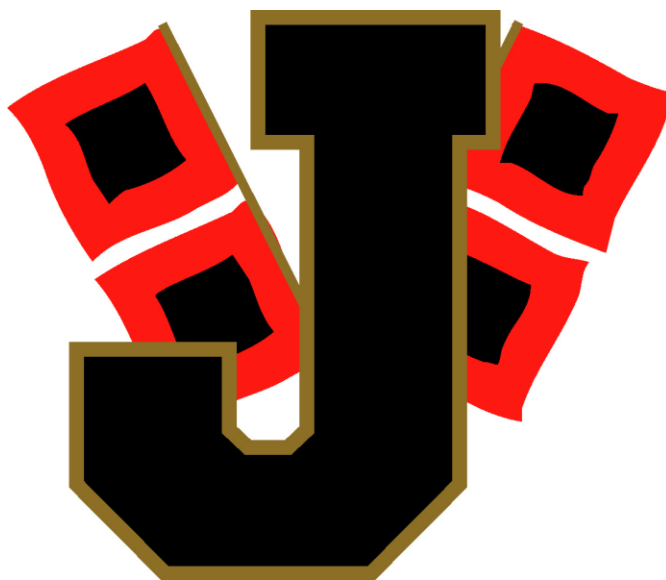


Jonesboro High School
Choral Music Department Handbook



HOME OF THE GOLDEN HURRICANE!

2016-2017

*"We are the music makers, and we are the dreamers of dreams."
by Arthur O'Shaughnessy*

Krisie L. Holmes~ Choral Director

A Letter from the Director



Dear Students and Parents,

I am very pleased to welcome you to the Jonesboro high school choral music program. I am delighted that you have chosen to become a member of an organization with such a strong legacy of musical excellence. Our choral program strives to provide every individual choir member with a superior, well-rounded musical experience, establishes self-discipline, pride and loyalty, while developing essential life skills. We are honored to be ambassadors for our school and our community.

Jonesboro High School choirs have consecutively earned Division I Superior Ratings at the Northeast Arkansas Choral Performance Assessment and at the Arkansas State Music Festival in both concert performance and sight reading skills. Year after year, Jonesboro High School choirs have continually placed the largest number of students in the Northeast Arkansas All Region Choir. JHS often holds the largest first chair placements in both the Northeast Arkansas All Region Choir, as well as, the Arkansas All State Choir.

Each April, the JHS choral music department presents a spring musical to sold-out, standing-ovation audiences. "Les Misérables", "Thoroughly Modern Mille", "Children of Eden", "Hairspray", "Into the Woods", "The Phantom of the Opera", and "Cinderella" are examples of the ambitious theatre projects we have undertaken in past years. Don't miss your opportunity to be a part of this year's spring production of "SISTER ACT" which promises to carry on the tradition of incredible musical theatre.

Through the years the JHS Choirs have done extensive travel both in the United States and abroad. This spring break we will travel to Kilkenny, Dublin, Blarney, Waterford, Bunratty, Ring of Kerry and Glendalough to perform for the **American Celebration of Music in Ireland**, March 17-25, 2017. We will perform in some of Ireland's most renowned performance spaces, chosen for their musical, historical and cultural significance. Ireland boasts an extensive musical history and is still an artistic center for the performing arts. It is an honor for the JHS Choral Department to participate in this venture. I look forward to preparing you for this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Sincerely,

KRISIE HOLMES

KRISIE HOLMES

Jonesboro High School Choral Music Director
301 Hurricane Drive, Jonesboro, AR 72401
870-933-5881 ext.252
Conference Period is 7th & 8th Block
krisie.holmes@jonesboroschools.net



Jonesboro High School



Choral Music Department

Handbook

Choral Conductor Contact Information

Krisie Holmes

301 Hurricane Drive

Jonesboro, AR 72401

870-933-5881 ext 252

krisie.holmes@jonesboroschools.net

Conference Period: 7th & 8th Block

Please find my webpage at www.krisieholmes.weebly.com

Please follow us on FaceBook @JHSChoralMusicDept

Jonesboro High School Choral Ensembles and Course Offerings

AP MUSIC THEORY: 11th – 12th band or choir students planning to major in music

VOCAL FUSION: 10th – 12th grade female or male students/1st semester only

HURRICANE SINGERS: 10th – 12th grade female or male students/SATB literature

SOPHOMORE SELECT: 10th grade students selected by audition/SATB literature

CAMERATA SINGERS: 11th grade students selected by audition/SSAATTBB literature

CHAMBER CHORALE: 12th grade students selected by audition/SSAATTBB literature

CATEGORY FIVE: 10th – 12th grade students selected by audition/SATB pops/meets after school

**must be enrolled in another choral ensemble*

SPRING MUSICAL PRODUCTION: any 10th – 12th grade choir student

I – Course Description

The JHS Choral Ensembles are designed as two-semester courses to teach students music fundamentals and vocal music techniques. Choristers are expected to develop beginning performance techniques in solo, small group, and large group settings, with emphasis on reading and performing vocally using appropriate articulation, dynamics, and interpretive skills. Choristers will critique and reflect on their own performances and the performances of others. Choristers will perform vocal music in a variety of settings including, but not limited to, concerts, solo and ensemble performances, and festivals. Choristers will critique and reflect on their own performances and the performances of others. Choristers will make connections between music traditions and other arts, disciplines, and cultures. Students will apply rudiments of vocal music and fundamentals of creative expression to performance.

Prerequisite for a JHS Choral Ensemble

Director Referral / Audition / One Year Choral Experience

II - Course Objectives

- A. Display a mastery of basic musical concepts and techniques learned in previous classes: rhythm, tempo, key signature, phrasing, expression and style, articulation, pitch and note accuracy, tone quality, etc
- B. Sing with knowledge of dynamics, interpretation, and vocal production in performance.
- C. Sight-read individual part while two or three other parts are sung, using numbers or words.
- D. Demonstrate a vocal blend in a variety of ensembles: SATB, SSAATTBB, SSA, SSAA, TTB, TTBB, etc.
- E. Demonstrate musical accuracy and correct vocal technique in various genres of music; Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Contemporary, etc.
- F. Exhibit good vocal diction skills in English, Latin, Italian, French, German, etc.
- G. Maintain individual practice schedules in addition to class rehearsals.
- H. Make public appearances in assigned choral ensembles.
- I. Audition for All Region and All State Choirs.
- J. Audition for ACDA Divisional and National Honor Choirs
- K. Maintain a written reflection journal (audio excerpts, text analysis, performance evaluation, etc)

III – Uniforms

Each JHS Choral ensemble member will wear formal performance attire for concerts, contests, festivals and selected performances. Formal performance attire will be provided to the student. The student will provide proper footwear for each uniform. **Uniform Check- Out must be done by Friday, September 2, 2016.**

Each JHS Choral ensemble member is to have the uniform professionally dry cleaned and returned by **Monday, April 21, 2017**. A substantial fee of **\$35.00** will be assessed for any late return of the uniform, any damage to the uniform, and to any uniform that is not properly dry-cleaned with dry-cleaner bag and dry-cleaner tag clearly visible on the garment.

Ensemble Uniform Styles

HURRICANE SINGERS M (student provided)

Black dress socks (no ankle socks)
Black dress shoes (no athletic shoes)
White Long Sleeved Shirt
Black dress pants

HURRICANE SINGERS W (student provided)

Black hose (must cover the leg)
Black dress shoes (CLOSED TOE, low heel)
Black Sleeved Dress
or
Black Sleeved Blouse with Black Dress Slacks

SOPHOMORE SELECT M (school provided)

Tuxedo Coat and adjustable tux pants
White Tux Shirt
Black Long Tie and Black Vest

SOPHOMORE SELECT M (student provided)

Black dress socks (no ankle socks)
Black dress shoes (no athletic shoes)
White undershirt (short sleeved)

SOPHOMORE SELECT W (school provided)

Black Formal Dress w/ gold brocade skirt

SOPHOMORE SELECT W (student provided)

Black hose (must cover the leg)
Black dress shoes (CLOSED TOE, low heel)

CAMERATA SINGERS M (school provided)

Tuxedo Coat and adjustable tux pants
White Tux Shirt
Black Long Tie and Black Vest

CAMERATA SINGERS M (student provided)

Black dress socks (no ankle socks)
Black dress shoes (no athletic shoes)
White undershirt (short sleeved)

CAMERATA SINGERS W (school provided)

Black Formal Dress w/ gold brocade skirt

CAMERATA SINGERS W (student provided)

Black hose (must cover the leg)
Black dress shoes (CLOSED TOE, low heel)

CATEGORY FIVE!

To Be Decided

Care and Maintenance of Ensemble Uniforms

Professionally Dry Clean Only

Do not hand press

Never wet, wash, or rinse any item

Do no contact the uniform with spot cleaning chemical, bleach, make-up, etc

Examine the uniform thoroughly and often for soils or damages

Try on your uniform to ensure proper fit (don't wait until the night of a concert)

Please hang the uniform properly at all times

Transport your uniform in a garment bag, never uncovered

Uniform Hemming Instructions

DO NOT CUT THE MATERIAL!!! Fold all material under for hemming

Measure your uniform while wearing you performance shoes

Pants should be hemmed in BLACK thread, allow a break in the pant

Female Chorus dresses should be hemmed in BLACK thread

Dress lengths should cover the foot but not touch the floor

Camerata Singers dresses will need to be hemmed with BLACK thread

Hems should be no more than 3 inches from the bottom of the pant/skirt

IV – Course Materials

Student Provided

A. BLACK 3 RING BINDER

B. PENCIL POCKET with pencil & highlighter

Choir Folder – Chorister is expected to maintain a neat and orderly folder.

School Provided

A. Choral Octavos

B. Staff Paper

C. Supplemental Materials

D. Macbook

V – Course Grading

The JHS choir curriculum is based upon the Arkansas Department of Education frameworks just as any other academic discipline, while also maintaining outside of class requirements.

Effective choral programs are similar to laboratories with the performance as the final result.

Rehearsals, whether during or outside of school by their very nature cannot be reproduced nor made-up; therefore it is imperative that students be present unless the absence is absolutely unavoidable.

Rehearsals are not optional and are reflected in the student's daily grade.

Performances are viewed as major tests. A performance is a learning activity that CANNOT be duplicated in the classroom, practice room, or on a concert stage. The level of concentration required in a public performance helps each student develop an insight into his or her own level of performance. A performance is an important evaluation tool, allowing comparison of a student's productivity in relation to classroom objectives presented, and with past performances.

Choir is an organization that provides a medium through which students progress academically, musically and socially. Musicianship, attitude, punctuality, and a desire for excellence are absolutely expected from each member of the JHS choir. Individual practice and individual preparation are essential. Few other disciplines require the high level of achievement from *all* participants as does a musical performances. It is through extensive effort that each individual improves, thus contributing more to the overall choir program.

Grading Policy Guidelines

1. Students must be present at all rehearsals and performances. Grades will be based on individual & ensemble performance, daily classroom performance, rehearsals, care of materials, assignments, theory lessons, assessments and all choral performances. (This includes All Region auditions and CPA assessments.)
2. Grading of individual & ensemble performance will be based on an evaluation of musicianship skills displayed by the students during rehearsals/performances. During first semester, evaluation will also include All Region auditions. During the second semester, evaluation will also include Region CPA. Grading of daily classroom performance will be based upon attendance, class participation, effort, and attitude in the rehearsal, as well as, an evaluation of skills displayed in class.
3. Choral rehearsals will be held during the assigned class period. Students will have the opportunity for private instruction during each semester in order to prepare for All Region and All State. Occasionally, it may be necessary for extra/called rehearsals to be scheduled. Every effort will be made to ensure students have ample time to make necessary arrangements for these rehearsals. Unexcused absences from a rehearsal will result in a major point deduction for that grading period.
4. Daily classroom attendance and participation are essential to the success of the student and the choir. When a student is absent from a daily classroom rehearsal, that student will follow the guidelines outlined in the Jonesboro Secondary School Handbook. Make-up of class rehearsals is the responsibility of the student, following the guidelines in the school handbook.
5. Attendance is required for all after-school (or extra/called) choir rehearsals. Unexcused absences from a rehearsal will result in a major point deduction for that grading period. The director will decide if the rehearsal absence is excused or unexcused. All requests for an excused absence from an after-school (or extra/called) rehearsal must be brought to the director's attention in writing **one week (or earlier)** prior to the rehearsal. Each request will be handled on an individual basis. Such decisions will not set a precedent and will in no way be binding on future decisions. *Please refrain from requesting "special permission" or "special treatment", in order to ensure fairness to other choir members. Every choir member is truly "special".*
6. Attendance is required for all performances. An unexcused absence will result in a major point deduction for that grading period. The director will decide if the performance absence is excused or unexcused. All requests for an excused absence for a performance must be brought to the director's attention in writing **two weeks prior (or earlier)** to the performance. The director will use the same procedure outlined in #5 for handling such requests. (This includes All Region auditions and Region CPA.)
7. Habitual unexcused absence from rehearsals (rehearsals during class period or called rehearsals) or any singular performance may result in drastic grade devaluation.
8. An absence is an absence-no matter the reason. If you miss rehearsal/class time for any reason, you are absent.
9. No bonus work will be assigned however upon student request, make-up work can be assigned.
10. Full credit will not be given toward any make-up assignments. Refer to V, #1 and #2 please.
11. No grade is based on talent alone. The chorister must show a positive attitude, regular attendance, punctuality and have an efficient work ethic. Refer to V please.

Maximum Value of Graded Categories

Ensemble Rehearsal Participation - 100

Concert/Performances - 300

Concert Critique and Reflection - 25

Knowledge of Literature Assessments – 50-100

Sight Singing Assessments – 10-50

Theory Lessons and Assessments – 5-25

Skills/Technique Assessments – 50-100

Attendance to other JHS, ASU or NEA Fine Arts Performances - 100

Additional Assignments – 100-200

VI – Course Rules and Procedures

- A. Choristers are to be in their assigned location with folders and materials before the DIRECTOR is ready to begin rehearsal.
- B. Choristers will have folders, music and other assigned items daily.
- C. Choristers will exhibit attentive conduct with a positive attitude.
- D. Absolutely no gum chewing, food, or drinks permitted in the room.
- E. Choristers will participate daily and rehearse at a proficient level.
- F. Choristers should maintain good daily class attendance
- G. Choristers are to be on time and present for all concerts, contests, festivals and performances. All rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Only serious illness, death in the immediate family, or major problems due to extenuating circumstances (requires prior director approval as outlined in Grading Policy #5 & #6) will be excused. Work conflicts, transportation issues, etc will NOT BE TOLERATED and may result in an automatic dismissal from the choir.
- H. Do NOT speak when the director is speaking.
- I. Do NOT speak when another section is in rehearsal.
- J. Keep the choir room clean and spotless. Pick up after yourself.
- K. Place your music folder back into the assigned slot do NOT leave it out on the risers or elsewhere.
- L. Choristers will always have a pencil to mark music.
- M. All JHS school rules apply both in the classroom and on field trips
- N. Treat your folder, uniform, and music with the utmost respect. Any damage or loss of the property will be the student's liability and will be assessed accordingly.
- O. Respect yourself and others at all times!
- P. Excessive/Habitual absences from rehearsals or any performance for any reason may result in dismissal from the JHS Choral program.

Performance Appearance

In your capacity as an ambassador for our school, you are required to present a polished, professional appearance before, during, and after a choral performance.

- Uniform should be clean and pressed
- Personal hygiene is a must – brush your teeth and shower
- Please wear deodorant for the choral event
- Please NO perfume
- Hair needs to be pulled off of the face in either a black headband, ponytail with a black headband, or black barrette. Please NO hair hanging in the face or on the face.
- No jewelry. NO earrings, rings, bracelets, and watches.

Performance Day Diet

Please avoid any milk products, fried foods, or beverages containing caffeine 3 hours prior to a performance. Please have at least one large glass of water and/or an apple before every choral performance. Please try to get plenty of prior to a performance.

Music

The music for each choir is chosen at the discretion of the Director and may include music from diverse religious and non-religious cultures and traditions. As a member of the JHS choral program, you are expected to accept and respect the choir's entire music repertoire from an artistic standpoint.

Music octavos will be assigned to each singer throughout the school year. Each singer is responsible for keeping his/her "borrowed" music safe and in good condition.

Singers are responsible for replacing lost or damaged music at his/her own expense.

VII –Honor Cords

All JHS choristers have the opportunity to earn honor chords that are to be worn during the graduation ceremony. The following criteria will be taken into consideration with regard to the acquisition of the choir honor choir.

1. Exceptional commitment to the program
2. Extraordinary talent
3. Ensemble letter grade of an **A**
4. Minimum GPA of 3.00
5. Stellar school attendance and performance attendance
6. Multiple years of enrollment in a JHS Choral Ensemble
7. NEA Region Choir member
8. Arkansas All State Choir member

Purchasing Honor Cords

- Honor cords will be available for purchase from the choral conductor at an approximate cost of **\$15.00**. *Payment must be made prior to placing order of cords.*
- Honor cords will be given to the chorister at the spring choral awards program.

VIII – Forms

Parents and Students are to complete and return all required paperwork by

Friday, August 19, 2016.

- Handbook & Calendar Acknowledgement Form (Google Form)
- Parent Volunteer Form (Google Form)
- Emergency Contact/Travel Form (Google Form)
- Student Data Form (Google Form)

IX – Tri-M Music Honor Society

Choristers have membership opportunity to the Tri-M Music Honor Society. This society is a program of NAFME (National Association for Music Education) which focuses on creating future leaders in music education and music advocacy.

**OPEN THE ROOF, LET IT RAIN,
GIVE 'EM HAIL, HURRICANE!!!**