

Parkway South High School
Choral Department Syllabus / 2017-2018
Jonathan D. Owen, Director

Daily rehearsals - Excellent attendance and effective participation are necessary in order to receive an excellent grade in vocal music classes at South High School. It is important to be in class each day.

Course Objectives - Prepare for performances and to perform / Improve vocal technique, sight-reading and part-singing skills / Foster an appreciation for a wide variety of choral literature and develop listening skills and ear training / Increase each student's ability to blend and sing with musicality and present polished performances

Grading Policy

- Grades are earned through performance evaluation, daily participation, singing and written tests and final exam. The daily singing grade is very important and attendance is very important due to the fact that this is a **performance-based class**. Class participation includes such factors as attendance, punctuality, student preparation, contributions to the learning environment, and a cooperative attitude.
- The grading scale doesn't "round up". The following grading scale will be used for the choral class semester grades: A = 90-100% B = 80-90% C = 70-80% D = 60-70%
- The breakdown of the grading is as follows:
 Daily Contribution – **45%** Concert/Performance – **25%** Theory/Written Assignments – **10%**
 Singing Quizzes – **10%** Final Exam – **10%**
- "H" Honor Grade information will be on the website. Only juniors and seniors in Concert Choir Mixed and Advanced Chamber Choir are able to work toward an "H".

Attendance Policy

- Daily points are awarded for each rehearsal in which a student is present and **effectively participating**.
- If a student has an **excused absence** or a **school related absence**, they should check with Mr. Owen to see how to make up the missed points. Students may be required to do either a performance or written assignment.
- If a student has an **unexcused absence (as marked in Infinite Campus)** they will be unable to make up any points resulting in a **grade of "zero" for that day**.
- If a student's daily **attendance drops below 90%** in a semester, their effectiveness to the ensemble will be reevaluated. **A schedule change may be initiated for the following semester**.
- Students who receive **ISS/OSS** will have their school citizenship reevaluated.

Performances and extra rehearsals are not optional activities.

- Students are expected to attend, and be in time for, all performance and extra rehearsals.
- An unexcused, missed performance will result in a significantly lowered grade in the class.
- **A performance presented during or after schools hours is an extension of the vocal music class.**
 - ** Having to work is not an excused absence from a performance.
 - ** Sixth Grade Camp Counselor is not considered an excused absence from a performance.
 - ** Non-school activities will not be considered excused absences.
- A practice for another activity will not be an excuse to miss a scheduled performance. If notified of a conflict, Mr. Owen will contact the sponsor of the other activity to resolve the conflict.
- An extra rehearsal may be scheduled outside the school day. These are sometimes necessary to prepare for an upcoming performance. You must be present at extra rehearsal to receive full credit.
 - If the rehearsal is scheduled before school, students who ride the bus from St. Louis City, must see Mr. Owen before school begins on the day of the rehearsal. Failure to do this will result in a "0" recorded.

An absence from a performance may be excused under the following circumstances:

- **A critical conflict.** This is considered to be **another school activity** scheduled on the same date. The student should report the conflict to Mr. Owen **as soon as the matter is discovered**. Mr. Owen will meet with the sponsor of the other activity and a resolution will be reached. The day of the concert is not soon enough notice.
- **The student is sick and unable to attend.** A parent/guardian should leave a message for Mr. Owen in the choir office (314- 415-9703) **before the concert happens**. **Upon return to school the student should see Mr. Owen to make arrangements for make-up work.**
- **An emergency develops.** The student should contact Mr. Owen **before school the very next morning**. **A note or phone call from the parent/guardian should follow**. Mr. Owen **may or may not excuse** the absence depending upon the seriousness of the emergency.

If an absence is considered an excused absence, the student will need to make an appointment with Mr. Owen either before or after school to discuss how points will be made up. Mr. Owen will make the decision as to the type of assignment.

***Students must be attendance during the school day in order to participate in a performance.**

Tardy Policy

- One (1) tardy will be excused in the course of the **semester**.
- Additional tardies will result in **referral to assistant principal and after school detention**. This includes first and second blocks when students are arriving from home.
- Being on time means that you are **INSIDE of room 1219** when the bells rings and are moving towards your **assigned seat**.

Electronics:

- Electronic devices are **NOT** to be used in the choir classroom unless Mr. Owen has asked students to keep them out. . These items should be **turned off** and put away. The expectation is that the students will keep these items **OFF** and **IN THEIR BACKPACK**.
- **If they are in use, the student WILL be given a detention through their assistant principal.**

Classroom Rules

- PLEASE BE ON TIME
- WATER IS ENCOURAGED...NO FOOD, GUM OR CANDY
- FOLLOW DIRECTIONS THE FIRST TIME GIVEN
- BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS
- PARTICIPATE
- KEEP ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES AWAY

Classroom Management

- All expectations listed in this syllabus must be followed.
- A high standard of citizenship is expected.
- **Full participation with eager effort is expected.**

MSHSAA - Choir is under the guidance of the Missouri State High School Activities Association. In order to participate in choir (or any other activity or sport), the student must maintain eligibility according to the MSHSAA standards. Mr. Owen, your counselor or the Athletic Director can share that information with you.

Fundraising - Throughout the year the choral program will participate in fundraising activities. Students may earn profits for upcoming choral department trips/competitions. Students are encouraged to participate in these activities. **Fundraising is not mandatory.**

T-Shirts - Each of the performing vocal groups may have the opportunity to purchase t-shirts for their ensemble. Money collected from any fundraising activity will not be used for the t-shirt purchase. The student will need to pay for their shirt through the bookstore prior to the shirt being ordered. **Students do not have to purchase a choir t-shirt.**

Calendar Dates: It is the responsibility of the students/parents to check the online calendar and keep updated on upcoming events. Visit the website: <http://patriotsingers.weebly.com/>



Code takes you to our calendar!!!

My Class schedule:

1st block 7:35 - 9:05 Concert Treble
3rd block 9:12 - 10:42 Conference/Plan
5th block 10:49 - 12:53 - Adv. Chamber Choir (lunch during this period)
7th block 1:00 - 2:30 Chamber Choir - Red

2nd block 7:35 - 9:05 Chamber Choir - Blue
4th block 9:12 - 10:42 Academic lab
6th block 10:49 - 12:53 - Concert Choir Mixed (lunch during this period)
8th block 1:00 - 2:30 Conference/Plan

Phone: 314-415-9703 - choir office phone

Email: jowen@parkwayschools.net <<<<<<<<<<best way to reach me

Appearance

- Each choir member will be assigned a robe for public performance.
- **Jeans and tennis shoes are not appropriate attire for choir performances.**
- I am very specific as to what students will be allowed to wear for our performances. **You must have these items for our first performance and every performance thereafter or you will not be allowed to perform, causing an unexcused absence from a performance.**
- It is asked that each student provide the following to wear with the robe.

Gentlemen:

- **For a performance with a robe: Almost EVERY performance.**
 - Black dress slacks (**NOT denim**), black socks, black dress shoes, **white long sleeve dress shirt** and a tie (any color)
- **For a performance without a robe: Spring Concert**
 - black dress slacks, black socks, black dress shoes, **black dress shirt (long sleeve) – not needed until Spring semester.**
- **For a solo/ensemble performance: (not a mandatory performance)**
 - Dress slacks (does not have to be black), dress shoes, dress shirt and tie (any colors)

Ladies:

- **For a performance with a robe: Almost EVERY performance**
 - **Black dress slacks (NO leggings OR yoga pants)**, black socks/knee highs, black shoes, nice blouse/shirt – **NO SKIRTS OR DRESSES**
 - **FLAT OR LOW-HEEL SHOES. NO BOOTS/UGGS**
- **For a performance without a robe: Spring Concert**
 - Same as above except **blouse/shirt would need to be black** also – used spring semester
- **For a solo/ensemble performance:**
 - Very nice slacks/shirt, suit, skirt/blouse, dress (would not have to wear black). If you are wearing a skirt/dress, it needs to be appropriate length – according to Mr. Owen's standards.

What ladies must remember is that there **should not be bare backs, shoulders, cleavage or stomachs.** "Material is our friend"

You must have these items for our first performance and every performance thereafter or you will not be allowed to perform, causing an unexcused absence from a performance.

- A **robe maintenance fee of \$10** will be charged to each member so that the robes may be kept in the best possible condition.
- This fee will be turned in to the bookstore.
- **There will be a window of time allotted to pay for the robe cleaning fee.**
- **Students may begin paying on AUGUST 28 and should have the fee paid by SEPTEMBER 8.**
- **Fees not paid at that time will become a fine in the school store.**