**Tuscaloosa County High Choral Department** **Mrs. Ginny Coleman, Director**
**Class Syllabus** **Mrs. Lauren Pugh, Director**
**2nd Block Mixed Choir** 205-342-2670 ext. 6788
gcoleman@tcss.net or lpugh@tcss.net or TCHS_CHOIR@tcss.net
www.tchschoral.com
Office Hours: 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

## Purpose and Content

The TCHS Choral Department is an organization dedicated to educating young people about music. Each choral class is not only a class, but also an automatic membership into the organization. Therefore, all TCHS Choral Department policies must be followed by all students.

Mixed Choir is a course designed for the development of skills in vocal technique, sight-reading, vocabulary enrichment, and performance. The course is designed to develop small ensemble skills, which require advanced listening and vocal skills and personal commitment to quality rehearsal. Students in Mixed Choir will also spend time learning music theory and music history. Members must be willing to schedule multiple concerts and after school rehearsals to maintain membership. Elements are mastered for the purpose of performances in school, festivals, and community. Membership in Mixed Choir requires a commitment to quality rehearsal and performance. Knowledge of and mastery of rehearsal and performance skills must be demonstrated for continued membership in Mixed Choir.

## Required Materials

- One inch three ring binder
- Loose-leaf paper and staff paper
- Various choral octavos
- Red marking pencil, highlighter, and regular pencil

*All of the above materials are provided by the choral department.

## Grading

Mixed Choir is a performance-based class. Students will receive a daily rehearsal skills grade and will have at least one major performance each nine weeks. Students will also be given written theory tests throughout the year. In order to receive full credit for rehearsal skills in a choir class, a student should do the following:

- Attend class each day
- Actively participate in rehearsal each day
- Refrain from disturbing the rehearsal process
- Have only required materials at seat
- Attend required performances, on time and in the correct uniform

Points will be deducted from the daily rehearsal skills grade if students fail to meet the above requirements. **Please also see Mixed Choir Attendance Policy.**

For performances, students will receive deductions for unexcused absence, tardiness, incorrect uniform, and improper concert etiquette. Please be aware that students who do not attend required performances may receive a failing final grade.

## Mixed Choir Class Attendance Policy

All TCSS attendance regulations will be followed. Mixed Choir members will abide by the following additional regulations:

- **Unexcused absences** (absences not deemed excused by the office) will not exceed 4 per semester. Each additional absence (after 4) will remove 10 points from the student's final grade. After 6 unexcused absences, the student will be removed from Mixed Choir.
- **Excused absences** (absences deemed excused by the office OR cleared in advance by the director) will not count against the student.

## Performance Dates and Absences from Performances

Performance dates are published at the beginning of the school year and on the choral department website's calendar. Reminders are sent via email and text throughout the year. In order to receive a passing grade for a performance, students must attend the performance. If a student can not attend a performance, he/she must notify the director in writing no later than two weeks prior to the performance date. After the director receives the written communication, the absence will be considered for excuse. If a student falls ill prior to a concert, the student or parent must contact the director via phone or e-mail and then provide a doctor's excuse in order to have the absence excused. Finally, students who are excused from a performance must see the director to schedule make-up work, which may include written work or an aural exam.

Performing with the choir is a privilege. Students with excessive absences (excused or unexcused), discipline issues, or other issues that have caused them to miss rehearsal may be disqualified from performing with the choir.

**Performance Attire**

Mixed Choir's performance attire will consist of a formal choral dress (women) and suit (men) for formal performances, and the TCHS Choir t-shirt for informal performances. Students in the choral department will rent the official choral department uniform from the choral department. Each student is responsible for providing his/her own appropriate footwear (black closed-toe dress shoes). For informal performances, students may be asked to provide their own uniform pieces in addition to the TCHS Choir t-shirt.

**Financial Obligation**

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| School Course Fee | $25 per class (paid at schedule pick-up) |
| Choral Department Fee | $100 per year |

The Choral Department fee includes all uniform costs (rental, hemming, etc.), choral department t-shirt, field trip costs, costs of classroom supplies, and sheet music. This fee also helps cover the rental of performance venues for concerts, accompanist fees, and many other costs incurred throughout the year.

The Choral Department fee is due by March 1st. Students may pay the amount in one payment, or they may break the amount up into smaller payments. Students will also have the opportunity to pay this amount through fundraising. Students with extenuating circumstances should discuss alternate arrangements with the director. Students who have unpaid financial obligations from previous years will be REMOVED from the class roll if these fees are not paid by the last day of schedule changes.

**Classroom Expectations and Discipline Order**

There are three classroom expectations that must be followed at all times:

- Be Safe
- Be Responsible
- Be Respectful

Those who are unable to follow the classroom expectations will be subject to discipline. Minor infractions will be dealt with in the following order:

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| 1st infraction - | Verbal Warning |
| 2nd infraction - | Disciplinary Writing Assignment |
| 3rd infraction - | Parent Contact |
| 4th infraction - | Discipline Referral |

Other more serious discipline issues (including Class Three Infractions) will be follow the TCSS policy.

**Classroom Procedures**

Classroom procedures will be outlined at the beginning of each year. Students are expected to follow procedures for entering and exiting the room, storing personal belongings, keeping the classroom clean, asking to be excused from class, turning in money, turning in forms, etc.

**Tardy Policy**

Students are expected to be in their assigned seat with required materials when the bell rings. TCHS Choir will follow the TCHS Tardy Policy.

**Cell Phone Policy**

TCHS Choir will follow the TCSS policy. No cell phones are allowed during school hours.

**Parent/Student Communication**

The TCHS Choral Department uses two services to help communicate effectively with parents and students. ALL newsletters, financial statements, and any other important information will be messaged to parents through the Cut Time platform. Paper copies of these communications will not be provided. Parents and students are responsible for confirming that valid contact information has been entered into the Cut Time system. Additionally, students are encouraged to subscribe to text and/or e-mail alerts using Remind. Parents and students are also encouraged to call or e-mail the director with any questions or concerns throughout the year.

**Additional Information**

The Acknowledgement Form must be returned to the director by the last day of schedule changes. Students with missing forms will be removed from the class roll. Additional information (concert dates, fundraisers, trip information, honor choir information, etc.) will be e-mailed via Cut Time and posted to the website as the year progresses.