

# Mead High School Choir Handbook

2018-2019



Dear MHS Choir students and parents,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! This handbook will outline all of the choral policies and expectations for this school year. I am new to Mead High school this year so please make sure to note any changes in policy for the upcoming year!

Choir is unique in that it takes many students of all different ability levels, backgrounds, and interests to create music in the classroom. The choir program is a curricular and co-curricular activity; incorporating critical thinking, academic skills learned in all subject matters, building confidence and social skills- all with an artistic edge.

There are five choirs currently participating in a variety of events, activities, and performances this year. The handbook will contain a multitude of information including dress expectations for concerts, grading policies, and the choral calendar. Please read the information thoroughly so nothing catches you off guard.

Again please note any NEW policy changes this year, and make sure to sign the parent agreement on the last page. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Looking Forward to an incredible year!  
Rikelle Berry

## SVVSD Philosophy of Music Education

School districts such as ours, who are truly committed to developing excellence in education will establish, develop and refine curriculum designed to cultivate the total potential within each child. Comprehensive and systematic music education, first grade through senior high school, is a basic to achieving these goals of reaching the total potential within each child.

Our district curriculum is intended to serve as a framework which provides a conceptual approach to skill development, music appreciation, individual and group performance experiences. This curriculum strives to provide and support instruction which stimulates higher level thinking skills, meets benchmark standards and fosters creativity.

To meet these goals, the district has an obligation to provide for sequential programs that allow continuous, regular and constant development for every student. This musical and expressive background will further learning in many disciplines throughout life.

## Music Repertoire

Music is selected, studied, and performed for the purpose of helping students and the public become aware, understand, and appreciate human culture, history, and diversity. As such, it is clearly educational in nature.

If students or parents have any objections to a certain song, Ms. Berry must be alerted the week music is handed out so she can come up with an alternative assignment for that student while this piece is worked on in class.

### Online Resources

The Mead High Schools Website is a resource every student and parent have access to throughout the year. It contains upcoming dates, audition information, practice tracks and access to the handbook at all times. <https://meadhschoir.weebly.com/> also follow MeadhsChoirs on social media! Links can be found on the website.

### Concert Attire

While Choral performance is primarily an auditory art form, visual presentation is also highly important. **Mead High School choir students will be required to wear concert attire at each formal performance.** No students will be penalized due to financial constraints. If there is difficulty in purchasing part of the uniform, please contact Ms. Berry immediately. That way arrangements can be made to assist the students. Students who do not come to performances in concert attire will have half their concert grade deducted. All students should wear black shoes and socks, deodorant and hair worn away from their face. No perfume or cologne please.

Women's Choir: There is a Women's Choir dress required for all women to wear to concerts. Students should also wear black shoes that they are able to stand in for an extended amount of time.

Men's Choir: Men's choir will be required to wear black dress pants, a white collared dress shirt, and a black vest (purchased through Mead to look uniform). Ties will be supplied by Ms. Berry for concerts and performances

Chamber Choir: Men will wear the same as Men's Choir above. Women who already have a chamber choir dress may wear it for this year. The Company that makes this dress is no longer offering it. Women new into chamber this year will buy a slightly different dress

Women's Ensemble: There is a Women's Ensemble dress required for all women to wear to concerts. Students should wear black shoes that they are able to stand in for an extended amount of time. There is also a white belt that goes with the women's ensemble dress.

Jazz Choir: Jazz choir men will wear all black dress pants, shirts, and shoes. Ladies will wear black dress clothes with gold accents

### Students Fees

There is a class fee for being in choir at Mead High. This fee provides materials needed in class, such as sheet music, learning materials, concert needs etc. This also helps with some (but not all) of costs for ensemble events and competitions.

### Expectations and Grading Policies

The Mead Choir program is dedicated to developing well-rounded, well-educated singers. To achieve this, students will actively pursue content in all five Colorado Music Standards: Singing a varied repertoire alone or with others; reading & notating music; creating music; listening to, analyzing, evaluating, and describing music; and relating music to various historical & cultural traditions. I expect each student to give 100% effort and participate in all class activities, which will promote achieving these standards.

Students will be graded on attendance, participation, preparedness, assignments, and written and aural assessments. Points are earned by participating in class with proper technique, attitude, and hard work. Preparedness will be graded daily when students have their music, pencils, and are on time to class. In class assignments and assessments should be turned in on time. There are two categories in the gradebook encompassing the items listed above, Learning Activities (20%) and Assessments (80%).

Students will also receive points for outside rehearsals. There will be the occasional lunch rehearsal because our program includes collaboration between all choirs. There are many students involved in other extracurriculars (which is awesome!) that lunch is the most convenient time to rehearse. Students should bring lunch and will have time to eat and get to class on time. These rehearsals are required and will always be put on the calendar in advance. If students cannot attend a parent email/contact will be needed so they do not lose any points.

At the beginning of each semester students will start with 100 points in the grade book. That allows for 2.5 points per day for participation and preparedness. Any **unexcused** absence or tardy will result in a deduction of daily points. If students come to class without materials this will also result in a deduction of points. The 2.5 points will break down as follows:

Unexcused Absence: -2.5

Unexcused Tardy: -1

No materials (no music or no ipad.): -.5

Not participating: -2

More than 2.5 points will NOT be deducted from a student's grade in the case of all three infractions, but there will be a meeting with Ms. Berry as to why students came tardy, without materials, and did not participate.

If a student is sick and has a doctor's note then the student will not lose participation points for that day. Students who are vocally tired or have a sore throat or anything that would hinder them from participating in class must talk to Ms. Berry at the beginning of that class period. Students will take notes on what was worked on during class to be turned in for participation points.

**In the event that a performance conflicts with a prior commitment, the student must discuss this with Ms. Berry and parents (or whoever else is involved coaches, teachers etc) a minimum of TWO WEEKS before the performance date.** I believe it is important for students to have as many experiences in high school as possible, therefore I will gladly work with other teachers, coaches, parents to ensure the student is still participating and earning their grade.

Emergencies happen unexpectedly and students would never be deducted grade points in this circumstance. Students or parents should let Ms. Berry know as soon as possible, so they are not deducted points. For any **excused absences**, students will be asked to attend another concert in the area and write a review. Students must include ticket (if available) and a program with their paper. The assignment will remain a "missing" in the gradebook until the paper is completed. Ms. Berry will create guidelines and students will receive this should the occasion arise.

**Regardless if absences are excused or unexcused for class or a concert, ALL WORK must be made up.** Please contact Ms. Berry as soon as you can to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to get any makeup work

### **Lettering**

Any student can earn a letter in choir. Letters are awarded at the end of each school year. To earn a letter, students go above and beyond the class requirements. There is a form students must fill out and keep track of their own points. There are many things that can earn students lettering points! See the requirements and form on the school website.

Students may accumulate points from year to year, and Ms. Berry will honor any points students have from previous years.

### **Honor and All State Choir**

There are several opportunities for Mead choir members to participate in wonderful choir opportunities outside of the classroom. SVVSD Honor choir is available for ANY choir member who would like to audition. This is a very unique and fun opportunity for students to work with their choir peers from around the district. Colorado All State Choir is a very selective choir made up of students across Colorado. Juniors and Seniors are able to audition for this choir. This is a very prestigious choir and students should be proud to audition.

### **Leadership**

There will be leadership opportunities within each choir this year. There are to be section leaders within each section of the choir. These students will apply and be selected by Ms. Berry based upon their leadership qualities and music ability.

### **Fundraising**

The average cost of sheet music for choirs per year is over \$4,000. Add the cost of festival registration, guest clinician fees, piano costs, and the countless materials and opportunities for our students, things get expensive.

To help with these costs and give our students the best opportunities in music we will do a number of fundraising events throughout the year. These include working concession stands, restaurant nights, singing valentines and a few others. Please consider volunteering to help at these events or attending events which benefit choir! We couldn't do it without your support. Please keep up to date on the website or communicate with Ms. Berry about helping out!

### **Choir Calendar**

August 22nd- 5:30-6:30 Parent Performing Arts Information Night  
August 24th- Handbook signed and turned in to Ms. Berry  
September 4th- Last Day to turn in Money for Concert Uniforms  
September 6th- All State Registration Due  
October 5th and 6th- All State Auditions (Be aware this is also Homecoming!)  
October 17th- SVVSD Fall Choral Festival at Longmont High School  
October 23rd- Mead Fall Choir Concert  
October 29th and 30th- Solo Auditions for Holiday Gala  
November 16th- Honor Choir Auditions Due  
December 4th and 5th- Holiday Gala!  
December 5th- Registration Fair  
December 18th, 19th, 20th- Finals (and auditions for next year choirs)  
December 20th- Choir going to Nutcracker before break! Bonding time!  
January 10th- Registration Night  
January 31st, Feb 1st and 2nd- All State Choir  
February 11th-14th- Singing Valentines  
February 26th- Honor Choir  
March 14th- Spring Concert  
April 18th, 19th 20th- Spring Musical  
May 2nd and 3rd- Canyon City Festival  
May 23rd- Last day for students  
May25th- Graduation

\*\*\*\*\* Please be aware some dates are destined to change, and some choirs will be invited to outside performances. Ms. Berry will add new performances and schedule dates as soon as she knows them! Some choirs will be singing the national anthem at different events as well. These dates will probably be known a week or two in advance please be flexible (Ms. Berry will also be flexible!).

## Parent/Student Agreement and Contact Information

I have read the MHS choir handbook, including the choir calendar, and understand the contents. I am aware that as part of the choral curriculum, I am required to attend all performances and mandatory rehearsals for my choir. I understand the expectations of being a part of the choral program at Mead and commit myself to creating a positive musical community.

Student name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Choir \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Parents

I have read the MHS choir handbook, and understand the expectations of my son or daughter, including the attendance policy, outside rehearsal/concert obligations, uniform requirements, and the class fee. I will assist him/her in achieving the requirements stated above.

\_\_\_\_\_ I give permission for my student to be featured in pictures and videos pertaining to MHS Choir. Including on the MHS choir website, MHS Facebook Page, Instagram, and twitter pages.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not give permission for my student to be featured on any MHS choir pages

Parent Name(s) (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



