



Sacajawea Middle School Choir Handbook

Welcome to the 2007-2008 Sacajawea Choirs!

Welcome to the 2007-2008 Sacajawea Choir Program! As a member of the choir you will be 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

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

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

- 60% Rehearsal and performance skills: Attendance, attitude, responsibility, preparedness, self-discipline, vocal production, rehearsal habits, concerts and contests.
- 20% Assignments
- 20% Tests: Written and singing



Daily Participation

- 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.”

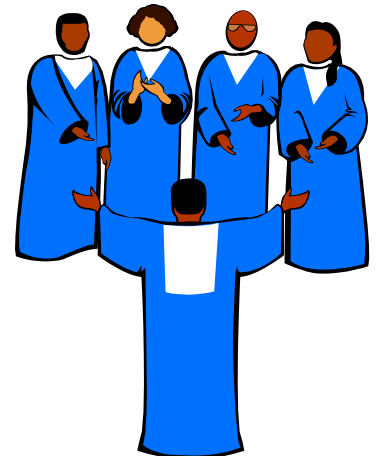
Ralph Waldo Emerson

(1803 - 1882)

Extra Credit

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.



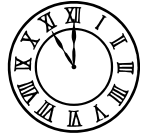
Absences



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 partial credit. Students may turn in extra-credit assignments to make up points lost due to a missed performance.

Tardies

Students who are late to class more than 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

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

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 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)

Expectations

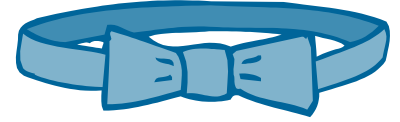
1. Be on time — in your seat and ready to sing.
2. Store music and a **pencil** in your folder. Return folder to it’s slot at the end of rehearsal.
3. Music is very fragile. It must be used year after year without the benefit of a heavy cover like a textbook. If a student loses or significantly damages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



Discipline

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 dean or assistant principal, permanent removal from choir.

Uniforms



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 blouse with sleeves, 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. Watch for more information.

- **Ladies:** Black skirt (knee length or longer), 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.*

Check out our website ~ The Sacajawea Choir Corner

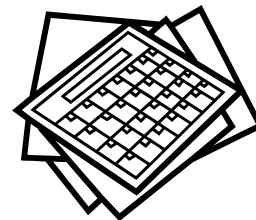


<http://schools.fwps.org/sac/sacmusichome.html>

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. Mark these dates on your family calendar and in your Warrior planner so that you can plan ahead for transportation.



Date	Time	Location	Performers
Fall Concert Thursday, October 25	7:00 PM 6:30 Warm-up	Sacajawea Cafeteria	All Choirs, 7/8 Bands and Orchestra
Winter Music Assembly Wednesday, December 12	School Day	Sacajawea Gym	Choirs, Bands and Orchestras
Winter Concert Wednesday, December 12	7:00 PM 6:30 Warm-up	Sacajawea Cafeteria	All Choirs and Orchestras
Winterfest Performance	Field Trip	Seattle Center, Center House Stage	Concert Choir, Vocal Ensemble and Band
Vocal Solo and Ensemble Saturday, February 9th	To Be Announced	Sequoyah Middle School	Vocal Ensemble & interested singers
Elementary School Tour To Be Announced	Field Trip	Nautilus, Wildwood, Woodmont and Mirror Lake	Concert Choir, Vocal Ensemble, Band & Orchestra
Spring Concert Tuesday, March 27, 2008	7:00 PM 6:30 Warm-up	Sacajawea Cafeteria	All Choirs
Large Group Festival Saturday, May 3rd, 2008	To Be Announced	Edgemont J.H. Edgemont, WA	Concert Choir
Spring Music Assembly Tuesday, June 3, 2008	School Day	Sacajawea Gym	Choirs, Bands and Orchestras
Finale Concert Wednesday, June 4, 2008	7:00 PM 6:30 Warm-up	Sacajawea Cafeteria	All Choirs and Orchestras



Sacajawea Middle School

Choir Contract ~ 2007-2008

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 Choir Concert Choir

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 _____

