

**Santa Maria
Middle School
Bulldogs**



**Choir Handbook
2018-2019**

Choir students and parents,

This handbook is designed to help parents and students understand all rules and expectations involved with choir class. Choir is a new program to the school and it will require student involvement and cooperation for its success. The following pages will help you and your child understand all rules involved with choir to help ensure a positive experience in this class. Parent involvement is needed to help obtain the best educational experiences.

Choir is a co-curricular class. This means that although it has extra-curricular activities it also is a curricular class. Your child will receive a grade on curricular and extra-curricular activities and will be expected to do written work, quizzes, tests, and singing tests.

Please read the handbook carefully to ensure that we all understand what is going to be expected of everyone. These expectations and guidelines are necessary to ensure a quality education and experience with the Santa Maria Middle School Choir program.

Good luck to you and your student in his/her musical training. Let's work together for a successful experience and one that we will all enjoy very much.

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GRADES

Grades will be calculated with these different areas.

Daily participation grades	20%
-Homework	
-Projects	
-Tests and Quizzes	20%
Performances/ Singing tests	60%
Total	<hr/> 100%

***Note that we may or may not have a concert at the end of each quarter. If we do have a concert, they will be required to attend. Failure to attend will result in a failing grade for the quarter. If we do not have a concert, they will perform for me with the choir during class time for a grade. I will send a note home to inform you of any concert dates.**

Grading Scale

97 - 100 = A+	74 - 76 = C
94 - 96 = A	70 - 73 = C-
90 - 93 = A-	67 - 69 = D+
87 - 89 = B+	64 - 66 = D
84 - 86 = B	60 - 63 = D-
80 - 83 = B-	59 & below = F
77 - 79 = C+	

1. The students' daily participation is a must in order for a good rehearsal and overall performance. Students will receive 20 points each class for a total of 100 points per school week points will be lost for the following reasons:

- A. Student not giving any effort. All supplies necessary will be provided in class. The only thing the student needs to bring is their positive attitude and strong work ethic!
- B. Inappropriate behavior - Refer to ***Classroom Rules*** and ***Consequences***
- C. Unexcused tardies to class, rehearsals, or performances.

2. Quizzes either written or performance can be given any time the director deems necessary and are worth 100 points per quiz. Students will always know prior to a written test its worth, if not it will be 100 points.

3. Concerts and any performance at which the choir is scheduled to participate, ***attendance is mandatory***. Failure to participate in a scheduled performance will result in a loss of that

quarters' grade. This is subject to change at the director's discretion. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a zero no option to make up the grade. Emergency situations will be handled on an individual basis.

4. Students are expected to arrive on time to performances and other extracurricular activities. Students will lose 25 points off their performance grade for every five minutes tardy.

5. Students are also expected to act appropriately during performances and demonstrate proper etiquette and sportsmanship. Students may lose points ranging from 25-100 points at a time for inappropriate behavior or conduct.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF ROOMS

Students are expected to keep the room well maintained. No food or drinks are permitted in the choir room and all trash is to be picked up before the end of class. Failure to cooperate in these matters will result in discipline referrals and principal intervention.

CLASSROOM RULES

1. Be on time to class.
2. Listen quietly and follow directions.
3. Respect yourself, others, and their property.
4. Gum, food, and sodas are not allowed in the classroom.
5. Follow all school-wide rules.

CONSEQUENCES FOR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated in any form.

Responsible Thinking Process (RTP) - If for any reason a student chooses to break any of the above rules he/she will go through the following RTP Steps:

- What are you doing?
- What are the rules? or Is that O.K.?
- What happens when you break the rules?
- Is this what you want to happen?
- What do you want to do now?
- What will happen if you disrupt again?

Students will be given 1 opportunity to change their inappropriate behavior if they choose not to; the following steps will be taken:

- What are you doing?
- What did you say would happen the next time you disrupted?
- Where do you need to go?

The child must leave at once and go to the Responsible Thinking Classroom (RTC). When they want to return and obey the rules, they must be taught how to create a detailed plan and use this plan to negotiate with the person in charge of where they were disrupting.

Severe Act: Office referral -these behaviors include:

- Repeated interruption
- Profanity
- Verbal Abuse
- Defiance of authority
- Physical abuse

TARDIES AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Students are expected to be on time for class, extra rehearsals, and performances. Students who are not "ready to start" by the appointed time will lose points, 25 points for every five minutes late to rehearsals and performances. (refer to tardy policy in the school agenda)

In the event that a student has a conflict with a rehearsal or performance, the director must know before the event to try and work the situation out. If students do not notify the director before the event, the absence will be counted as unexcused.

Excused absences are the following:

- Medical emergency
- Family emergency
- Funerals
- Prior approval of the director
- Acts of God

MUSIC AND OTHER FEES

Students will have to pay for their replacement of any loss or damaged music, room equipment, books, etc.

Students are expected to help with expenses of hotels, meals, on out of town trips (if need be). Again, you will be notified of any field trips.

Students that participate in Solo and Ensemble will be charged an entrance fee and other expenses for rooms and meals may also apply.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Dressy Shirt. No t-shirts

Black pants. *Capri pants, shorts, jeans, are NOT acceptable.*

Black socks.

Black dressy shoes. *Tennis shoes or shoes with other colors are NOT acceptable.*

Black belt if your pants have a belt loop.

Neat hair, jewelry, and makeup. Keep it simple!

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

Refrain from talking

The first and greatest rule. It also includes whispering during the music.

No singing, tapping fingers or feet

The musicians do not need your help, and your neighbors need silence. Learn to tap your toes quietly inside your shoes— it's a good exercise to reduce toe fat.

Please have nothing in your mouth, besides your teeth and tongue

Gum and candy are not allowed.

Do not wear watches with alarms nor jangle jewelry

You may enjoy the sound, but the added percussion is disturbing to everyone around you.

Do not open and close your purse nor rip open your velcro wallet

The best plan is to leave purses, etc., back at school or on the locked bus.

Do not sigh with boredom

If you are in agony, keep it to yourself. Your neighbor just may be in ecstasy, which should also be kept under control.

Do not applaud between movements

You may think the music is over, but it is not. You don't want to be the only one clapping.

Do not embarrass your teacher nor your school

Remember that you are representing your school, and you want to be on your best behavior. There are many eyes looking at you.

Do not read nor play with a toy in your pocket

To listen means just that. Use the time to turn on a “video screen” in your mind and create a story to the music.

Do not go to the concert thinking you will hate the music

You may be surprised– millions of people all over the world enjoy classical music, and if you give yourself a chance, you might, too!

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CONTRACT

I have read the Santa Maria Middle School Choir handbook and understand the policies and guidelines. With this contract, I will conduct myself as a positive and contributing member of the choir in every fashion. I will represent my school and community with pride, loyalty, and courtesy.

_____ Grade _____
(Student's Name)

_____ Email _____
(Parent or Guardian)

(Date)