

## Disclosure Document for Select Choirs at American Fork High School

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Website: [www.afchoir.org](http://www.afchoir.org)

### Course Description

Choir students will participate in mandatory concerts and also represent AFHS at Regional and State Festivals. The students will learn healthy vocal technique, music theory, sight singing, and ear-training skills in addition to singing music in a variety of styles and languages. **To be eligible for festivals, members of the auditioned choirs must maintain a 2.0 GPA. Students who cannot do this will be removed from choir.**

### Materials, Supplies, and Fees

- A uniform is required. For males, the uniform consists of a pair of black dress shoes (not tennis shoes!), black socks, black dress slacks (no cords or jeans), a tuxedo shirt, black tuxedo studs, and black bow tie (Chamber has a long black tie). All these must be provided by the student and are available at tuxedo shops or finer department stores. If you need help, Tuxedos by Lee will give us discounted clothing. This order may be placed with the instructor. A vest will be purchased for each student at a cost of \$35.00. The women will purchase a gown for \$85.00. Each year there are a small number of used choir outfits for sale. The list of available used uniforms is found on the choir website. **Uniforms fees must be paid to AFHS by September 9, 2011. Fees for used uniforms are paid directly to the family selling the uniform. Students that do not inform Mrs. Warby otherwise will have a choir outfit ordered on this date and the student will be responsible for the fee.** The outfit is the same as the choir used last year, so students in the class for a second year need not purchase an outfit.
- Class participation fee: \$50.00. This is used for transportation to district-approved activities.
- Fee waivers are available according to Alpine School District criteria. However, this does not apply to tour. If a fee waiver is being applied to the choir uniform, be advised that the uniform cannot leave the school grounds. If it is taken from AFHS, the student is required to pay for the outfit whether or not the student is on fee-waiver.
- Music and a choir folder will be provided. **Students must have their choir folder in class each day to receive daily participation points.** A fee of \$20.00 will be assessed for lost folders. Individual pieces of music lost will be charged a fee of \$3.00 or more per piece.

### Charms Office Assistant

This program allows for communication between parents, students, and teachers. Each student is required to enter or update his/her contact information for their parents and themselves in the Charms program. **This assignment is worth 999 points and goes on the student's first term grade.** Should you move or change your e-mail address it is your responsibility to update such information in Charms. To complete this assignment, go the choir website, click on "Charms" and follow the instructions.

### Tour

**Tour is mandatory for students in Chamber Singers** and optional for the members of all other choirs. **To be eligible to go on tour, students MUST have at least a 2.0 GPA with no more than one failing or "no grade" for the third term.** Even if a student has paid, they cannot go without meeting this minimal requirement. The student will not receive a refund because no refunds are possible after January 20, 2012. There is a **\$150 non-refundable deposit** for choir tour and if paid, students are committing to the full amount unless the instructor receives written notification by December 16, 2011 that the student is backing out of his/her tour commitment. Tour information is available in a separate handout and on the choir website: [www.afchoir.org](http://www.afchoir.org).

### Parent Boosters Needed

Any parents who wish to help with arrangements for tour, fund raising, and the choir program in general would be most appreciated. Please contact Tracy Warby (see information above) if you are interested in helping.

### Concerts/Festivals

**Concerts are factored into a student's grade.** A list of dates is included with this disclosure document with every performance listed for the year. They are also listed on the choir website and reminders will be sent out to families via email. **Work, family vacations, other rehearsals, or sports practices, etc. are not excuses for missing a concert.** Allowances will be made for extenuating circumstances such as illness, funerals or weddings. **An unexcused absence from a concert will result in a loss of 100 points. The absence must be excused in writing prior to the concert except for health/family emergencies.**

## Homework

Students are required to practice the choir music outside of class for **one hour** each week. Students will report this practice on the Internet using Charms and entering the minutes practiced into the *practice log*. **Students must enter practice minutes each week by midnight on Sunday. Students who do not enter their practice logs through Charms and choose to use the paper log forms in the class will receive only half points.** Students will also have recording studio assignments done through Charms throughout the year. Late assignments will not be excepted unless the student has an excused absence for the day in which the assignment is due.

## Attendance and Discipline Policy

Attendance and punctuality are critical. If a student is not in class, they will receive no participation points for the day. Missing class, concerts, and festivals will adversely affect the student's academic grade. **See the AFHS Handbook for the school's attendance policy with regard to the number of absences and/or tardies allowed before a student receives no credit for the class.**

## Grading

- **Participation** **30%**

Points are awarded for coming on time, working throughout the class period, and bringing and using effectively their music and pencil to make notes in the score. Students without music or pencil in class may not be awarded full points for the day's participation. Students will receive 8 out of 10 points for making up excused absences. Absences and tardies must be excused through the attendance office according to AFHS policies. Students may only make up points for **4 excused absences and/or tardies per term**. If the student is absent more than four times for any reason other than an emergency such as hospitalization, the student will not be permitted to make up points. Points may be made up by practicing the choir music at home for 60 minutes for each absence or 30 minutes for each tardy. Absences must be made up within a week of the student's return to school. Tardies must be made up by the next class period. No exceptions! Make points will be awarded when students put the log into the "inbox" in the choir room.

- **Assignments** **10%**

While assignments will be given to students from time to time, the biggest assignment is Concert Reports. These are due two times per year, once each semester. For more information see the last paragraph of this document.

- **Sectionals** **15%**

**Students are required to participate in a specific number of 45 min. sectional rehearsals each term. Chamber students are to attend 4 sectionals each term and A Cappella students must attend 2. The members of the Men's and Women's Choirs are exempt from this requirement. Sectional rehearsals will be held during Monday early out time and on Thursday afternoons. Students will be graded on attendance, punctuality, and working throughout the rehearsal. Students unable to attend all sectional rehearsals may only make up only 1 rehearsal with their section leader. Students may receive up to 50 points per sectional rehearsal as awarded by the section leader. Points will be awarded for punctuality and full participation in the sectional. Each sectional must be completed by a specific date as set by the instructor. Students who attend all required sectionals on time will be awarded 15 extra credit points for the term.**

- **Tests** **20%**

Students will be tested on music theory, vocal pedagogy and other appropriate topics. If a student fails a test, they may retake it, but this must be done within one week of the original test date.

- **Performances** **25%**

**Students have required concerts in which to perform as well as choir festivals after school. The calendar is posted on the choir website and in the classroom. Performing with the choir is an honor and therefore students must earn the right to participate in Region and State Festivals. In order to perform in our choir festivals students must pass memorization tests before the performance(s). Students will perform in double quartets and be awarded a pass or fail grade. If they fail, they may make up the test with the instructor or section leader until 3 days before the performance. If they still fail, they must still come and observe the concert, and must also complete a 5-page research paper assignment to earn the points for the concert. If music is sung for more than one performance, students need not test on that music again during the year.**

## Internet Access for Concert Reports and On-Line Testing

Students must attend a live choral concert one time each term. The choir report forms are available in the classroom or in Charms. **These reports are due by the last Wednesday of each term and by May 23 for fourth term. Students will also take music literacy exams via the Internet and will need Internet access to complete the exams by the due dates given in class.** Students without Internet access at home may use the school or AF public libraries to complete assignments/tests and submit them on line.

## Choir Disclosure Document Assignment

I have read the disclosure document for Choir. My parent/guardian and I understand that:

- THIS ASSIGNMENT IS DUE BY SEPTMEBER 7, 2011. IF I DO NOT TURN IT IN, I WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CLASS.
- I am to have my choir folder, music, and a pencil in class each day in order to receive participation points.
- I must have access to the Internet to enter practice minutes, and to use the Charms recording studio for music and sight singing tests throughout the year.
- I must log into Charms and make sure all contact and personal information is current and up to date. This assignment is worth 999 points and will be factored into my grade.
- I am required to practice the choir music outside of class for one hour each week.
- To receive full credit for practice minutes, I must enter the minutes practiced into the Practice Log found in Charms. If fill out a form in class, it is late, and I will receive half points.
- To get an "A" I must be in class and fully participate in the rehearsal. I must also do well on the assignments, quizzes, and tests. I will also be graded on my ability to read and sing the music with correct pitches and rhythms.
- I must perform in the concerts and festivals and must wear the correct choir uniform to participate. If I do not wear the correct uniform I may not be permitted to perform and will be docked points for that performance.
- There are required sectionals for Chamber and A Cappella Choirs that will be factored into my grade.
- Students will have to sing music alone and in groups in music tests and sight singing.
- I may only make up one sectional per term unless there are extenuating family or health emergencies.
- Work, church activities, and family vacations are NOT excuses for missing concerts or festivals. If I miss a performance for such a reason, I will simply receive no points for the event.
- In order to go on tour I must have a 2.0 GPA for third term. If I fail to get a 2.0, I will not be permitted to go on tour and there will be no refund of money paid.
- Choir tour requires a non-refundable deposit. If I do not pay this deposit on time or work out other arrangements with the instructor in writing, I may not be able to go on tour.
- There is a concert report due each **term**. They are to be completed by the due dates stated in the disclosure document.

Student's name (print please) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_