

CHOIR HANDBOOK

Snoqualmie Middle School 2026-2027

Mrs. Haley Isaacs

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Welcome to choir at Snoqualmie Middle School! I am thrilled that you decided to be part of our music department, and I am looking forward to a wonderful school year with you. Please take a moment to read the class requirements and **sign the attached Pledge of Commitment by Tuesday, September, 22nd** and turn in a hard copy into the choir room turn-in tray.

CLASS OBJECTIVES

Students enrolled in choir will learn...

- Healthy vocal tone production
- Music reading, sight singing, and music theory
- Rehearsal and concert etiquette
- Critical listening skills as both performers and audience members

GRADING

A	93-100%	B-	80-82%	D+	67-69%
A-	90-92%	C+	77-79%	D	60-66%
B+	87-89%	C	73-76%	F	59% or below
B	83-86%	C-	70-72%		

Concert Attendance & Participation	40%	Assignments	15%
Daily Points	20%	Assessments	25%

Concert Attendance & Participation

As this is a performance-based class, attendance at all performances is mandatory for the following reasons:

- Concerts provide a culminating experience that cannot be reproduced in the classroom.
- Performances are the means by which the skills learned in class are evaluated.
- Singing in a choir is a group effort, and each individual voice is important. The performance is weakened by every missing performer. We rehearse together, and therefore we perform together.

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The following are the **REQUIRED** performances students must attend, depending on which grade and ensemble (i.e. choir) they are in:

Date	Event	Location	Ensembles
Friday, Nov 6th - (TIME TBD)	8th Grade Choir Retreat	SMS	8th Grade Choir
Mon, 11/16/2026, 7:00pm	SMS Choir Concert 1	MSHS PAC	All choirs
Fri, 11/20 - Sat, 11/21	Eastshore MS Honor Choir*	Liberty HS	Singers by audition
Wed, 1/27/2027, 7:00pm	SVSD Vocal Jazz Night	MSHS PAC	Jazz Choir
Sat, 1/9/2027, all day	Men of the Valley Festival*	MSHS PAC	Male-identifying singers
Wed, 2/24/2027, 5:00pm	Pathways Concert	MSHS PAC	All choirs
Sat, 2/27/2027 all day	MS Solo & Ensemble*	Pacific Cascade	Allchoirs
Tues, 3/23/2027 7:00pm	SMS Choir Concert 2	MSHS PAC	All choirs
March TBA, during school	Elementary Recruiting Tour	SES, CVES	8th Grade Choir
Thurs, 4/1/2027, all day	Eastshore Choral Festival	Islander MS	8th Grade Choir
Mon, 5/24/2027, 7:00pm	SMS Choir Concert 3	MSHS PAC	All choirs
Thurs, 5/27/2027, all day	7th Grade Choir Trip	Leavenworth	7th Grade Choir
Sat, 5/15/2027, all day	Music in the Parks	Oaks Park (Portland)	8th Grade Choir

*denotes optional event

Dates and events are subject to change

Concert Attendance Policy: If a student is unable to attend a mandatory performance, a **minimum of 2 weeks notice** is required if a student wishes to make up concert points, except in extreme cases approved by Mrs. Isaacs. Examples of excused absences include critical medical issues and serious family emergencies. If a student receives an excused absence, the student will complete a writing and listening assignment provided by Mrs. Isaacs to make up the points lost by absence at the performance.

Unexcused concert absences will result in a zero and an overall grade drop.

Rehearsal Participation & Etiquette

Students will be graded by semester on their participation in all rehearsals while following behavioral expectations and demonstrating proper rehearsal etiquette.

Behavioral Expectations in the Choir Room

1. Water, pencil, and binder only
2. One speaker at a time
3. Be kind, respectful, and encouraging

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Students demonstrate proper rehearsal etiquette by...

- Sitting in their assigned seat with all required materials at the beginning of class.
- Only having water, a pencil, and music while standing on the risers. No gum, candy, food, other beverages, cell phones, or other materials are permitted while students are standing on the risers.
- Listening carefully and maintaining focus.
- Following all classroom procedures.
- Treating classroom materials and school property with respect and care.
- Being ready to sing at all times.
- Being kind and supportive of classmates.

Students can lose participation points if they...

- Need constant reminders to sing when the choir is singing
- Need constant reminders to do the activity the choir is doing
- Are not standing when the rest of the choir is standing (unless a student is experiencing a medical emergency and cannot stand)
- Consistently lose their required materials
- Leave class without permission
- Leave class for extended periods of time
- Disengage/disrupt in other ways that disrupt their learning or the learning of others

Students will start out the year with a bank of 450 points (five for each day in the semester). Every time a student loses a participation point by violating expectations, a point will be deducted from their Daily Points grade bank in the gradebook. Students will NOT lose a participation point if they have an excused absence from class the day they are gone.

Being in choir is a choice. Students must display excellent behavior and effort at all times. *Students who choose not to participate at a high level or have consistent behavior issues may require a parent conference and/or placement in a different class.*

Assignments

Graded class work may consist of the following assignments:

- Short music theory or sight singing assignments
- Listening assignments
- Concert reflection writing assignments

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MATERIALS

Students are asked to come to choir every day with...

- ☐ A ½ inch 3-ring binder to hold sheet music and other assignments (kept in the choir room)
- ☐ A pencil (NOT a pen, as marks in music should always be erasable)
- ☐ School-issued laptop
- ☐ Water bottle (recommended)

CONCERT ATTIRE

Students may choose from two concert dress options when performing:

Option 1: Dress

- Black short-sleeved choir dress (provided by SMS)
- **Black tights (provided by student)**
- **Black closed-toed shoes (provided by student)**

Option 2: Pants

- **Black dress shirt (provided by student)**
- Black dress pants (provided by SMS)
- **Black socks (provided by student)**
- **Black closed-toed dress shoes (provided by student)**
- Black vest (provided by SMS)
- Black bow tie (provided by SMS)

Concert Appearance: It is expected that students will come to performances looking clean, professional, and put together. In order to achieve this, students must...

- Pull hair back
- Wear minimal jewelry
- Wear deodorant

POLICIES & EXPECTATIONS

Cell Phones, Earbuds, and Smart Watches

There is no cell phone, Bluetooth headphone, or smart watch use in the classrooms at SMS. Smart watches may be worn to tell time, but not for texting/communicating (i.e. cannot be used like a phone). 6th and 7th Grade devices will be stored in their lockers. 8th Grade devices will be stored in backpacks or in phone slots to the side of the room.

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Any violation of this policy will result in the following appropriate disciplinary action:

1. **First Offense:** Device will be confiscated and sent to the front office. Student can pick up at the end of the school day.
2. **Second Offense:** Device will be confiscated and sent to the front office. Student can pick up at the end of the school day. Parent/guardian will be notified.
3. **Third Offense:** Device will be confiscated and sent to the front office. Only the parent/guardian is allowed to pick it up at the end of the school day.

Multiple infractions or uncooperating behavior will result in a scheduled meeting with administration.

If a student must be contacted by a parent/guardian by phone during class time, the parent/guardian should contact the school office at (425) 831-8450.

FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

Students who participate in choir may have the opportunity to travel and perform with the group at music festivals and/or special events. ***Demonstration of rehearsal and performance skills is necessary to earn the ability to travel.*** If a student does not meet the class's behavioral expectations, the student will not be invited on the field trip or special performance and Mrs. Isaacs will contact the student's parent/guardian.

Students may be asked to pay a small fee in order to help cover the cost of the trip. If you need financial assistance, please contact Mrs. Isaacs.

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PLEDGE OF COMMITMENT

Turn in a signed hard copy of this sheet ONLY by Friday, September 25th.

Keep the rest of this packet for your reference.

Students

I, _____ (write legibly), acknowledge that I have read and understand the 2026-2027 Snoqualmie Middle School Choir Handbook. I affirm that I will abide by all rules, regulations, and intent of this handbook, and understand that there will be penalties if not done so. I am aware of all concert dates and choir events and have put them in my schedule, and will communicate any known conflicts immediately to Mrs. Isaacs. By signing this form, I pledge to honor this commitment and do my part to make SMS Choirs successful.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian

I/We, _____ (write legibly), have read the 2026-2027 Snoqualmie Middle School Choir Handbook and have discussed with my/our child. I/We are aware of all concert dates and choir events and have put them in my/our schedule, and will communicate any known conflicts immediately to Mrs. Isaacs. I/We will do my/our best to encourage him/her to abide by the rules and regulations of SMS Choirs.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date