



CHOIR HANDBOOK

Sunrise Choir is an after-school program open to all 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students. Choir meets in the Music Room every Monday and Wednesday from 3:05 to 4:00 PM. This handbook provides a clear and concise guide for choir members, covering the essential aspects of participation and setting the tone for a productive and enjoyable year.

Dr. David Fattu

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Introduction

Welcome to the Choir Program! This handbook outlines the expectations and guidelines for participation in our choir, ensuring that we all work together harmoniously to create beautiful music. Being part of the choir is a privilege and a responsibility, requiring dedication, discipline, and a love for singing. Please read through this handbook carefully and refer to it throughout the year.

Rehearsal Expectations

Rehearsals are the foundation of our choir's success. It is essential that every member is committed to making the most out of each rehearsal session. Expectations for all choir members include:

- M**ake good choices
- U**se equipment properly
- S**peak when the time is right
- I**nvolve yourself in the learning
- C**ooperate with others

Attendance

All rehearsals are mandatory. Absences must be communicated in advance and excused by the choir director. Unexcused absences may result in a reassessment of your participation in the choir.

Arrive on time and be ready to begin at the scheduled rehearsal start time. Late arrivals disrupt the flow of rehearsal and the progress of the entire choir.

Preparedness: Come to rehearsals with your music, a pencil for marking notes, and a positive attitude. Be familiar with the material for each rehearsal and ready to contribute your best effort.

Behavior

Respect: Show respect to the choir director, accompanist, and fellow choir members at all times. Listen attentively when others are speaking or singing.

Focus: Rehearsal time is limited and valuable. Stay focused and minimize distractions. Do not use cell phones or other electronic devices unless directed by the choir director.

Participation: Engage fully in all activities, including warm-ups, sectional rehearsals, and full ensemble work. Contribute positively to the group dynamic.

Vocal Health

Warm-ups: Participate actively in vocal warm-ups at the beginning of each rehearsal. These are crucial for maintaining vocal health and improving technique.

Care: Take care of your voice outside of rehearsal by staying hydrated, avoiding excessive shouting, and getting enough rest.

Concert Performance Expectations

Concerts are the culmination of our hard work, and every choir member plays a vital role in the success of our performances.

Attendance and Punctuality

Mandatory Participation: All scheduled concerts are mandatory. Absences must be communicated well in advance and must be approved by the choir director. Exceptions for family emergencies or sudden student illness will be approved as long as parents/guardians communicate to Dr. Fattu within three school days from the performance.

Arrival: Arrive at the performance venue at the designated call time. Allow plenty of time to warm up and prepare mentally for the performance.

Dress Code

Adhere to the choir's concert attire requirements. This includes the specific outfit, shoes, and any accessories outlined by the choir director. Make sure your attire is clean and pressed. Ensure that your

appearance is neat and professional. Hair should be styled in a way that does not obstruct your view or distract from the performance.

Performance Etiquette

Maintain a professional demeanor before, during, and after the performance. This includes remaining silent and focused while waiting to perform, following the conductor's cues precisely, and exiting the stage calmly.

Keep your attention on the conductor at all times during the performance. Respond to their directions for dynamics, tempo, and expression. Be supportive of your fellow choir members and other performing groups. Applaud appropriately and respectfully.

After the performance, take a moment to reflect on your experience and consider areas for personal improvement. Participate in any post-concert discussions or evaluations with the choir director.

Extra Performance Opportunities

In addition to scheduled concerts, there are various extra performance opportunities that choir members may participate in throughout the year. These opportunities are optional and may require an audition to be selected to participate.

These could include opportunities such as:

- Diamondbacks National Anthem Performance
- Deer Valley District Honor Choir Festival
- Elementary Solo and Ensemble Festival

If you volunteer for an extra performance, you are expected to honor that commitment with the same level of dedication as you would for a regular concert.

Parent Support and Volunteerism

Parents play an essential role in the success of our choir program. Your support and involvement help to create a positive environment for our students, enabling them to thrive both musically and personally.

Parental Involvement

Encouragement: Encourage your child to practice regularly and to take their commitment to the choir seriously. Your support at home is crucial for their growth as a musician.

Communication: Stay informed about choir activities, rehearsal schedules, and performance dates. Regularly check for updates from the choir director on the choir page.

Attendance: Whenever possible, attend your child's performances. Your presence is a tremendous source of encouragement and pride for them.

Volunteer Opportunities

Chaperoning: We often need parents to assist with chaperoning during field trips, concerts, and other choir events. If you are available to help, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Fundraising: The choir program relies on fundraising efforts to support various activities, such as purchasing music, attending festivals, and acquiring performance attire. Parents can help by participating in or organizing fundraising events.

Event Assistance: We frequently need volunteers for tasks such as setting up for concerts and organizing refreshments. Your help ensures that events run smoothly and successfully.

Donations and Sponsorships

Donations: Monetary donations to the choir program are always welcome and can be earmarked for specific needs, such as scholarships for students, purchasing new music, or upgrading equipment. The Arizona Tax Credit is one way to provide a donation that is a 100% tax credit (you'll get that money back on your Arizona state tax return). With this program you can donate up to \$400 per family (married/file jointly) or \$200 (single/file separately). However, any amount that is specifically earmarked for Sunrise Choir will be greatly appreciated.

Sponsorships: If you have connections to local businesses or organizations, please consider reaching out to them for sponsorship opportunities. Sponsorships can provide significant financial support and help to raise the profile of our choir within the community.

Conclusion

The support and involvement of parents are invaluable to the success of our choir program. Whether through volunteering, attending performances, or simply encouraging your child, your contributions help to create a nurturing and thriving environment for all our choir members. We deeply appreciate your dedication and look forward to working together to make this a fantastic year for our choir.

Being a part of the choir is more than just singing; it's about being part of a community that values music, discipline, and mutual respect. By adhering to the expectations outlined in this handbook, we can all contribute to a successful and fulfilling year of music-making. Thank you for your commitment to our choir, and let's make this year one to remember!

