Vivace

(6th grade 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:

1. ½" binder
2. Pencil pouch
3. Red pen
4. Sheet music and sight reading materials

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

5. 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:

50% assessments: performances, quizzes, and tests
30% class participation
20% assignments

Class participation

In choir, classroom activities include singing, counting rhythms, marking the music, completing music theory assignments, doing sectionals, 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.

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.

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 6 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.

2026-2027 Vivace 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

*Fri, Dec 4 → Field trip to downtown Seattle for dinner at Pacific Place and a performance of "The Wizard of Oz" at the 5th Avenue Theater; ~4pm to 11pm; all 6th grade CKMS choir students are invited to attend

*This date is tentative, because tickets have not yet been purchased. More information will come out about this field trip soon

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

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