

Andover Middle School 7th and 8th Grade Vocal Music

Welcome to Choir! We are excited to see you in Boys or Girls choir this year!

Please read the following information so you will know what is expected of you in class.

Personnel

Robert Schofer – Instructor – 7th and 8th Grade Boys and Girls Choirs

Tanya Schroeder – Instructor – 6th Grade Vocal Music

Laurel Delimont – Accompanist/Assistant

Philosophies

1. By working together, we believe that each student has the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate various types of music as well as develop self-discipline toward the art of music.

2. The choirs of Andover Middle School will represent Andover Middle School and the community with pride and respect.

Rules:

1. **Think.** What a concept! Think about the music, think about the style, think about the vocal production, and think about the possibilities with this one word – THINK.
2. **Do the right thing.**
 - a. Follow all school rules.
 - b. Place your gum, candy, etc. in the wastebasket as you enter the room.
Be in your seat with a pencil and your music in order when the tardy bell rings. Put away music and supplies at the end of each day. **You will need your planner with conduct card, music folder or music book and a pencil each day.**
 - c. For safety, stay in your assigned spot unless you have permission to leave them.
 - d. Respect the personal space and safety of others
 - e. Class is over when I say it is over!!! (Not when the bell rings.)
AGAIN, THINK of the possibilities.
3. **Treat other people the way you want to be treated!** Show kindness and respect to others at all times. When you deal with parents, teachers and friends – THINK, DO THE RIGHT THING!

Facilities and Materials: *“Treat these as if they were your own.”*

Choir Room - We are fortunate to have wonderful facilities for choirs at AMS. Maintaining the choir room should be a top priority for our students. No food or drink (except water in a sealable container) is allowed in the choir room.

Piano/Stereo - Students may use the piano and stereo with a director's permission before or after school. Preference is given to those practicing for Pioneer League auditions or Solo & Ensemble. Please do not set any of your belongings (especially water) on top of the piano or stereo system.

Music - Throughout the year, you will be given music that has been purchased by the AMS choral department. Just like your textbooks, you must return all of the music to us in good condition at the end of the semester. If you lose your music, or it is in poor condition upon return, you must pay the replacement cost. When marking in music, always use pencil. This ensures that the music will be able to be used for future choirs.

Practice Room - Priority for practice room use should be given to those taking voice lessons, practicing Pioneer League or Solo and Ensemble music, or taking sight-reading tests. Students may use these rooms only with a director's permission.

Choir Office - The choir office is our home away from home. We spend almost as many hours of our day here as we do in our homes. We want to get to know each and every one of you, but please knock before entering. If we are not busy, we will let you enter. If we do not answer, we are either busy in conference, or on the phone. Please try again later. We do want to talk to you.

Student Expectations: *"You are what you repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is an act but a habit."*

As music educators, we believe that occasionally students need time to step away from the stimulation of the choral environment to reflect on choir classroom procedures, calm their behavior, or separate his or her self from the current activity if they are unable to perform without distressing or disturbing others. As opposed to punishment, this gives the student the ability to find acceptance as a valued member of the team who requires a moment to re-establish the connection between his or her actions and the needs of the classroom.

The student will be asked to step away from the learning environment after they are given verbal notice from the director alerting them that they are hindering the procedures of the classroom and their action is needed to improve the learning environment. After a short period of time, the teacher will check on the student to see if he or she is ready to rejoin the class. Student learning and musical achievement is the ultimate goal. Parents can be contacted any time that the directors feel that their involvement can improve the actions of the student in the choral classroom.

Step 1: The student has chosen to distress the classroom after a verbal notice from the director has been given and personal reflection is needed to improve the learning environment. The student will be asked to sit away from others, to ensure that he or she is able to stop the activity and quietly reflect.

Step 2: The student chooses to continue distressing the classroom and a second reflection in the form of a written refocus activity is needed to identify the procedure infraction. The student will be asked to sit away from others to refocus to ensure that he or she is able to stop the activity and quietly reflect.

Step 3: The student chooses to continue distressing the classroom and a third personal reflection is needed to improve the learning environment. Parent support is needed upon stepping out for a third time and a phone call will be made. The call will be made to discuss positive actions that the teacher can implement to improve student success in choir.

Step 4: The student chooses to continue distressing the classroom and an office referral is needed to improve the learning environment. Administration and parent support is compulsory upon stepping out for a fourth time and contact will be made immediately following the incident to set up a parent/teacher conference. Administration will decide whether further action should be taken to improve the future of student success in class. Any action that warrants a direct violation of student safety or direct insubordination of authority will be considered an automatic Step 4.

Students must also follow all school behavioral expectations, both on- and off-campus. Violations will be dealt with not only by the director(s), but also by the appropriate school officials.

Attendance Policies *"Communication is the key to success."*

Rehearsals - Unlike other academic classes, it is impossible to make up activities that occur during a choral rehearsal, thus attendance is imperative at all rehearsals, concerts, and extra-choir activities. Excessive unexcused absences will have a negative effect on the student's grade.

Concerts - Attendance at any choral concert is required. Missing a concert will lower the student's grade drastically. Absences will only be excused in special situations, such as a medical/family emergency, religious holiday, or death in the family. Written documentation should be provided to the director(s) as soon as a problem arises and must occur *prior* to the event to be given a concert makeup opportunity. Note: Non-school-sponsored events do not constitute an excused absence for any required choral event and will not be allowed a makeup.

Extra-Choir Activities - Students will be given sufficient notice of any activities outside of the school day, including rehearsals, sectionals, and concerts. These activities are essential to the development of the choral program. As with concerts, an unexcused absence at an extra-choir activity will lower the student's grade. The director(s) will make every effort to limit the time spent outside of the school day. Any conflicts, including appointments, athletics, other student organizations, etc. should be brought to the director(s) as soon as possible.

Grading Policies “Here are the nuts and bolts...”

Nine Weeks Grading Scale:

Daily Grade/Rehearsal Accountability (50% nine weeks grade) – The student’s daily grade consists of work done during the choral rehearsal. Each day is worth 20 points, making each week worth 100 points, and each nine-week grading period worth 600 points. This may vary considering in-service days and holidays. Students will not receive any points for days absent (school activities will not be recorded as absences). Deductions will occur for the following offenses:

Step 1 (-10 points)

Step 2 (-10 points)

Note: Step 3 and Step 4 infractions warrant immediate loss of all daily points. The instructor reserves the right to perform supply/folder checks at any time for a grading period.

Concert and Called Rehearsal Attendance (30% nine weeks grade) – Performance outside of the school day is a necessary component of performing in choirs. Attendance is required for all concerts and called rehearsals as they are a form of assessment in choir. Performance dates are listed on the calendar of events and other extra-choir activity dates will be given to students with adequate notice. Watch andovertrojanchoirs.pbworks.com for additional dates. Absence from a concert will significantly reduce the student’s grade. An excused absence will be granted only on a case-by-case basis. Parents must contact Mr. Schofer **2 weeks prior** to the concert if there are any circumstances that keep the student from performing. Students are expected to be on time to all concerts, sectionals and outside rehearsals. **Concert grades are double-weighted.** One grade is given for performance and the other is given for concert etiquette. Concert grades are figured with the following guidelines:

Concert Performance

Tardy (-20 points)

Attire (-50 points, will not perform)

Concert Etiquette

Talking/Gum on Stage (-30 points)

Misbehavior Backstage/During Concert (-50 points)

If a student is ineligible (Pioneer League, only) or has been granted an excused absence, they will be given an alternative assignment to replace the zero in the gradebook. **Missed concerts and rehearsals will be a consideration when placing students in future groups.**

Assignments (20% nine weeks grade) – Assignments such as sight-reading tests, memory checks, music analyses, and web-based assignments will be given at the discretion of the instructor. Doing so allows assessment of the student at an individual level rather than as a group.

Our concert outfit will be:

- ***AMS Choir Polo Shirt** (We will order the polo shirts for new choir students and shirts will be given to students before our first concert. They cost \$12.00. Please make checks payable to AMS Choir.)
- ***Khaki Pants** (preferably the tan or stone color)
- ***Dress Socks** (NOT WHITE!)
- ***Dress Shoes** (NO FLIP FLOPS or TENNIS SHOES)

IMPORTANT! READ! The goal of performance attire is to be a proud representation of our school. Concerts are formal events and dress should display the appropriate respect for the occasion. Shirts are to be completely tucked in. Shorts or “capri’s” are not allowed!

Voice Lessons

All students are encouraged to take private voice lessons. You can improve and strengthen your singing voice with one on one coaching from a quality voice instructor. There are many voice instructors in the greater Wichita area. Check out their availability from Mr. Schofer!

Worlds of Fun Eligibility

We usually plan a trip to the Festival of Choirs at Worlds of Fun in April or May, if the calendar allows. This is a fun trip intended to be a reward for our accomplishments and is not mandatory. Individual students' eligibility for this trip will be based on the following guidelines:

1. Students must be eligible according to KSHSAA guidelines.
2. Students' conduct card points will be reviewed in deciding their eligibility.
3. Students have attended and participated in all required concerts or league festivals.
4. Students have demonstrated through their participation and cooperation in class and in concerts that they will represent our school and community with respect and pride.

THE CLASS MUST MEET HIGH EXPECTATIONS TO EARN THIS REWARD AS A CLASS!!!!

Worlds of Fun Chaperones

We'd love to have you as a chaperone. If interested, please keep the weekend of April 18, 2015 open on your family calendars. More information will be mailed in the spring.

Concert Night:

On the night of a concert, students need to **arrive at 6:55 pm in the AHS vocal room for warm ups. Be in Concert Outfit!**

Calendar of Events: *(Dates in **bold print** are required performances and are 30% of your choir grade.)*

2014 Fall Semester

Aug. 19	Handbook Forms DUE		
Oct. 2	Fall Vocal Concert (REQUIRED!)	7:30 pm	AHS Auditorium
Nov. 1	Pioneer League Honor Choir	All Day	Haysville M.S.
Nov. 17-21	Kantorei Interviews	Before/After School	AMS Choir Room
Dec. 9	Holiday Concert (REQUIRED!)	7:30 pm	AHS Auditorium

2015 Spring Semester

March 5	Spring Concert (REQUIRED!)	7:30 pm	AHS Auditorium
March 7	Andover Piano Festival	All Day	AHS Auditorium
April 18	Worlds of Fun Festival of Choirs	All Day	Kansas City
April 29	Pioneer League (REQUIRED!)	All Day	El Dorado M.S.
	Vocal & Piano Festival		
May 18	Final Concert (REQUIRED!)	7:30 pm	AHS Auditorium
May 21	Promotion (8 th Grade Only)	7:00 pm	AMS Gym

*** TAKE NOTE!!! This is a tentative list of dates. There will be some additions or deletions to this calendar as we go through the school year.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Schofer at:

Andover High School: #316.218.4600 ext. 31307 (plan time 7:50 am – 8:30 pm or afterschool 3:00 pm)

Andover Middle School: #316.218.4610 ext. 41302 (after school 3:00 pm)

Mobile/voice mail phone: #316.207.6100

Andover Middle School 7th and 8th Grade Vocal Music Acknowledgement Form

I, (print first & last name) _____, have read the expectations, grading policy, rules, and attendance policies for AMS Choirs. I understand that my participation in choir requires me to be a model for others not only at AMS but in the community as well. I understand that failure to comply with these guidelines will reduce my grade and could lead to removal from the choral department.

Student signature

Date / /

I have read the expectations, grading policy, rules, and attendance policies for HMS Choirs. I understand that my child's participation in choir requires them to be a model for others not only at HMS but in the community as well. I understand that failure to comply with these guidelines will reduce their grade and could lead to removal from the choral department. I also understand that successful organizations that work require teamwork between the parents, students, and teachers.

Parent signature

Date / /

New Students: Polo Shirt Size (Adult sizes) S M L XL

All Parents Welcome! Please mark below where you can volunteer:

_____ Social Events/Chaperoning

_____ Concert Night/Uniforms

_____ Finance/Fundraising

_____ Administrative
(Copies, Form Processing, etc.)

This signed page is worth an **assignment grade** and
should be returned by:

Tuesday, August 19, 2014 = A

Wednesday, August 20, 2014 = B

Thursday, August 21, 2014 = C

Friday, August 22, 2014 = D