Dear students, parents and guardians,

Welcome to all new and returning choral students! We are excited to welcome you to this new school year. This handbook outlines all expectations for all chorus students.

**WHAT WILL WE BE DOING IN CHORUS CLASS?**

**Music Literacy:** Students are expected to learn more about the building blocks of music, including but not limited to: music terminology, musical symbols, terms, note names, solfege and rhythm topics, and others. A leveled curriculum for sight singing has been implemented and students will be expected to complete a certain number of “encounters” each marking period. Level completion means the student has scored a 75% or better on the leveled encounter. Time will be given during class for practice and assessment and students can always reach out to student leaders or the teacher for additional help.

**Vocal Health:** Students are expected to stay in good vocal health throughout the year. In addition, rehearsals will include time for learning to sing in a healthy manner, using proper posture, breathing and vocal technique. Students will be assessed on vocal technique through observation and during assessments throughout the year.

**Choral Rehearsal Techniques:** Students are expected to participate, grow and learn as choral singers. These are skills that will ensure that our students are able to function well as individuals and as a group, and are transferable to other classes, college and careers. Students will be assessed on this category via self-assessment rubrics which they and the teacher will complete periodically throughout the semester.

**Performance:** As a group we will perform in concert a wide variety of choral literature, which is a culminating event in our curriculum. We will include standard choral repertoire as well as multicultural pieces, and other styles like jazz, folk, gospel, musical theater and pop. Students will be expected to assess other performances. **PLEASE NOTE THE PERFORMANCES ON THE CHORUS CALENDAR AND PLAN FAMILY SCHEDULES ACCORDINGLY.**

**MEDICAL INFORMATION**
When Chorus travels off the SHS campus we will need to carry with us medical information for all students in case of emergency. Students are required to have an accurate, updated Health
Information form on file with the department. Please fill this out and return with your signed contract.

**EXPECTATIONS OF CHORUS STUDENTS**

**Daily Expectations:**
1. You will need a one inch binder for class with loose leaf paper or a notebook inside. Your music will be stored in your binder. You will bring a pencil to each rehearsal and mark your music in rehearsal.
2. You are expected to participate in class; sitting or standing with correct posture, singing your best, following and marking your music and contributing to the ensemble.
3. You are expected to practice and grow as a musician throughout the course.
4. You will be expected to work with others in a collaborative way.
5. You will complete sight-singing and musicianship assignments and other written assignments as needed.
6. No food or drink or electronic devices, including phones, of any kind are allowed in the classroom.

**Guidelines for Class:**
1. **Be on time and begin.** When you enter the classroom, drop your personal items (including your phone) in the designated area and bring only your pencil and binder to your seat. We will begin warm-ups before the bell. If you are late to class repeatedly, a warning/phone call home will occur. If you are excessively tardy, you may serve a teacher detention.
2. **Be prepared for class.** You will need your music WITH YOU and a PENCIL EVERY DAY. You will be taking notes in your music and completing occasional assignments in class. If you are habitually unprepared for class, your grade will be lowered.
3. **Participate with respect.** This means you will raise your hand to ask questions and treat your music and class materials with respect, treat others with respect and generally behave. Disruptions will not be tolerated.
4. **Ask Questions.** If you don’t understand, you have many ways to let me know. You can talk with me before or after school, before or after class, ask a fellow student, write me a note or email, or visit my classroom anytime. I will make every effort to assist you if I know you need help.
5. **Plan your life.** Our concerts and performances are MANDATORY. Please plan your and your family’s schedules accordingly. You are obligated to your fellow singers to be there. Show up on time for class. Poor management of your time or personal calendar does NOT excuse absence or poor performance.
6. **Be positive.** It is easy to get bogged down in details in a choral rehearsal. A positive attitude, smile and growth mindset is vital to a great chorus. Teamwork is key. Contribute to the group in a positive way.
GRADING

Students will receive a grade for chorus. Their grade consists of the following categories, which align with the NH Model Arts Competencies.

CONNECTING: Students can connect their learning in Chorus to other disciplines and the arts, and apply the importance of music study to other contexts. This will be assessed via student responses on tests/quizzes/projects and through student evaluation forms.

PERFORMING: Students can perform a varied program of repertoire with attention to our “Choral Pyramid” and with awareness to the culture, style, genre and historical context of each piece of music. This will be assessed via our mandatory performances and other assessments.

Please see the attached calendar of performances for the year and add them to your schedule NOW.

RESPONDING: Students can present, with evidence, information about the intent and expressive content or meaning of music. This will be assessed in class discussions/activities, and through student responses on tests/quizzes/evaluations.

CREATING: Students can refine their musical performances, or make suggestions about performances, with regards to musical knowledge gained in class. This is assessed via class observations during discussions/activities, through student leadership opportunities, and through student responses on test/quizzes and evaluation forms.

MUSICIANSHIP: Students can demonstrate their knowledge about the building blocks of music including issues of melody, rhythm and other topics. This will be assessed via encounters, and student responses on class tests/quizzes.
CONCERT/PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS AND POLICY
The most updated concert schedule is provided in this packet. Mandatory performances are marked in Bold. Any conflicts must be submitted to Mrs. Horaj via email by a parent or guardian no less than two weeks in advance of the mandatory performance. Acceptable conflicts are limited to family events or emergencies. Work obligations, doctor’s appointments and the like are not considered to be acceptable conflicts. If you miss a mandatory concert, you will be required to sing alone the entire concert for Mrs. Horaj on your own time for a grade. Please plan your schedule!

Festivals/All-State Auditions/Other Opportunities:
In the course of the semester there may be opportunities to audition or be recommended for extra performance festivals, auditions for honor choirs, and other special concerts and events. Please know that you must be a member IN GOOD STANDING of this ensemble and of the school community to be recommended and to participate. If you are neglect your responsibility to the ensemble (absences, poor attitude and rehearsal technique) you will not be allowed to participate in extra events/concerts/festivals, regardless of your acceptance.
**CONCERT DRESS:**
Our dress code for concerts helps us to look unified and dignifies our performance by looking our best as a team. Our concerts are formal occasions; this is not a rock concert! The goal is for the audience to be able to focus on our performance, not what we’re wearing. Please try to obtain your concert dress as soon as you can. If you cannot get or borrow these items, please let Mrs. Horaj know. I can help you get or borrow them if I am given at least two days notice. Of course, more time is preferred!

**GENERAL GUIDELINES:**
Please refrain from wearing perfume/cologne. This is hazardous to some people, and can cause allergic reactions.
Please keep hair neat and out of your face. You shouldn’t have to touch your hair while performing.
Please wear shoes that you can easily walk in up and down stairs and risers.
Please wear deodorant!
School rules for dress code apply for concerts as well, both here at school and when we travel as a group or as individuals representing the school.

**Patriotic Events:**
Concert Dress for patriotic events will be:
**ATTIRE:** Black dress pants, or skirt (MUST BE KNEE LENGTH OR LONGER), black belt (if worn), black socks or tights, black dress shoes, Red, white or blue dress shirt or sweater with conservative neckline. No jeans, sneakers, T-shirts, visible undergarments, or shirts or pants with logos or designs. Goal is professionalism and uniformity.

**Formal Events:**
Concert Dress for formal events will be:
**Option 1:** Black dress pants, black belt (if worn), black socks, black dress shoes, Black button down long sleeved shirt. No jeans, sneakers, T-shirts (unless worn underneath black button down shirt), or shirts with logos or designs.

**Option 2:** Black dress pants (NO YOGA PANTS OR LEGGINGS) or skirt (MUST BE KNEE LENGTH OR LONGER), Black socks or tights, black dress shoes, Black dressy-ish shirt or top. If top is a tank top, a cardigan/sweater must be worn with it. No jeans, sneakers, T-shirts, visible undergarments, shirts or pants with logos or designs.
PARENT/STUDENT ACCEPTANCE OF CONCERT CHORUS HANDBOOK

Please complete and return with Medical Information no later than Sept. 4th

I have read and understand the Chorus Handbook. I understand the policies for performances, performing groups, and that I will be responsible for obtaining concert dress as outlined above.

__________________________________________________
Student Name (please print)

__________________________________________________
Student Signature

________________
Date

__________________________________________________
Parent/Guardian name (please print)

_________________________________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent’s preferred method of communication (please check one):
Email _____ Phone_____ Text_____
Parent email: __________________________
Parent phone: _________________________
Best time to reach by phone: ___________________