Encore

(Advanced Choir)

Handbook

2026-2027

Teacher's contact information

Mrs. Laura Calderón
Email: calderonl@svsd410.org → this is the best way to contact the teacher
Phone: (425) 831-8247

Parent communication

Mrs. Calderón will send emails periodically, letting parents know about upcoming events or other important news. The mailing list is compiled using the parent emails entered in Skyward. If you would like to receive choir updates at another email address, please contact Mrs. Calderón.

CKMS Music (band and choir) also has an Instagram account @chiefkanimmusic – follow us!

Materials

All choir students will be provided with the following materials:

- ½" binder
- Pencil pouch
- Red pen
- Sheet music and sight reading materials

Students need to provide 2 pencils to keep in the pencil pouch of their choir binder.

Choir binders will be stored in a cabinet in the choir room. Students may take their choir binder home to practice, but it should always return to class the next day.

Grading

The semester grade will be comprised of:

40% assessments: performances, quizzes, and tests
30% class participation
20% assignments
10% practice logs

Class participation

In Encore, classroom activities include singing, counting rhythms, marking the music, completing music theory assignments, doing sectionals, improvising, listening to recordings, and more. Participation points are earned by fully participating in class activities for the duration of the period and having the required materials each day. If a student has their choir binder but can't locate their materials quickly when they're needed, the supplies are considered missing and points will be deducted. If a student is missing their choir materials, points will be deducted.

Participation expectations during illness/vocal strain

Sometimes a student will not be able to sing in rehearsal due to the effects of a recent illness or vocal strain. When this happens, the student should let Mrs. Calderón know about the situation before class begins, and they should participate in all the parts of rehearsal besides singing, such as following in the music, marking the music, listening to instruction/class discussion, etc. Students do not get a "free day" to work on other things and tune out the rehearsal.

If a student is not in class due to an excused absence (illness, appointment, vacation, etc.), the student's daily participation points are excused. If the absence is not excused (skipping class, etc.) the student will earn a zero for the day.

Test/quiz retake policy

For written tests and quizzes, students can retake until the end of the semester, and full credit can be earned. Students should ask to be put on the Check & Connect list so they can come in during Advisory to complete the retake.

For singing quizzes, students must schedule a time to come in before school or during lunch to retake the quiz. Singing quiz can be retaken until the performance of that song.

Missing work and late work

If a student is missing an assignment, they should pick up an extra copy from the "Extras" folder in the choir room. The assignment title at the top of the worksheet is exactly how it will be titled in the grade book (e.g. a worksheet with the title "Major Key Signatures #1" will be put into the grade book as "Major Key Signatures #1 worksheet"). Students should look in Schoology, write down the name of the missing assignment, and find it in the "Extras" folder. Missing assignments will be accepted until they are 1 month past due, at which point no credit will be given.

It is time consuming and usually not very productive to discuss missing assignments over Schoology message or email. **Students who have questions or concerns about assignments marked "missing" in the grade book should talk to Mrs. Calderón in person**, either before school, during lunch, or during Check & Connect (Advisory). Parents who have concerns about missing assignments should have their student try to work it out first before emailing the teacher.

Practice logs

Periodically, students in Encore will be required to practice outside of class time and fill out a practice log. The purpose of practice logs is to speed up the note-learning phase so that class time can be dedicated to other activities. It's important that the practice take place during the date range listed at the top of the practice log, and that the practice log gets turned in promptly.

Full credit will be given to students who practice for the minimum number of minutes required, fill in the practice log, obtain a parent signature at the bottom of the log, and **turn it in within 7 days of the due date or before the performance of that piece, whichever comes first.** Electronic versions of the practice log are not available, but students can pick up an extra copy in the "Extras" folder in the choir room. Mrs. Calderón will only accept the physical copy of the practice log that was handed out – no handmade practice logs and no parent emails in lieu of the practice log.

As with missing assignments, it is time consuming and usually not very productive to discuss missing practice logs over Schoology message or email, so students should talk to Mrs. Calderón in person, either before school, after school, or during Check & Connect.

Performance attendance policy

Choir is a team, and it's critical for everybody to show up to the performance in order for the group to be successful. Of course, sometimes things happen on concert day that are outside of our control. If a student is ill or their family has an emergency situation, the student will be excused from the performance.

A student can also be excused from a performance if they have a religious observance or family obligation (such as vacation) that is communicated to Mrs. Calderón at least 2 weeks in advance of the performance. **Performance dates are listed on page 7 of this handbook**. Please put them on your family calendar to prevent conflicts or last-minute surprises! If a student/parent notifies the teacher about a religious observance or family obligation prior to the concert but less than 2 weeks in advance, the student will have an opportunity to make up 50% of the

concert grade by completing a project. If a student does not show up to the concert because of a religious observance or family obligation and does not notify the teacher in advance, the student will receive a zero for the performance.

If your student has an extracurricular activity on the night of a performance, such as a sports practice/game or dance rehearsal, please email Mrs. Calderón as early as possible (at least 2 weeks in advance, but the sooner the better) so that we can try to work out a solution where the student can still be at the concert performance. In exceptional circumstances, the student may be excused from the performance.

Students will not be excused from a performance for attending parties/socializing, doing homework, babysitting, failing to arrange transportation to the concert, or similar circumstances, and will receive a grade of zero for the performance.

Performance grading

Students can earn full credit for performances by showing up to the warm-up on time, wearing their complete choir uniform, displaying professionalism both onstage and offstage, and meeting the performance expectations discussed in class prior to the event. Points will be deducted for tardiness to the warm-up, behavior that interferes with the warm-up or performance, and disruptive behavior in the audience.

Field trip permission slips

Recently, CKMS has moved primarily to digital permission slips sent through Parent Square. **Field trip permission slips need to be completed by the end of school (2:44 M-Th and 12:44 F) on the day before the field trip.** This ensures that no one is rushing around on the morning of a field trip, all the permission slips are in one stack ready to go with the teacher, and school staff members have an accurate list of who will be attending. If a physical permission slip was sent out, the form must be returned, with all fields filled in and a parent signature, by the end of school the day before the field trip. Emails with a photo or digital version of the document will not be accepted.

Choir Uniforms

Choir uniforms will be issued in the fall. These are on loan from the school at no cost to students as long as they are returned at the end of the school year in good condition. All students need to provide their own black shoes. Those choosing the pants/vest/bow tie option will also need a white, long-sleeve, button-down shirt, but we have several in the uniform closet to loan out if needed.

Uniform option 1:

- Dress (provided)
- Black shoes – no flip flops or slippers; dress shoes preferred

Uniform option 2:

- Black dress pants (provided)
- Black vest (provided)
- White, long-sleeve, button-down shirt
- Black shoes – no flip flops or slippers; dress shoes preferred

Fines

Lost or damaged items will result in a fine:

- Dress: $75
- Pants: $35
- Vest: $35
- Bow tie: $7
- Original sheet music: $5

  Sheet music is considered damaged if it is missing pages, has any tears/stains/water spots, is marked with anything other than pencil, or can't be reused in future years due to extraordinary wear and tear.

2025-2026 Encore performances and events

Required performances are in bold. Please put these on your calendar to prevent conflicts and last-minute surprises!

Tues, Nov 17 → CKMS Winter Choir Concert: 5:45 warm-up, 7pm performance @ Mt. Si High School Auditorium; all CKMS choirs perform

Sat, Dec 5 → Fall City Tree Lighting: 3pm warm-up, 4pm performance @ Fall City Elementary gym; FCES choir & CKMS Encore perform

Thurs, Dec 10 → Jazz Choir field trip to Seattle: time TBD; performance/sing-a-long at assisted living facility, winter fun in Seattle, 5th Avenue Theater performance of "The Wizard of Oz"

Tues, Jan 12 → Eastshore Vocal Jazz Festival: daytime field trip at Liberty High School

Wed, Jan 27 → SVSD Vocal Jazz Concert: 6pm warm-up; 7pm performance @ Mt. Si High School Auditorium; CKMS Encore performs (jazz music), along with SMS, TFMS, and MSHS jazz choirs

Wed, Feb 24 → Pathways Concert: 5:45pm warm-up; 7pm performance @ Mt. Si High School Auditorium; FCES, TRES, CKMS, and MSHS choirs perform

April 2nd-4th → 8th grade music trip: Camp Seymour in Gig Harbor, WA; leave at 3:30pm Friday and return 12pm on Sunday; for 8th grade music students only

Thurs, May 13 → CKMS End-of-year Choir Concert: 5:45 warm-up, 7pm performance @ Mt. Si High School Auditorium; all CKMS choirs perform

Fri, May 21 → CKMS Music Showcase: 5pm warm-up, 6pm performance @ CKMS Commons; CKMS Jazz Band I, Jazz Band II, and Encore perform