

Middle School Choir Syllabus
2023-2024
Mr. Brayden
Choir Director
kize.brayden@sequoyaheagles.net

Course Description:

In choir, you will learn to develop singing techniques and prepare selected pieces of music for concerts every semester. Concerts are a required part of this class.

Required Materials:

- Pencils (Mechanical preferred, not required)
- 1 Inch black 3 ring binder
- Box of Kleenex
- 1 tub of disinfectant wipes or paper towels
- (Optional) A regular black binder will do just fine but if you are looking for something that will last throughout middle and high school that is a great binder I would recommend the choir folder from musicfolder.com, link included below.
<https://musicfolder.com/products/choir-ringbinder>
- (Optional) Case of water

Parents please fill out and sign the information page and send it back with choir fees by Friday, August 23rd.

Sincerely,
Kize Brayden

Daily Procedures:

RESPECT EVERYONE

- 1) You will need the following items every day at your chair or riser position: pencil, folder, music that has been provided
- 2) Pick up your music folder every day when you walk in the door, I should not need to tell you to go get it after warmups have started
- 3) Some days there will be a bell ringer on the board, these are short and simple. If there is a bell ringer with the days date next to it these are expected to be done as soon as you get to class. Warmups will start shortly after class time has started and you should have your bell ringer done by then.
- 4) Backpacks are not allowed on the risers, you may leave them against the wall of the classroom.
- 5) Use the bathroom and get a drink of water between classes please, I know emergencies happen but if it is an everyday occurrence you will have to find another time to take a break.
- 6) Emergencies: If you are ill or have some sort of emergency and need to go to the bathroom during class, please let me know in some way. I am not sure how Sequoyah

has kids ask to go to the restroom but previously I have worked with kids raising their hand with crossed fingers to ask to go to the bathroom. This works well because it does not interrupt the lesson or song.

- 7) Water bottles with lids are the only drink allowed in my classroom without prior permission.
- 8) Please raise your hand before speaking if you have a question or comment
- 9) Please do not write on choir room property unless explicit permission is granted
- 10) Keep your hands and feet to yourself
- 11) Do not play the piano without permission
- 12) Absolutely **NO GUM** is allowed in my classroom
- 13) You will be given break times to sit so you are not standing all class, please do not goof around during this time or breaks will be limited
- 14) You may sharpen your pencil before class, mechanical pencils are preferred for the chance that your pencil may break or go dull.
- 15) Throwing objects is not allowed
- 16) Just because you are out of sight does not mean you are out of mind, be respectful of my class, myself, and each other even when I may not be watching you.

Attendance:

Attendance is a vital part of this class and each day you miss is important. Attendance at performances is especially important. **Attendance is mandatory to all rehearsals and performances unless otherwise noted.**

Excused Absences Include:

- Extreme personal illness *with* Doctor's Note (or absence from school)
- Family Health emergencies verified by family
- Approved Academic conflicts
- Required Religious observances
- Extra-Curricular School conflicts approved by the director *in advance*.

Again, communication with the director is crucial when an absence is known. The director should be notified **two weeks** in advance of the event in question. The best method of communication would be via email or through phone contact, preferably by the parent or guardian of the student. Absences that are not excused will be given a makeup assignment.

Consequences of misbehaviors: Any step may be skipped depending on the severity of misbehavior

1. Gentle verbal warning
2. One on one discussion + Mr. Bulman will be notified of behavior
3. Contact Parent + Detention
4. "Write up" for administrators

GRADING PROCEDURES:

- **PARTICIPATION POINTS (30%):** Failure to follow any of the above rules will result in the loss of PARTICIPATION POINTS. There will be 5 participation points given each day. Each infraction will be judged by its severity, so loss of points will vary. If there is a

continued problem of disobeying classroom rules, the principal and parents will be contacted and detention will be given.

- **BELL WORK GRADES (15%):** Bell work grades will be worth 250 points and be graded quarterly. There will be weekly bellwork assignments and they will be checked randomly throughout the 9 weeks. If a student misses a day of school, they can write absent and no points will be deducted.
- **PERFORMANCES (40%):** Dates and times will be released well in advance of the event to give you ample time to work out any schedule conflicts that may occur. A concert grade counts for a majority of each student's grade since choir is a participation based class. It is imperative that each student participates in all required concerts or they will not receive a passing grade. If there are any conflicts with future events, I need to hear from a parent/guardian as soon as possible and a make-up assignment will be given.
- **Class Worksheets (15%):** Students are expected to fully participate with all class assignments. ****If there is any implication of cheating by use of the internet or another classmate, all students involved will receive an automatic zero and will not be allowed to make up the assignment.** I will be happy to answer any questions you may have in regards to the grading system. Just send me an email and I will respond as soon as I can.

Cell Phone Policy:

- **Middle School Students-** The same Zero phone policy will continue at the middle school. All students should lock their phones in their lockers at the beginning of the day. Having a phone in class will result in an automatic detention.
- **High School Students-** The same Zero phone policy being implemented at the high school. All students should lock their phones in their lockers at the beginning of the day. Having a phone in class will result in an automatic detention. If you have any concerns about this, please contact the high school office.

DISTRICT HOMEWORK/CLASSWORK POLICY:

- Homework and projects are due on their DUE DATE.
- 25% will be deducted each day an assignment is late.

CHOIR FEE:

- The choir fee this semester will be \$20. This fee will pay for your choir t-shirt and other classroom materials purchased throughout the year. The choir t-shirt acts as our uniform throughout the year. If there is a problem paying the fee in full, please contact me via email and we can work out a payment plan together.

****If any parents or family members would like to purchase a choir t-shirt it will be an additional \$15. Send the money with the rest of the choir fee. We would love for you to wear our gear and support us!**

CHOIR DRESS CODE:

- **Community Outreach-** Dress code for any community outreach will be the choir T-Shirt and school appropriate jeans. Some outreach opportunities may be outside, so appropriate outerwear can be worn.
- **Concert Attire-** Our concerts are our “Semi-Formal” performances of the year. T-shirts, sweats, or tennis shoes will not be allowed for concerts. If there are any questions about concert attire, you can email me any time!

Required Dates: A formal list of dates will be sent out at a later date with plenty of notice before the first required event.

THE VOICE OF SEQUOYAH
Information & Acknowledgement Page

Please Sign and Return this Page Only

We have read the Sequoyah Handbook and The Voice of Sequoyah syllabus in its entirety. We fully understand the expectations and requirements stated within these documents. Our signatures indicate that we accept all procedures and grading policies as stated.

Student Information:

Student's printed name: _____

Student's grade: _____

Student's T-Shirt size _____

Guardian Information:

Parent/Guardian's printed name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian's Email: _____

Parent/Guardian's Phone Number: _____

of Additional T-Shirts _____ Sizes _____

Image Acknowledgement

I give my permission for my child's image to be recorded by photograph or video for educational purposes or for promotional purposes of the Sequoyah Choirs.

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____

RETURN SIGNED SYLLABUS AND FEES BY Friday, August 23rd!

*The syllabus is one of your first grades for the semester, so turn it in on time!

***The sooner you turn in your choir fee, the sooner I can get the t-shirts ordered.**