

Prairie Central High School Choral Handbook

2007-2008

Mr. Strough

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Welcome to Chorus! Please read through this handbook so that you are fully aware of the chorus policies, procedures, and expectations. Refer to it frequently. Many of your questions will be answered here! I look forward to a great year of making music together!!

Schedule:

Concert Choir: 1st Block Monday, Wednesday, and alternating Fridays

**For the first quarter, students in band will not attend choir on Fridays because of marching band rehearsals

Treble Choir: 4th Block Monday, Wednesday, and alternating Fridays

Grading Policy:

The student's nine weeks' grade will be averaged as follows:

- 45% Daily Grade/Participation
- 40% Concert and Rehearsal Attendance
- 15% Tests/Quizzes/Assignments/Projects

Daily Grade 45%

Students' daily participation grade will be based on 50 points per quarter. Points will be based on for the following:

- Being on time to class, rehearsals, and performances:
All the time- 10pts 2 or less tardies- 8pts 4 or less tardies- 6pts 6 or less tardies- 4 pts
more than 6 tardies- 0 pts
- Listens in rehearsals to teacher and other students:
All the time- 10 pts few reminders- 8pts many reminders- 4pts daily reminders- 0 pts
- Respects school property :
All the time- 10 pts few reminders- 8pts many reminders- 4pts daily reminders- 0 pts
- Proper singing posture in rehearsals and concerts:
All the time- 10 pts few reminders- 8pts many reminders- 4pts daily reminders- 0 pts
- Comes prepared for rehearsals:
All the time- 10 pts few reminders- 8pts many reminders- 4pts daily reminders- 0 pts

Unlike individual activities such as an academic class, it is impossible to make up activities that occur in a music rehearsal. Unexcused absences will have a negative impact on your grade.

Concert & Rehearsal Attendance **40%

Participation in rehearsals and performances outside normal school hours may be a necessary part of our music endeavor. **Attendance is required for the entirety of all performances and pre-scheduled rehearsals.** Performances are listed on the

Calendar of Events. Rehearsals either before or after school will only be used if absolutely necessary with advanced notice.

An excused absence from a music rehearsal or concert will require the same criteria as an excused absence from school—personal illness where the student has been absent from the entire school day, death in the family, or family emergency. **The absence will not be excused if the parent has not communicated with the director PRIOR to the event.** It is imperative that the parent contact the director regarding the absence, as these rehearsals and concerts are a part of the student's grade.

➤ **AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM A PERFORMANCE WILL RESULT IN A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION OF THE NINE-WEEK GRADE.**

In the event of a conflict with another scheduled school activity, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the sponsors of the activities. The sponsors will then determine the student's obligation.

**In the case of a nine-weeks that does not include any concert or extra rehearsals, the nine-week grade will be averaged with the Daily Grade counting for 70% and the Tests/Quizzes/Assignment/Projects for 30%.

Tests/Quizzes/Assignments/Projects 15%

Projects and Assignments will be given and tests and quizzes will be administered to monitor individual progress in the subject. Special emphasis will be placed on monitoring individuals knowing their parts. Each quarter a theory test will be given.

Ineligibility:

If you are ineligible for Solo & Ensemble or Organizational you will not be able to perform. In the case of Solo & Ensemble, if you were signed up for an event and the information had already been sent in for processing, you would be responsible for the charges for each event that you were participating in.

Organizational is a required performance for a grade. If you are ineligible for Organizational then alternative work will be provided. You will still be required to attend organizational to support your group if you are ineligible.

Concert Dress

The Prairie Central Music Department is striving to instill professional attitudes and habits in the performing ensembles. Part of that is taking pride in one's appearance for a concert. We are fully in favor of students expressing their individuality. However, a choral concert is not the forum in which to do this. Concerts are to showcase the ensemble. No individual should draw attention to themselves through behavior or dress during an ensemble performance. This draws attention away from the ensemble as a whole and focuses on an individual

student. For this reason, each chorus member must adhere to the following dress code for concerts. If you do not have something on this list it is the responsibility of the student to obtain the following articles of clothing to be used during concert performances.

Women

- All ladies will wear an ankle length black skirt or black dress pants.
- White blouse that is conservative and professional in design. ***No spaghetti straps or bare midriffs please.***
- Shoes and stockings should be appropriate to the outfit. ***No sneakers, combat boots, or other extremes of footwear.***

Men

- Black dress pants (***no jeans***)
- White dress shirt with collar and long necktie
- Black socks
- Black dress shoes

This dress code applies to ALL concerts, including those for which we wear our formal concert choir robes. Any variation in this dress code will be made by the director and told to the students well in advance of the concert. Any student who fails to comply with the guidelines above will not be allowed to perform in the concert and will not be given credit for the performance. If a student wishes to wear attire that is “questionable”, please see the director for approval in advance of the performance.

Choir Officers:

Chorus leadership is not to be taken lightly. Chorus leaders represent the vocal music department as a whole, not simply a single ensemble. Leaders who do not take the job seriously, or who only work at it half heartedly, will undermine the excellence to which we are striving. All Chorus leaders must be self-motivated, responsible, and dependable. They must be able to take the initiative to lead their fellow students toward the success and betterment of the ensembles.

President: Must have strong leadership qualities. Responsibilities include”

- Assist the Director in promotion and organization of Chorus activities.
- Participation in monthly officer meetings.
- Serve as liaison between the students and the Director.
- Oversee and organize Chorus assistants and road crews.
- Motivate fellow officers to take an active leadership role in the Chorus.
- Motivate and lead the Chorus by both words and by example.

Vice President: Acts in a dual capacity as Treasurer for the Chorus. The vice president is also in charge of publicity for Chorus events. Responsibilities include:

- Arrange for pictures and articles to go to local newspapers on a monthly (or more!) basis.

- Collaborate with Secretary to research, organize, and write a Chorus newsletter.
- Assists in the collection and organization of money for Chorus activities (such as trip to see a show, Chorus t-shirts, parties, etc.).
- Assists in the organization and execution of fund raising activities.
- Research and disseminate information about the costs of above activities.
- Assist President and other officers in addition to regular duties.

Secretaries: (One for each group) This is a very important position and requires extreme diligence and organizational skills. Secretaries must serve as Librarians. Responsibilities include:

- Taking attendance on a daily basis. Must know everyone's name, voice part, and assigned seat.
- Monitor Chorus rehearsal attendance by frequently reviewing attendance book and recording the total number of absences for each student.
- Take attendance at concerts.
- Collaborate with VP to research, organize, and write a Chorus newsletter.

Librarians:

- Organization, distribution, collecting, and filing of all choral music.
- Keeping chorus folder rack neat and organized.
- Be sure each student (or every other student) has music.
- Organizing the choral library.

All leaders should strive to set an example to other Chorus members, and to always act as A TEAM!

Selection of Leadership Team:

Too often, leadership elections are often popularity contests resulting in people who run for office, then do little or nothing once they are elected. Therefore, we will use the following procedure: If you are interested in any of these positions, you must make that desire known to the Director at the appropriate time. Candidates will present their credentials to members of both Concert Chorus and Treble Chorus in the form of a brief speech. Ensemble members will then vote for their top four choices. Once the votes are tabulated, the Director will appoint the top four candidates to specific positions, based upon their skills and experience. All the remaining candidates will be assigned to various positions on the leadership team based on their skills and the needs for the upcoming year. Please also realize that these are volunteer positions and no extra credit will be given. However, you should also be aware that schools and colleges look for leadership experience when deciding upon scholarship recipients.

Classroom Rules/Procedures:

1. Punctuality: Students are to be in the room before the bell rings, seated, and ready for rehearsal to begin. Warm-ups will begin at the beginning of class.

2. Participation: Students are expected to participate in all aspects of each rehearsal. Failure to do so will lead to a lowered grade. (see grading policy below) There is a time for Work and a time for Play: *Be sure you know which is which!*
3. Respect: Students are expected to show respect to their peers as well as the instructor at all times. Respect is demonstrated in attitude, language, actions, and treatment of equipment or music.
4. No gum, food, or drink (other than water) is allowed in the room during rehearsal time.

Progressive Discipline Sequence:

Students who are unable, or unwilling, to follow classroom rules and procedures, and persist in disruptive behavior, will be subject to the following disciplinary sequence:

- For most episodes of disruptive behavior or breach of rules, the student will receive a verbal warning.
- Upon further disruptive behavior, the student will be issued a referral/detention.
- After five referrals/detentions, the student will be placed on a probationary status and a conference will be called to discuss the student's continued participation in the ensemble. This conference will include the parent, the chorus director, and a PC administrator.
- Further disruptions will be handled in the same way. If a student reaches five referrals yet again, he or she will be removed from the ensemble for the remainder of the year. The student may not rejoin until the following school year, and that will be at the discretion of the director and at a probationary status.

Severe Clause:

Any student who is insubordinate, abusive, or in any way violent will be immediately placed on probation or removed from the course, at the discretion of the director.

Trips, Fundraisers, and Choir Accounts:

It is our goal to organize a major trip every four years. Each year we will attend a selected performance or contest, which may become an overnight trip. However, students are responsible for paying their own expenses. At least two fundraisers will be provided for students to raise money for these trips each year. The profit from these sales will be added to each student's account. Money in the account balance is transferred to a younger sibling or absorbed into the general account, which is shared by all. All must understand that this is not "your" money, but money raised for the choir to use for activities.

Website

There is a great deal of information about chorus on the Prairie Central High School website. There you will find a copy of this handbook, course descriptions, events and activities calendar. The address for the music department is;
<http://www.prairiecentral.org/hspages/fine%20arts/html/Music/MusicDept.html>

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to e-mail at jstrough@prairiecentral.org or call me at the high school at 692-2355.

I look forward to an exciting year ahead!

Mr. Strough

*Attached you will find a calendar of choral activities for the 2007-08 school year. Hopefully no changes will be made, however, if changes are made you will be notified with the updates as soon as possible.

**Please sign and date the last page of this handbook and return it to me by August 24th, 2007. This is your first homework assignment.