



# Sacajawea Middle School Choir Handbook

## Welcome to the 2009-2010 Sacajawea Choirs!

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Welcome to the 2009-2010 Sacajawea Choir Program! As a member of the choir you are expected to do your best, have a positive attitude and work cooperatively as a member of the group.

### In class you will be expected to:

- Learn to read and perform music.
- Develop self-discipline and commitment through individual practice and participation in rehearsals, concerts and contests.
- Understand musical elements, techniques, styles and presentation.
- Recognize musical problems and through evaluation, reflection and practice, solve them.
- Exhibit the ability to collaborate, set goals, persist and strive for excellence

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**This handbook contains information that you are responsible to know and understand, including grading, concert dress and performance requirements. Please be sure to mark your Warrior Planner and family calendar with our concert and contest dates!**

### First Assignment:

Please have your parent/guardian read the information and sign the contract. Return the contract promptly as your first graded assignment. Returning the contract on the first day after it is assigned earns an A for your first assignment. Second day earns a B, etc. ***This contract is required for you to remain in choir.*** Parents, please feel free to call (253-945-4937) or email (cswenson@fwps.org) me with any questions or concerns.

I am looking forward to an exciting year! Please feel free to speak with me at any time during the year if you need help, or have questions!

*Mrs. Cara Swenson, Director*

## Washington State Essential Learning Requirements

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We will focus on the Washington State Essential Academic Learnings (EALRs) for the Arts:

1. The student acquires the knowledge and skills necessary to create, to perform and to respond effectively to the arts.
2. The student applies the creative process with arts knowledge and skills to reason and solve problems.
3. The student uses at least one of the art forms to communicate ideas and feelings.
4. The student understands how the arts connect to other subject areas, life and work.

## Overall Grading

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- 70% Rehearsal and performance skills: Attendance, attitude, responsibility, preparedness, self-discipline, vocal production, rehearsal habits, concerts and contests.
- 40% Assignments and Assessments: Written assignments and tests, performance and skills assessments, sight-singing tests.



## Daily Participation

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- Teacher assessment of individual performance, participation, attitude and effort.
- Students must be in class to earn daily participation points.
- Students are expected to pay attention, work hard and cooperate with the group process.
- Students who are absent frequently may wish to explore extra credit opportunities to make-up for missing participation points.

“Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.”

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

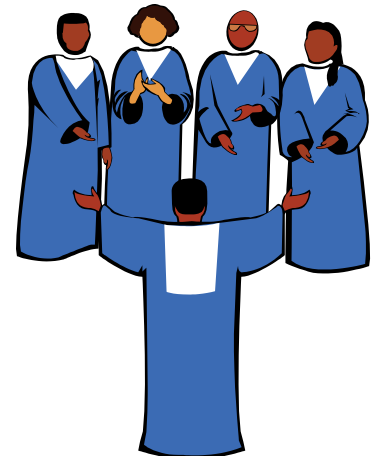
(1803 - 1882)

## Extra Credit

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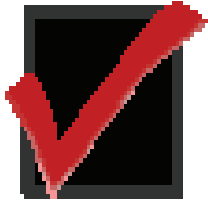
Students may earn a maximum of 100 points of extra credit per semester. Extra credit will be awarded for the following at 10 points each.

- Attend a *traditional* concert of high school level or above and write a newspaper-style review. Attach a program or ticket stub to the report.
- Research a composer or musical era and write a one to two page essay, or create a 15 slide PowerPoint presentation. Musical eras include: Ancient/Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Twentieth Century.
- Participate regularly in a community or church choir. Have your director write a note each semester, detailing frequency of rehearsals and performance, and a contact number.
- Private lessons in voice, piano or another instrument. Have your instructor write a note each semester detailing frequency of lessons and performances, and a contact number.



## Absences

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Performances are considered final tests, and the experience cannot be re-created. Any absence from a performance will result in the student receiving an “F” grade for that concert. Excused absences are at the discretion of the director, and receive credit equal to a “C” grade. Students may turn in extra-credit assignments to make up points lost due to a missed performance.

## Tardies

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Students who are late to class twice without a signed pass from a Sac staff member will be assigned lunch detention for their third unexcused tardy and every tardy after. The student will also lose one participation point per day for each tardy.



## ASB Membership

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Because the Choir, Band and Orchestra are financially supported by the ASB, all members (along with all Sacajawea athletes) are required to pay ASB dues of \$15 for the year. If you pay in the fall, you will enjoy the benefits of ASB membership, like reduced price dance/activity tickets. If you do not, you will be assessed a \$15 fine later in the year.

## Class Rules

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1. Follow directions the first time, every time.
2. Raise your hand and be recognized before speaking
3. Show respect for your classmates by not talking while others are singing or speaking.
4. Gum, food and beverages other than water are not allowed. This is a safety and vocal health issue.
5. Piano, drums and other instruments are off-limits to anyone who does not have specific permission to play, such as a class accompanist.

“There is real magic in enthusiasm. It spells the difference between mediocrity and accomplishment.”

Norman Vincent Peale 1898 - 1993)

## Class Expectations

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1. Be on time — in your seat and ready to sing.
2. Store music and a **pencil** in your folder. Return folder to the correct numbered slot at the end of rehearsal.
3. Music is very fragile. It must be used year after year without the benefit of a heavy cover like a textbook. If a student loses or significantly damages school music, that student will be fined the replacement cost.
4. Be positive—Sacajawea is a put-down free school.



## Discipline

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Failure to follow class rules and expectations may result in the following consequences: isolated seating, phone call home, hindrance letter to parent explaining the infraction and plan for improvement, lunch detention, processing time in another classroom, parent conference, or referral to the assistant principal, permanent removal from choir.



## Uniforms

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**All choir members will be expected to provide the following concert attire:**

### **Sixth Grade Choir:**

- **Ladies:** Black skirt (**knee length or longer**) or slacks, white collared shirt with sleeves (polo is fine), black dress shoes and neutral or black hose.
- **Gentlemen:** Black slacks, white collared shirt, black dress shoes, black socks.

### **Concert Choir:**

*We will place a group order for tux shirts at the beginning of the year. You may choose to order from this company, or acquire on your own. Watch for more information.*

- **Ladies:** Solid black skirt (knee length or longer), or slacks, white **tux shirt**, black dress shoes and neutral or black hose.
- **Gentlemen:** Black pants, white tux shirt, black dress shoes and black socks.
- \* Cumberbunds and ties will be provided.

*\* See me privately if these requirements create a financial burden for your family.*

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## Check out our website ~ The Sacajawea Choir Corner

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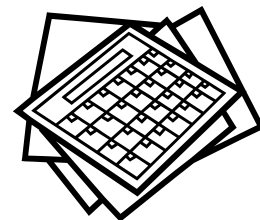


<http://schools.fwps.org/sac/sacmusichome.html>

Online version of this handbook, choir news, updates and more!

# Sacajawea Middle School Choir Calendar

Please remember that performances are a vital part of choir and *are graded*. Mark these dates on your family calendar and in your Warrior planner so that you can plan ahead for transportation.



<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Performers</b>
<b>Fall Concert</b> Thursday, October 17	7:00 PM 6:30 Warm-up	Sacajawea Cafeteria	All Choirs, 7/8 Bands and Orchestra
<b>Winter Concert</b> Wednesday, December 16	7:00 PM 6:30 Warm-up	Sacajawea Cafeteria	All Choirs and Orchestras.
<b>Winter Music Assembly</b> Wednesday, December 16	School Day	Sacajawea Gym	All Choirs, Bands and Orchestras
<b>Winterfest Performance</b> To Be Announced	Field Trip performance	Seattle Center, Center House Stage	Concert Choir, Vocal Ensemble and Band
<b>Vocal Solo and Ensemble</b> Saturday, February 27, 2010	To Be Announced	Kilo Middle School	Vocal Ensemble & interested singers
<b>Elementary School Tour</b> To Be Announced	Field Trip	Nautilus, Wildwood, Woodmont and Mirror Lake	Concert Choir, Vocal Ensemble, Band & Orchestra
<b>Spring Concert</b> Thursday, March 11, 2010	7:00 PM 6:30 Warm-up	Sacajawea Cafeteria	All Choirs
<b>Large Group Festival</b> Saturday, May 1, 2010	To Be Announced	Glacier View Junior High, Puyallup	Concert Choir
<b>Spring Music Assembly</b> Tuesday, June 8, 2010	School Day	Sacajawea Gym	Choirs, Bands and Orchestras
<b>Finale Concert</b> Wednesday, June 9, 2010	7:00 PM 6:30 Warm-up	Sacajawea Cafeteria	All Choirs and Orchestras



# Sacajawea Middle School

## Choir Contract ~ 2009-2010

I \_\_\_\_\_ (student name) understand  
and agree to follow the responsibilities and expectations for choir.

I understand that I must participate in all performances as part of  
my grade.

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle one:**      Sixth Grade      Seventh Grade      Eighth Grade

I have read the choir handbook, understand and agree to all the  
responsibilities, expectations and grading criteria for my stu-  
dent's choir class.

**Parent Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

