



JAJH
8th Grade Choir
Handbook

Jonathan Alder 8th Grade Choir Handbook

Dear Students/Parents,

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 must also be signed, along with the Commitment Form.

GRADING POLICY

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

1. **Participation:** (60%)
 - 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.
 - ix. Be graded on their abilities to sight-read pieces of music using solfege and other methods of sight-reading.
2. **Concert Attendance/ Etiquette:** (25%)
 - a. Students will:
 - i. Be expected to be in attendance and on time to all concerts present on the choir calendar. (See ATTENDANCE POLICY)
 - ii. Be dressed in the appropriate concert dress. (See Concert Dress)
 - iii. Demonstrate appropriate audience etiquette and behavior.

3. Worksheets (5%)

- a. Worksheets and in-class activities will be assigned throughout the semester.

4. Projects (10%)

- a. Composer Project - students, in large groups, will put together a poster about one composer, and give an oral presentation.

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 a folder to be used for performances. Please have this purchased and ready for class by **August 28, 2019**
- Students should bring in at least one box of tissues.
- Students are expected to have a pencil with them every day in class.

Concert Dress:

- Students will be expected to wear different clothes for each specific concert given to them a month in advance.
 - Men- Tie; Dress pants and dress shirt (Must be in good taste)
 - Women- Dresses, skirts, or dress pants; NO leggings as pants

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

**"MUSIC EXPRESSES THAT WHICH CANNOT BE
PUT INTO WORDS AND THAT WHICH CANNOT
REMAIN SILENT" - VICTOR HUGO**

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 conformed.

Saturday, October 5 - JAM Fest*

☐ Doors open @ 5

Concert starts @ 7 in JAHS Auditoria

Thursday, December 12 - JAJH Winter Choir Concert

☐ 7pm in JAHS Auditoria

Tuesday, February 25 - JAJH Choir Concert

☐ 7pm in JAHS Auditoria

Thursday, May 21 - JAJH "Cookie" Choir Concert

☐ 7pm in JAHS Auditoria

*- Attendance is not required

"If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician. I often think in music. I live my daydreams in music. I see my life in terms of music."

— [Albert Einstein](#)

Commitment Form

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

We have read the JAHS Show 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