



CHORAL

PROGRAM



Choral Program



Mission

The Adlai E. Stevenson choral program develops the musical, emotional, and intellectual potential of each student through the study of high quality choral music.

“Choir is helping me become who I am, it’s bringing out my personality. It’s also given me a place to feel comfortable when coming to school.” —SHS Choir Student



Alice Nuteson
Director of Choirs
anuteson@d125.org
847-415-4773



Kirstin Snelten
Associate Director of Choirs
ksnelten@d125.org
847-415-4767

Consortium 125

Music Mission

Our PreK-12 consortium music mission is to provide an essential experience to all students through the study and performance of music that is purposeful, enduring, and joyful.

Consortium 125 Music Vision

The music artistic processes are creating, responding, connecting, and performing. Students will explore music as a whole body, mind, and soul experience that provides:

- An intellectual pursuit that uniquely develops the full capacity of the brain
- Music literacy
- Opportunities to expand creative potential connections across history, cultures, and other areas of study
- A place of belonging and community
- Joy and accomplishment

Ensembles



Large Class Ensembles | Curricular Choirs

Our large class ensembles are the cornerstone of our program, performing a wide range of traditional and contemporary literature. These classes focus on technique development, music literacy skills, and performance skills. All Stevenson curricular choirs perform at five concerts annually, including our fall concert, December concert, Consortium 125 concert, winter concert, and spring concert. Ensembles include the following:

Stevenson Choir (mixed voices)

Advanced Choir (soprano/alto voices)

Patriot Singers (mixed voices)

All incoming freshman students are enrolled in Stevenson Choir. There is no prerequisite or audition necessary. Current Stevenson students may elect to audition for Advanced Choir or Patriot Singers in spring, for the following school year. Consult the Stevenson Coursebook at www.d125.org/academics/coursebook for more information about course offerings and/or contact the choir directors.

Co-Curricular Ensembles

There are several co-curricular vocal ensembles that are open to all Stevenson students with membership determined by audition. Starting in 2020-21, students new to these groups must be enrolled in a curricular choir class in order to audition. Low Frequency is a group for tenor/bass voices, Polyphonics is a group for mixed voices, and Nothing But Treble is a group for soprano/alto voices. These select ensembles audition at the beginning of the year and specialize in performing contemporary a cappella music at school and in the community. In addition, Madrigal Singers is a bi-annual ensemble that performs Renaissance a cappella music and culminates in a festive Madrigal Dinner in the spring.

Many students from the choir program also participate in our annual fall musical production. Clinics and workshops occur in August, as well as opportunities to serve on crews.



Private Lessons

The choral program offers weekly voice lessons with some of the most highly-respected, professional music instructors in the Chicagoland area. While not required, private lessons offer a unique opportunity for students to work on solo literature and individual vocal training. Our voice studios offer recitals and other performance opportunities throughout the year.

Students enrolled in the choir program can schedule lessons during their choir class. Other times for lessons could include lunch, study hall, or an after school time. To sign up for lessons, contact the Stevenson PREP program at www.d125.org/prep for full bios on instructors and applications for lessons. Or visit: www.d125.org/arts/private-music-lessons.

“Choir has allowed me to find my confidence not only when performing, but as an individual as well. Meeting such amazing people through the program while learning from wonderful teachers has allowed me to feel comfortable sharing my voice, and I’m so grateful for that.”

—SHS Choir Student

Registering for Choir



Freshman Year Sample Schedules

Sample Schedule–Option A

This option includes the two-semester World History course.

Period	Course	Credits
1	English	2
2	Mathematics	2
3	Science	2
4	Lunch and Advisory	
5	P.E.	2
6	Choir	2
7	World History	2
8	(Elective) or Study Hall	(2)

Sample Schedule–Option B

This option requires that the two-semester World History course be taken either in sophomore year or in summer school.

Period	Course	Credits
1	English	2
2	Mathematics	2
3	Science	2
4	P.E.	2
5	Lunch and Advisory	
6	Choir	2
7	Elective A	2
8	(Elective B) or Study Hall	(2)

Several other configurations are possible. Please refer to the Four-year Plan worksheet in the Stevenson Coursebook at www.d125.org/academics/coursebook.

“I’ve learned not only how to sing as an individual but as part of a group. Choir de-stresses me and provides me with a creative and artistic outlet during the school day.”

—SHS Choir Student

Scheduling Tips and Considerations

Choir at Stevenson High School is an accredited course that meets for a full period each day. All choir courses earn regular credit that is counted in the student’s grade point average.

- Accelerated and AP students may also take advantage of the “Grade Point Waiver” option.
- Seniors who have been in the choir program for three years may receive accelerated-level credit if they are in Advanced Choir or Patriot Singers during their senior year.

World History may be taken during a student’s sophomore year or during summer school before or after freshman year. Many choir students take advantage of Stevenson’s rapidly expanding summer school offerings to make room for more electives during the regular school year. See the sample schedules for more information.



Travel

The choir program takes an extended bi-annual trip that is open to all students in Advanced Choir and Patriot Singers. While optional, it is strongly encouraged that students take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Past trips have included the following destinations:

- Disney World, Orlando, Florida
- New York City, New York
- Washington D.C.
- Los Angeles, California
- St. Louis, Missouri
- Toronto, Canada
- London, England

In addition, each year choir students have the opportunity to attend a Chicago-area day trip. These field trips have included choral workshops at Northwestern University, DePaul University, College of DuPage, and Midwest Young Artists. Our day trips also include seeing professional performances at venues such as Broadway in Chicago, Lyric Opera, Drury Lane Theater and Paramount Theater.

Balancing Academics, Activities, and Athletics



Leadership Opportunities and Community Service

Students in the choir program are given many opportunities to develop their leadership skills. Our student-led Choir Board, selected by application, is the leadership organization that plans spirit activities, service opportunities, and social events for choir students. The Choir Board serves as a valued liaison to the choir directors and is open to all choir students. Meetings are held before school, usually once a month.

A primary goal of our program is teaching our students that serving our community is something you can always do regardless of your career choice or final geographic location. Moreover, we encourage students to use their musical talent when it can serve others. To support this, the program volunteers on a regular basis at non-profit organizations around the area. All students are encouraged to participate.



Examples of events and non-profits that Choir Board has supported:

- Choir Cabaret—
A benefit recital with student performers
- Caroling Choir—
Volunteer holiday choir at community events and senior centers
- Give-A-Thon
- Feed My Starving Children
- Bernie's Book Bank

Choir Student Achievement

Stevenson is proud that our choir students are able to balance and enjoy other activities in addition to choir. This is one of the things that makes the Choir program so strong, and it reflects the diversity and interests of our members. Choir students manage to balance activities, athletics, and academics with great success.

Some interesting facts regarding Stevenson choir students and their involvement outside the choir program are listed below.

ADVANCED COURSES
70%
IN ADVANCED COURSES

Academics

Over 70% of students in choir take at least one honors or accelerated class.

ENROLLED IN AP
60%
TAKE AP

60% of choir students are enrolled in at least one Advanced Placement (AP) class.

ATHLETICS
75+
IN SPORTS

Sports

Of the 175 choir students, more than 75 also participate in athletics at SHS.

FINE ARTS
54%
IN >1 FINE ARTS CLASS

Fine Arts

54% of choir students are currently enrolled in multiple fine arts classes.

CLUBS + ACTIVITIES
140+
JOIN CLUBS

Co-curricular clubs and activities

Over 140 students participate in 90 different clubs and activities at SHS.

LEADERSHIP
40%
ARE CLUB LEADERS

40% of choir students hold a leadership position in their club.

“Choir is a period in my day where I get to be creative in different ways than my other classes. Being a part of choir makes me a more well-rounded student who gets to do more than just core academic classes.” —SHS Choir Student

Stevenson Choral Guild



Mission

The Choral Guild supports the choral directors with their goal of achieving an exceptional experience for all students in the choir program. The support comes in the form of volunteer hours, fundraising activities, and overall enthusiasm for and promotion of the program.

Examples of Choral Guild support:

- Help students and directors at performances: ushers, concessions, etc.
- Chaperone trips
- Organize fundraisers
- Provide photography at events
- Assist families in need with choir expenses
- Help the directors at school with special projects
- Fund program activities and special purchases that are not included in the regular school budget.

Get Involved

The Choral Guild encourages parents to get involved. There are many volunteer opportunities to fit the availability and interests of all parents.

Committees

Concessions | Organize and work the concession table at concerts and fine arts events. Bakers to supply sale items for concessions are also needed.

Dining for Dollars | Schedule restaurant fundraiser nights throughout the year.

Fundraisers | Chair the Choral Guild fundraisers to benefit student accounts, such as Lou Malnati's coupons, cheesecake sale, and snack favorites sale.

Corn Roast | Organize the fall corn roast sale at Sunset Foods to benefit Choral Guild.

Photos and Displays | Take photos or videos of choir events. Manage media and assemble slide shows and displays as needed.

Spiritwear | Process and distribute spiritwear orders in the fall.

Madrigal Dinner Chairperson | Help organize the event during Madrigal Dinner years.

Stay connected



Quarter Notes newsletter | Choral Guild electronically distributes a free bi-monthly newsletter to all choir parents.



Facebook | @SHSChoralGuild
Choral Guild maintains a Facebook site for parents. The purpose is to share information and promote choir events.



SignUpGenius | Choral Guild maintains a SignUpGenius website which serves as a central location for all volunteering opportunities.



Choral Guild Meetings | The Choral Guild meets bi-monthly, usually on the first or second Monday evening of the month, and all parents are welcome to attend. The Executive Board meets every month. Choir directors attend the Choral Guild meetings and provide updates to parents about the choir program.



Choir Directors Email Blasts |
The choir directors use group email blasts to communicate with choir families. Messages include information about choir events, details for choir students, and information about Choral Guild activities. Emails come from the directors only, so the number of posts and the content is controlled.



Choir Web Page | Stevenson maintains a webpage for choir on the school's website: www.d125.org/arts/choir.

Choral Guild Web Page:
www.d125.org/arts/choir/choral-guild



Choir Program
STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL



@SHS_FineArts



www.d125.org/arts/choir



@stevenson_choir



youtu.be/35JPlw_ohe0

Important note | District 125 policy requires that all volunteers complete a background check through the Stevenson Human Resources Division every two years. Information and forms can be found on the Stevenson website: www.d125.org/parents/volunteering-at-shs.