

Choir classes from 6th-12th grade are optional and open to all students. Students will focus on healthy vocal technique, fundamentals of music theory, history, sight-singing, and the rehearsal of music. Concerts are performed once each semester. Choral music is an incredible avenue toward building better musicians and better people. Through teamwork, performance, music literacy and creativity, students are able to develop their self-esteem and ability to express themselves. Through exposure to many different musical styles and periods, they are more aware of history and the world cultures. They also begin to understand the impact that music can have in their lives and in the lives of others. Most importantly, students will develop self-discipline and learn to work cooperatively.

The SMS choir is comprised of 6th, 7th and 8th grade singers. The SHS choir is comprised of 9th-12th grade singers. The SHS Ensemble is an auditioned group of 9th-12th grade singers.

Class instruction includes the study of all classifications of choral literature and sight-reading. Rehearsals and public performances outside of class are mandatory parts of the course. In addition, individual performance is encouraged.

All choir students participate in semester concerts. The Band/Choir Christmas Concert will be in December. The spring choir concert will be in April. PARTICIPATION IS MANDATORY. Each concert is a grade.

Optional opportunities for students interested in choir are:

- **SHS Ensemble** - It is a select AUDITIONED mixed ensemble of students from the high school choir. Hard work and dedication will be expected. Commitment is essential. This group is required to audition for EDHC and District Solo & Ensemble Contests. Members of this group sing the national anthem at all home basketball games. The group also sings at all public concerts and will sing at nursing homes during December.
- **Eastern District Honor Choirs** – All choir students, grades 6-12, may audition for district honor choirs. The audition fee is \$10. Students audition at Muskogee High School in September. Selected students will participate in the EDHC Concert in October at Muskogee. Students selected to sing in a choir may go on to audition for All-OCDA or All-OMEA choirs. AUDITION IS REQUIRED FOR SHS ENSEMBLE members.
- **All-OCDA JH Honor Choir** – Students selected to sing in the EDHC JH choir may audition for the All-OCDA JH Honor Choir. This choir is a more advanced choir than All-District. The audition requires three pieces of music, two of which are also All-District audition pieces. The audition fee is \$10 and is the responsibility of the students.
- **All-OMEA HS Honor Choir** – Students selected to sing in the EDHC HS CHOIR may audition for the All-OMEA Choir. This choir is a more advanced choir than EDHC. The audition requires three pieces of music, all of which were EDHC audition pieces. The fee is \$15 and is the responsibility of the students.
- **NSU District Solo & Ensemble Contest** – Singers in grades 7 – 12 may audition for this contest, though participation is optional. Students may sing solos or in groups. Those high school students receiving “I” ratings may go on to participate in the **OBU State Solo & Ensemble Contest**. PARTICIPATION IS REQUIRED FOR SHS ENSEMBLE members.
- **Heartland Music Festival, May 7, 2016** – All eligible choir students may participate in the Heartland Festival in the spring. The cost of this year’s festival is \$96.00 for students and \$88.00 for adults. A non-refundable deposit of \$25.00 is due January 29. Full payment is due by April 28. Students will sing two songs of contrasting character for the contest.