

Freeman Schools



Choral Music Handbook 2011-2012

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Philosophy

It is the mission of the Choral Program to provide Freeman students with the best musical educational experiences possible. It is hoped that by the time a student graduates, he/she will possess all of the skills necessary to successfully accomplish all of his/her musical hopes, dreams, and aspirations. With resources used from the finest literature and the greatest music of all times, it is my intention that students will develop as a fully rounded musician. Students who develop these skills will forever have a life-long love for music.

National Standards

To help students become well-rounded musicians, the music program strives to implement the nine National Standards for Music into rehearsals and performances. While not every Standard is implemented into each rehearsal or performance, exposure to the Standards will occur on a regular basis. The National Standards are:

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
5. Reading and notating music.
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
7. Evaluating music and music performances.
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

Course Descriptions

There are two organizations that make up the Vocal Music Program at Freeman. Each organization will make multiple appearances throughout the year and the performances are generally organized in the following manner:

- *School performances
- *Off-campus performances
- *Contest, clinics, and festivals

High School Concert Choir

This group is open to all students in grades 9-12 who wish to expand their musical experiences as a singer. The class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays during first period. The Concert Choir will perform at the fall, winter, and spring concerts, Pioneer Conference Clinic, Mudecas Music Contest, and District Music Contest as well as Graduation. In addition to these performances, students will have the opportunity to participate in outside honor choirs and music contests. These opportunities allow students to demonstrate their musical abilities on an individual basis and to experience a high level of musicianship. The Concert Choir will explore many different compositions and will strive to obtain perfection during rehearsals on those pieces.

7th/8th Grade Choir

This ensemble is required of all students in grades 7 and 8 and meets Tuesdays and Thursdays during second period. This group will perform at the fall, winter, and spring concerts, as well as the Malcolm Music Contest. Members of the 7th/8th Grade Choir will also have the opportunity to participate in outside honor choirs and music contests. These opportunities allow students to demonstrate their musical abilities on an individual basis and to experience a high level of musicianship. An added exploratory is a national pop and cultural magazine that we study each month that includes pop artists, history, crossword puzzles and other music related reports.

Choir Offices (Grades 9-12)

There will be multiple opportunities for students to take a leadership role within the choir. The Choir Council consists of the President and one class representative from each class. Officers will be elected during the second week of school in the fall. All officers must be elected by a majority vote of the choir membership. Choir Council meetings will be held as needed and called by the Director. In addition to the Choir Council, each section will have a Section Leader who will be decided by the members of that section with the Director's approval.

Choir Council Members

Each Choir Council member should be willing to take on extra responsibilities, duties, and make time for additional meetings as decided by the Director. Council members are considered leaders of the choir and are to represent the ensemble with the best interests of all its members. The main function of the Choir Council members is to serve as communicators between the choir and Director.

Section Leaders

Section Leaders are to follow the same philosophies as the Choir Council members. In addition, they are responsible for the following:

1. Show positive leadership and serve as a role model.
2. Promote positive attitude within the section.
3. Serve as a communicator between the Director and the section and to bring any problems (musical inabilities, poor attitudes, etc) to the Director.
4. Run sectionals when called during class time and to call sectionals when needed to work on music, appearance, etc. of the section.

Librarian

The Librarian will assist the Director in dispensing, collecting, organizing, and filing music. The Librarian is a volunteer who receives lettering points for their assistance. The Librarian needs to be willing to devote time outside of the school day to keep the music library organized. There may be more than one person serving as Librarian. Individuals interested in serving in this position should contact the Director within the first two weeks of school.

Attendance

Choral music is a team effort and the choir is not successful without full participation. Therefore, attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory. In addition to regularly scheduled rehearsals, extra rehearsal may be needed. In such cases, attendance policies as outlined in this and the Freeman Student-Parent handbooks are in effect. There will be sufficient notice of any extra rehearsals as well as performances. Please arrange work schedules to accommodate these events.

Absences & Tardiness

Excused Absences from a rehearsal will follow school policies as outlined on page 4 of the Freeman Student-Parent Handbook.

Excused Absences from a performance will be allowed in cases of illness, family emergency, or approved school activities. In order for an absence to be excused, prior notice must be given to the Director when possible and an absence form completed. There will be no penalty for excused absences from performances.

Unexcused Absences from a rehearsal will follow school policies as outlined on page 4 of the Freeman Student-Parent Handbook.

Unexcused Absences from a performance may not receive the allotted points for performances as outlined in the grading policy of this handbook (pg. 8/9). Unexcused absences are those defined in the Freeman Student-Parent Handbook on page 5.

Tardiness occurs when a band member is not present when roll is taken both in rehearsal and at performances. In such cases, the school tardy policy is in effect as outlined on page 7 of the Freeman Student-Parent Handbook. (Remember that no student will be admitted into a class following the tardy bell without a pass from another teacher or the office).

Rehearsal Expectations

"Practice is what we do as an individual.
Rehearse is what we do as a group."

The choir rehearsal is based on one thing – RESPECT. Respect for our classroom, equipment, policies, and each other will eliminate problems within the rehearsal.

1. Students are to get their folder, music and pencil and be in his or her assigned seat when the tardy bell rings. If the student is not in his or her chair by the time of the tardy bell, he or she may lose daily points as outlined in the grading policies section of this handbook (pg. 9).
2. There is to be NO gum, food or drink in the music room. These can be messy as well as damage instruments. Please respect the facilities by keeping these items out of the music room. On special occasions treats may be provided. This is the only exception.

3. When the students hear the Director begins warm-ups, please respect him/her by not talking, standing, and prepare to sing the appropriate warm-up.
4. Students are to exhibit good singing posture at all times. When standing, respecting this policy consists of: both feet flat on the floor shoulder width apart, standing tall with shoulders back but relaxed, arms at the side of the body and making eye contact with the Director. When sitting, proper posture consists of: both feet flat on the floor, sitting towards the front of the chair (back should not touch the chair), shoulders back but relaxed, and making eye contact with the Director.
5. Students need to have a pencil at every rehearsal. Please be respectful of the music by only writing in pencil. Occasionally, the Director may have a "pencil check" in which everyone holds up his or her pencil. Failure to have a pencil during a "pencil check" may occur in loss of daily points.
6. The music room belongs to ALL of us. Please be respectful of the space and be sure that all folders, music, and pencils are properly stored following rehearsals.
7. Students will be given two (2) minutes at the end of the period to put all materials away. This includes folders, music, and pencils.
8. Students will be dismissed at the sound of the bell.
9. Be respectful of others and always follow the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have done unto you."

Performances

Students are expected to be in the choir room thirty minutes before a performance is scheduled to begin. Dress attire is as follows:

Concert Choir Attire (7-12)

All members of choir will wear choir robes for all performances. Underneath the robes, members are to wear the following:

Males:

Females:

Dress slacks (no jeans)
Dress shoes (no tennis shoes)

Dress or skirt (knee length)
Dress shoes-closed toe (no
tennis shoes)

Dress socks (no white socks)

"nude" hose

In high school, when wearing robes, students are still required to have appropriate clothing underneath!

Reminder: All performances are mandatory. An unexcused absence will result in receiving a "0" until the time and work are made up and then receive a 90%. Parents are required to notify the director as soon as the conflict is discovered—well in advance of the performance.

Grading

Each student's grade will be determined using a point system. Students will be responsible for filling out a grade sheet with 10 points possible for daily class participation and 20 points for performances. If the student and the teacher disagree about the grade then a conference will be scheduled with the teacher and the student to discuss the differences. If more help is needed, a conference will be set up with the parents and then the office if needed.

Point values are: 9-10=always, 7-8=most of the time, 5-6=usually, 3-4=sometimes and 1-2=never.

The grading scale used in band is in accordance with the Freeman Student-Parent Handbook.

94-100	A
90-93	B+
86-89	B
82-85	C+
78-81	C
74-77	D+
70-73	D
0-69	F

Concerts (7-12)

Because vocal music is a performance-based class, attendance at concerts is crucial. The absence policy outlined in the Freeman Student-

Parent Handbook is in effect for all concerts. Students who do not have an excused absence may receive a "0" for that concert. Students who have an excused absence will not be penalized for missing a concert. (Remember, work does NOT constitute an excused absence).

District Contest (9-12)

Participation at District Contest is required for students in the vocal music program. The absence policy as stated above is in effect.

Weekly Rehearsal Points (7-12)

Each week each student has the opportunity to earn 10 rehearsal points. In order for the student to receive all ten points, he or she must demonstrate the following: punctuality (student is in seat with folder, music, and pencil when the tardy bell sounds), active participation (student sings when asked to sing but does not sing when not instructed to do so), and positive attitude (student demonstrates a willingness to improve and conducts him or herself in a generally positive manner). Students may lose weekly points for disruptive behavior, excessive talking, not having all materials at a rehearsal, tardiness, displaying a negative attitude, and anything else the Director deems inappropriate within the music classroom.

Singing Assessments (7-12)

Each student may be required to complete a minimum of one singing assessment per quarter. Singing assessments will be over materials covered in class and may include things such as vocalise or excerpts from the music. Students will be notified at least one week in advance of singing assessments. Each singing assessment will be conducted during class and will be given on an individual basis. On the day of singing assessments, students will need to bring materials to work while others are being assessed. In the case of an absence, the student may be required to make up the assessment before or after school.

Written Assignments/Assessments (7-12)

Occasionally students will be required to complete written assignments. These will generally be research or reflective based and will be used to explore musical topics being studied within the class. At certain times a written assessment may be required of students. These will carry the same weight (10pts) as other written assignments.

Lettering Awards

Students in grades 9-12 have the opportunity to earn a Choir Letter. Letter Awards are given to students who demonstrate a high level of participation and an excellent quality of work.

Travel Information

Every trip is subject to the following guidelines:

1. We are representing Freeman High School and all school policies apply to all trips.
2. Members need to ride the bus to all away performances. Students wishing to ride home with a parent need to present the Director with a signed note the day of the trip or have the parents contact the Director personally at the event.
3. Departure time from school and approximate arrival time will be announced prior to each trip.
4. Buses will not wait for students who are late arriving to the bus. The bus will leave at the designated time. Students who miss the bus will not be allowed to participate in the event. In such case, all absences may be counted as unexcused.
5. Show pride in Freeman High School and present yourself as a member of the Freeman community.

REQUIRED VOCAL MUSIC EVENTS FOR 2009-2010

THURSDAY	OCTOBER 13	FALL 7-12 VOCAL CONCERT
MONDAY	NOVEMBER 7	9-12 PIONEER CONF CLINIC
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 15	7-12 WINTER CONCERT
THURSDAY	MARCH 15	7-8 MALCOLM CONTEST
THURSDAY	APRIL 19	9-12 DISTRICT CONTEST
MONDAY	APRIL 30	7-12 SPRING CONCERT
SATURDAY	MAY 12	9-12 GRADUATION CONCERT

**FREEMAN SCHOOLS CHOIR
CONTRACT/AGREEMENT**

I have read and understand all concepts, expectations and procedures outlined within this choir handbook.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

I have read and understand all concepts, expectations and procedures outlined within this handbook. By signing this sheet, I am also giving permission for my student to participate in any activity that the director would like the group to participate in both inside this handbook and are approved for the upcoming year.

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

**THIS SHEET IS DUE TO MRS. MILLS BY
MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2011**