

Shamokin Area Middle/Senior High School

Senior High Choral Music

2016-2017

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! I excited to begin another year in senior high choral music and look forward to working with your child. Attached you will find important information regarding this year's Senior High Choral program, including events and expectations of the students involved. Please take the time to read everything carefully.

I'm looking forward to another challenging year, full of new experiences and further musical growth. Our performance schedule includes three concerts: Winter, Spring and "Pops." **The Winter Choral Concert will be held on Wednesday, December 7 (7:00PM); the Spring Concert will be Thursday, May 4 (7:30PM); the annual "Pops" Concert will be Friday, May 19 (7:00PM).**

Remember, the success of our group will rely heavily on your support. Students are expected to apply concepts studied in class to all of their music-making ventures to make individual progress throughout the year, as well as attend and participate in rehearsals during school. In addition, attendance at all concerts is expected. Please schedule around the attached concert dates so that our performances continue to be successful.

The annual choral field trip this year will be in April 2017 to see a Broadway musical. Fundraisers will likely be held for those students interested in participating to defray the cost of the trip. More information will be coming soon.

Thank you in advance for supporting the Senior High Choral Department. Please keep this handbook for reference throughout the school year; **sign and return the bottom portion of this letter** to acknowledge that you have received and read the attached information. Also include your e-mail address on the signature form so that we may easily contact you if need be.

Lastly, if you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 648-5731 x3115, or at mstump@indians.k12.pa.us.

Please sign and return the bottom of this page to acknowledge that you have received, read, and understood the attached information.

Please detach and return to Mrs. Stump by Friday, September 16.

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We have received, read and understand the Senior High Choral Student Handbook.

STUDENT NAME (printed)

PARENT NAME (printed)

STUDENT SIGNATURE AND DATE

PARENT SIGNATURE AND DATE

Parent e-mail address or Phone Number: _____

SENIOR HIGH CHORAL DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK

Music

Concert Music: Students will be assigned folders that will be stored in the music cabinet in the chorus room. All music will be numbered and kept in the folder of the same number. Students may take the concert folders home to practice, but are reminded that the music must be in school for rehearsals. ***All students are required to bring their own folders and pencils to rehearsal everyday*** in order to mark phrasing, breath marks, etc. on their copy of each song. Failure to comply with this rule will result in rehearsal point deductions.

Please remember that music and concert folders are property of the Shamokin Area School District. They are quite expensive and are meant to be reused. Students are expected to mark their music as directed, but should mark the music in black pencil only. They are expected to turn in all music and folders after our concerts; **students will be responsible for paying for all lost or severely damaged music and folders.**

Bell Ringer Notebook

Bell ringers are daily exercises meant to further the student's music comprehension and experiences. Every student will maintain the bell ringer notebook they receive at the start of the year. Bell ringer topics will include vocal health and tone production; music history-based listening journals; and music theory, vocabulary, and comprehension. Students are expected to maintain their notebook, even when absent. Students may retrieve bell ringers from the music department website (<https://sites.google.com/site/samusicdept>) or by borrowing the teacher's or other student's bell ringer book. These notebooks will be randomly checked by the teacher for a graded assignment twice per marking period. Students will take graded quizzes on notebook material several times throughout the year.

Grading Policy

Since chorus is a performing art, a significant portion of each student's grade will be based on performance. Concert attendance is a graded assignment for all students and is worth a major percentage of the marking period grade. Keep in mind, our performances are a group/team effort and are an important part of our curriculum. These performances should be a priority for all chorus members. Even one person missing from the performance can affect the sound of the group!

The only valid excuses for missing a concert or public performance are:

1. Personal Illness
2. Significant Family Emergency

If a student has a legitimate excuse to miss a concert, they are required to hand in a signed parental excuse within one week. In addition, they are expected to complete a graded taped assessment of all concert material, per course selection description.

For specific information on grading policies for each choral course, see the **Grading Policy** page at the end of the handbook.

Rehearsal Expectations

The following music department expectations are posted in the choral/orchestra room and apply to all students:

1. MUSIC, pencils, folders/folios, agenda, Bell Ringer notebook ALWAYS with you.
2. GUM, food and drinks (other than water) prohibited.
3. RESPECT everyone and everything.
4. QUIET after the bell and between pieces.
5. Be CONSIDERATE, positive and proud.

Not following these expectations will result in disciplinary action and/or lowered grade. The Shamokin Area School District discipline policy will apply to all events in the music department.

Expectations of Manners and Professionalism

All students are expected to use manners at all times and have a positive, professional attitude toward all peers and faculty in the music department. Rudeness and disrespectfulness will not be tolerated. All students are expected to work together to achieve a common goal: experiencing and performing music of all types of levels. Being a professional means that colleagues do not speak ill of one another, but instead they encourage each other to become better musicians. Being a professional means respecting all the different types and genres of music for the knowledge it may bring to the overall musicianship of the student. *If there is ever a problem between students or about any of the music, please see Mrs. Stump. Her door is always open.*

The Shamokin Area Choral Department will continue to uphold a high level of professionalism and performance. Any violation of this will not be tolerated (including the addition of words/movement/etc. in a public performance without pre-approval by the director) and will result in a reduction of grade and/or disciplinary action.

Students are also expected to exhibit a high level of responsibility at all times. If a student is going to miss a choral class and knows ahead of time (due to field trip, school activity, etc.), s/he should notify Mrs. Stump in advance so that s/he can get necessary information and rehearsal plans can be adjusted to best accommodate the students in class each day.

Public Performances: All students are expected to represent the Shamokin Area School District in a positive manner during public appearances. All school policies regarding dress, behavior, and discipline apply. There is ZERO TOLERANCE for possession or consumption of drugs and/or alcohol. All rehearsal expectations apply for public performance as well.

Fund Raising

The Senior High Chorus may participate fundraisers to defray the cost of choral trips. If your child participates, please see that the money for each fundraiser is turned in by the deadline.

To make bookkeeping easier and provide you with a receipt, you can convert all cash to a single check payable to "Shamokin Area School District." Fundraiser payments should be placed in a sealed envelope clearly labeled with the student's name, fundraiser, and amount enclosed. Envelopes should be given directly to Mrs. Stump at the designated times.

Ensemble and Courses

Chorus ~ Chorale ~ Comprehensive Musicianship

Chorus and Chorale will function as a choral ensemble that will emphasize choral singing, vocal technique, music literacy, and preparation for public performance. The Comprehensive Musicianship course is designed for students who have attained membership in the Chorale and are interested in concentrated studies of music theory.

Chamber Choir

The Chamber Choir consists of 16 students* (4 per part) and will sing at community events, etc. as invitations occur. The Chamber Choir will rehearse after school one day a week (to be determined by students and director) from 2:30-3:15PM to prepare repertoire in addition to the full chorale and chorus music. Requirements for participants are 1) must be a member of chorale; 2) must be available for practice one day a week; and 3) must be willing to perform at community events during or after school, excepting extenuating circumstances (major exam, illness, etc.). Audition requirements will be discussed and posted in class. Membership in chamber choir may be terminated at the director's discretion due to insubordinate behavior, poor attendance, or failure to follow school or music department policies. Auditions are held in the spring for the following school year. **Number subject to change at director's discretion.*

Student Officers

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian

The officers elected for Chorus will oversee all activities of the chorus. These officers will be responsible for organizational tasks, aiding the director, and boosting ensemble morale. The position of librarian will be appointed by the director. Officers will be elected by members of chorus and follow Robert's Rules of Conduct, supervised by the director. All officers are expected to uphold the highest level of professionalism - a student may be removed from office at the director's discretion due to insubordinate behavior or failure to follow school or music department policies.

Concert Attire

The following is ***required***:

- **Gentlemen** - black dress slacks, white shirt, tie, black socks and black shoes
- **Ladies** - **our black concert gown**, and black shoes (shoes may be flat or heels).
 - **If you choose to wear stockings or pantyhose, please wear the color nude or black.**

Every female must wear our concert gown!

Appropriate concert attire is expected of ALL music department students; inappropriate dress will affect the concert grade. If this dress code is a burden for your family, please contact me at 648-5731 x3115 to discuss other possible arrangements.

Rehearsal/Performance Dates

Please mark these dates on your family calendar.
You are responsible for making arrangements due to any conflicts.

Mandatory Rehearsals

** In order for the entire choir to benefit as a whole, there will be two in-school rehearsals and one out-of-school rehearsal for each concert so the chorus may rehearse in its entirety. **

Winter Concert Rehearsals

Monday, December 5, 2016 (*night rehearsal*).....6:00-8:00PM
Tuesday, December 6, 2016.....5th/6th periods
Wednesday, December 7, 20162nd/3rd periods

Spring Concert Rehearsals

Tuesday, May 2, 20172nd/3rd periods
Wednesday, May 3, 2017 (*night rehearsal*)6:00-8:00PM
Thursday, May 4, 2017.....5th/6th periods

"Pops" Concert Rehearsals

Wednesday, May 17, 2017 (after-school rehearsal).....2:30-3:30 PM

Choral Department Performance Schedule for 2015-2016

Winter Concert.....Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 7:00pm*
Spring Concert.....Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 7:30pm*
15th Annual "Pops" Concert.....Friday, May 19, 2017 at 7:00pm*

2016-17 Field Trip

Broadway Musical (*to be determined*) April 15(?), 2017

2017 Musical

Mary Poppins March 31 and April 1 (& 2?), 2017 at 7:00 PM

** Dates and times may be subject to change per administration and choral director decision. **