org](mailto:jpollard@decaturproud.org) -*

## **Overview & Requirements:**

Choir classes are performance based classes used to work on skills regarding singing, music literacy, and performance in general. Skills in reading music and music theory will be taught as a means to achieve stronger self-confidence as a singer. Performances and rehearsals are required and are listed below. Attendance is mandatory. Other written and online assignments will be given throughout the course of each semester. Students will also be asked to sing simple melodies and demonstrate rhythms without assistance, alone or with others, from sight. Students should bring a pencil and their music to class each day.

## **Attendance:**

***Attendance at after school rehearsals and performances is mandatory.*** Choir is a performance-based activity and grading for this class is based mainly upon daily rehearsal and performances. An alternate assignment will be given for conflicts if the director is given **two weeks' notice and approval is given**. If one weeks' notice is not given, the absence from the concert will be considered an unexcused absence and **cannot be made up**. Due to the heavy weight of performances, missing a performance or rehearsal can result in a failing grade. Unexcused absences include work related conflicts, family dinners, birthdays, doctor appointments, dentist appointments, rock concerts, etc... **Please plan ahead**. Excusable absences include weddings, funerals (two weeks' notice unnecessary), major family events, military requirements, etc. If you have a question about what is considered excused, please ask Mr. Archer **well in advance**. **Excusable absences must be submitted in WRITING via email to Mr. Archer TWO WEEKS in advance**. For excused absences to count as a grade for the missed concert, a make-up assignment must be completed. The make-up assignments are in no way intended as a punishment but are instead intended to match the difficulty and learning opportunity created by a performance. Typical make-up assignments include attending another school's concert and critiquing the performance in a multiple page typed paper. Concerts are worth 100 points, 34 points for showing up on time, and staying until dismissed, 33 points for wearing correct concert attire, and turning in costume correctly at the end of the concert, and 33 points for displaying correct concert etiquette and behavior during the concert.

Attendance also matters in our daily routines. Daily points for rehearsal are earned at a rate of 10 points per class. This means you are not only attending this class in person...but with participation as well! If a student does not participate in the activities done in class, the students will not receive points for the day. It is impossible to give a make-up assignment that will recreate the classroom setting and teach the same material. Most of the learning that occurs in choir is group participation-based and therefore cannot be done at home in an assignment.

## **Dates to Remember:**

### ***Semester 1***

Musical Auditions - August 24th-26th (*optional*)

Fall Choir Concert – September 16<sup>th</sup> Call Time: 5:30pm Performance: 7pm

Musical Performances November 19th-21st (*optional*)

Solo and Ensemble Forms DUE - December 1st

Holiday Spectacular Rehearsals – December 7th-9th 4-6:30pm (more info TBA)

Holiday Spectacular - December 10th and 11th Performance @ 7pm (Call Times TBA)

### ***Semester 2***

District Solo and Ensemble – February 5<sup>th</sup> (*optional*)

Pops Concert – February 17<sup>th</sup> (Cadet and Varsity ONLY)

ISSMA Organizational Week 1 – April 9<sup>th</sup> Times TBA

ISSMA Organizational Week 2 – April 23<sup>rd</sup> Times TBA

Singabration Rehearsals - May 11th and 12th - Times TBA

Singabration – May 13<sup>th</sup> Call Time: 5:30pm Performance: 7pm

Choir Senior Cabaret - May 23rd Call Time 6:00pm Performance 7pm

### **Expenses: -**

*Semester 1:* \$20 is being charged to all choir students which is due by Wednesday, September 1st. All choir students and parents have the option to pay out of pocket or defray costs by participating in the fundraiser. This \$20 fee goes towards rental and maintenance of costumes as well as . It will also go towards the polo worn. Payments can be made out of pocket any time before September 1<sup>st</sup>, or you can use the annual choral fundraiser mentioned below. Checks need to be made out to DC Choirs, please put your child's full name and ensemble in the memo blank.

*Semester 2:* \$10 is the anticipated fee for Semester 2 expenses which will be due by February 1st. \$10 goes towards transportation costs to pay for busing to ISSMA events. Payments can be made out of pocket any time before February 1st or you can use additional funds made from the annual choral fundraiser mentioned below. Checks need to be made out to DC Choirs. Please put your child's full name and ensemble in the memo blank.

IF PAYING THIS DUE CAN MAKE OR BREAK YOU BEING IN CHOIR...PLEASE TALK TO MR. ARCHER ASAP

**Behavior:**

Students are expected to follow all rules presented in the Student Handbook. Failure to follow these rules will be presented with varying levels of consequence. If a student does not follow the rules provided in the handbook, this chart will be used for discipline. Progress on this chart is reset daily. The director may skip steps on the chart if the offense is severe enough. For example, a fight would jump straight to referral to principal.

1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	Verbal Warning
2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	Meeting with Mr. Archer after Class
3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense	Lunch Detention and Discussion with Parent
4 <sup>th</sup> Offense	Removal from Class, Loss of all Daily Points, and Referral to Principal

**Concert Attire:**

The purpose of concert attire is to create a professional and cohesive appearance for all group performances. Please ensure that all student-provided items (shoes, undergarments, hair style, etc.) are met prior to call time for ALL performances.

Ladies	Gentlemen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School provided polo (all choirs)</li> <li>● School provided choir robe (Varsity only)</li> <li>● Black socks, Black pants, black dress shoes and black belt</li> <li>● Hair should have a poof, half up/half down curled</li> <li>● No extra jewelry</li> <li>● No nail polish (Exception: French tip or clear coat)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School provided polo (all choirs)</li> <li>● School provided choir robe (Varsity only)</li> <li>● Black socks, Black pants, black dress shoes and black belt</li> <li>● Clean shaven or well kept facial hair</li> <li>● Hair cut so it is out of the face</li> </ul>

**Grading:**

Total grade for each nine weeks will be determined from two categories:

<b>Summative Assessments (60% of total grade)</b>	<b>Formative Assessments (40% of total grade)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Concerts      100 points (1 per Quarter)</li><li>● Tests            50 points per test (1 Music Literacy and 1 Part Test each Quarter)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Homework, classwork, etc.    20 points</li><li>● Daily rehearsal points        10 points</li><li>● Dress rehearsals                50 points</li></ul>

**Please be sure to complete the online Syllabus form by Friday, August 13th to receive 20 points (homework, classwork etc.).**

**<https://forms.gle/EDJDdNPQdeYuexGT8>**