



JAHS
Show Choir
Handbook

Jonathan Alder Show Choir Handbook

Dear Students/Parents,

Choir, whether that be the Show Choir, Symphonic Choir, or Mixed Choir serves as an important experience when not only garnering fine arts credits necessary to graduate, but also enriching many life skills that can be used outside of the classroom. Students will learn how to work diligently to build on the already established choral program. Some of the skills that will be developed throughout the year our student's abilities to actively listen, reflect, and empathize with musical traditions that are both familiar and foreign.

The goals and expectations set in the classroom are meant to create an efficient team that can develop the overall musical, educational, and cultural experience that is offered through the JA Choirs. Just like in athletics and other team-related activities, the JA Choirs requires that each student try their best at all times and work to improve individually and as a larger group. This document will assist students in being successful in this regard, and will also guarantee that we are all on the same page: the students, parents/guardians, and the director. I am very excited for this year, as we will not only create magnificent music together, but also create and build upon a community that reflects the best characteristics of the Jonathan Alder Community.

Sincerely,

Mr. Nicholas Mayes

Vocal Music Director



After reading this handbook completely, please sign and return the attached Commitment Form by WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2019.

The JA Music Booster Form and JAM Fest Form must also be signed, along with the Commitment Form.

GRADING POLICY

Your grade each semester will be based off of the following:

1. Participation:

- a. The student will:
 - i. Be in attendance and on time to all rehearsals including during school hours and night rehearsals (1-2 a week). Night rehearsals will start at 6 PM and go to no later than 9 PM. (Please see ATTENDANCE POLICY)
 - ii. Be in their seat with a pencil and their music folder 5 minutes after the bell rings.
 - iii. Always have a positive attitude that encourages others in the team. (Be a team player)
 - iv. Never be afraid to ask questions or even pose answers to problems that may arise.
 - v. NOT CHEW GUM or EAT FOOD in my classroom. Students will only be allowed to bring water into the class, which is highly recommended.
 - vi. NOT distract others from the task at hand.
 - vii. Put out their best effort in day to day rehearsals. Don't be apathetic. (Don't be a Blob Fish)
 - viii. *For each concert, students are expected to have the music for that concert memorized 2 weeks prior to performance.

2. Concert Attendance/ Etiquette:

- a. Students will:
 - i. Be expected to be in attendance and on time to all concerts present on the choir calendar. Show Choir may be given extra dates for competitions, and other performances at a later date. (Students will be given at least a month's notice to changes in the calendar.)(See ATTENDANCE POLICY)
 - ii. Be dressed in the appropriate concert dress. (See Concert Dress)
 - iii. Demonstrate appropriate audience etiquette and behavior.

3. Recordings/ Memory Tests:

- a. Students will:

- i. Be given assignments where they must record themselves in a small group or individually, their singing or choreography parts for a certain section of music.
 - ii. Be given in-class memory tests based on memorization of music and choreography with a small group.
4. **Sight-Reading:**
- a. Students will:
 - i. Be expected to sight-read a specific piece of music with 80% accuracy.
 - ii. Be graded on their abilities to sight-read pieces of music using solfege and other methods of sight-reading.
5. **Exams:**
- a. 1st Semester
 - i. Students will be asked to perform a memory test for choreography taken from the curriculum learned throughout the semester. Students will receive a rubric for how they will be scored.
 - b. Final
 - i. Students will prepare a presentation where student groups design a show concept with specific details on the process. Students will receive a rubric for how they will be graded in advance.

Grading Scale:

90-100= A

80-89= B

70-79= C

60-69= D

0-59= F

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

- An unexcused absence from a performance will drop the student's grade to an "o" for the performance- resulting in approximately a two-letter grade deduction from the final quarter grade. A student may also be removed (or benched) from a future performance at the director's discretion.
- Absence because of personal illness or death in the family will be excused with a note from a parent/guardian to the director.
- Absences for any other reason are generally not excused, but can be submitted to the director, from a parent/guardian. **It must be in writing two weeks prior to the performance for review by the principal.**

- **Work is never accepted as an excused absence!** Performance dates are given far in advance and students are expected to take care of their work schedules accordingly.
- Any conflicts between choir activities and other school activities should be brought to the attention of the director **ASAP**, and no later than two weeks before the event is to take place. Solutions can usually be worked out if given enough time to do so.
- *Students should not assume a school conflict (such as team practice the day of a concert/rehearsal) automatically excuse them from a required event. A solution will be worked out between the students and staff members involved, if acceptable notice is given.*
- If a student has an excused absence or early dismissal from school the day of the performance or rehearsal, this would count as an excused absence from the event.
- If a student has an excused absence from a performance, the student will be expected to make up the performance in the form of an assignment at the discretion of the Director.

Materials Needed:

- All students are required to purchase **(1) 1 inch BLACK binder** to be used for performances. Please have this purchased and ready for class by **August, 28, 2018**
- Students are expected to have a pencil with them every day in class.
- Students participating in **show choir** will be expected to purchase their show choir outfit which will cost anywhere between \$100-\$300. We will try to find the most reasonably priced outfits and clothing options so students will be able to get their money's worth.
- Students in show choir may also be asked to purchase "character shoes" for dancing.
- Students should bring in at least one box of tissues.

Concert Dress:

- Students will be expected to wear different clothes for each specific concert given to them at least a month in advance.

Contact Information:

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by email at
mayesni@japioneers.org

For an online calendar, along with additional information regarding the choral department, please visit: www.jamb-arts.org

Remind 101: If you would like to be added, text **@eag6k8** to **81010**

2019-2020 Choir Calendar

*Make sure to add these concert dates to your calendar, as attendance at concerts makes up a major portion of your grade. Not showing up to a concert without an approved excuse can lead to at least a **two-letter grade deduction**.

*All events will be reported on the Music Booster website (jamb-arts.org) and on Canvas.

*Some events may not be listed in this calendar, as they have not been fully confirmed.

Saturday, October 5 - JAM Fest

☐ Doors open @ 5

Concert starts @ 7 in JAHS Auditoria

Tuesday, December 10 - JAHS Winter Choir Concert

☐ 7pm in JAHS Auditoria

Friday, December 13 - Santa in the Park

Saturday, February 2 - Great Lakes Invitational

Saturday, February 22 - St. Clairsville Division 3 Championship

Saturday, February 29 - Grove City, Voices in the Grove

Tuesday, March 3 - JAHS Choir Concert

☐ 7pm in JAHS Auditoria

Thursday, May 14 - JAHS "Cookie" Choir Concert

☐ 7pm in JAHS Auditoria

Monday, May 18 - JAHS Choir/Band Dessert Night

☐ 7pm in JAHS Auditoria

Sunday, May 24 - High School Graduation

☐ 2pm in JAHS Gymnasium

Commitment Form

**Please detach and return the forms to Mr. Mayes by
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2019**

We have read the JAHS Mixed Choir Handbook and we understand the commitment we have made for the entire school year.

STUDENT NAME

DATE

STUDENT SIGNATURE

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME

DATE

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

Contact Info

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____

“Music, in performance, is a type of sculpture. The air in the performance is sculpted into something.”

- Frank Zappa