Choir Rehearsals/Performance Dates 2018-2019 & Attendance Policy

The following is a breakdown of all the mandatory rehearsal and performance dates for 2018-2019 school year for all choir members (select, concert and after school choir members). Please mark these dates on your calendar. You will be responsible to attend these rehearsals and performances as part of your course grade. I will keep you posted with any date or time changes.

September:

October:
- Tues Oct 23 - Choir rehearsal for all choir members 2-3 pm to prepare for the fall concert - MHS auditorium
- Tues Oct 30 - Fall concert with other MHS & QMS performance groups - 6:30 pm (tentative concert time, choir arrive at 5:30 pm) - MHS auditorium

November: (SE District Auditions Nov 9th 2-3:30 & Sat Nov 17th AM - are not mandatory for choir members). See me if you want to audition.

December:
- Tues Dec 4 - Full choir rehearsal for all choir members 2-3 pm to prepare for upcoming performances - MHS auditorium
- Fri Dec 7 - Performance at the Council on Aging 12-1 pm - At the Mansfield Library, Hope Street. We will walk, so wear comfortable shoes and a warm coat & bring your dress shoes. Concert attire required. Bring a bag lunch.
- Thurs Dec 13 - Catholic Women’s Club Interfaith Holiday Celebration - At the Rose Garden located behind St. Mary’s Church, Pratt Street, Mansfield. 6:30 pm (tentative time). Wear choir attire. We will meet at the Rose Garden Hall - Transportation will not be provided.
- Mon Dec 17 - Caroling At Home Concerts - 7:30 am - 2:45 pm in the MHS auditorium. Wear choir attire and plan to take the 3 pm late bus.
- Wed Dec 19 - MHS Holiday Concert - 7pm concert time (choir arrive at 5:30 pm). Wear choir attire. MHS auditorium.

January: (All State Festival Auditions - Sat Jan 26th AM & festival Feb 28-March 2 - are not mandatory - If you are accepted into the SE District Festival you will be eligible to audition for the All State Festival). Jr/Sr Night auditions Jan 28 2-6 pm are not mandatory.

February:
- Tues Feb 26 - Full choir rehearsal to prepare for upcoming concert 2-3 pm MHS Auditorium
- Wed Feb 27th - Winter Choral Concert & METG One Act Play Performance - Performance time 7pm (tentative), choir arrives at 5:30 pm in choir attire. MHS auditorium
March:

April:
- Fri-Sun April 5-7 - MICCA Choral Festival (at a local high school - time/date TBD) - We will be assigned a performance time and date in January. It will be either Fri, Sat or Sun April 5-7 for several hours.

May:
- Tues May 21 - Full choir rehearsal 2-3 pm to prepare for the Spring Concert - MHS auditorium
- Tues May 28 - Spring concert 7pm (choir arrive at 5:30 pm in choir attire) - MHS auditorium

June: (Tony Night Choir/Drama Awards Ceremony - Sun June 9th @ 5pm is not mandatory - but it is fun - so come!)
- Sun June 2 - Graduation 1pm (required for senior choir members only) arrive at 11:45 am on the Xfinity Stage for a sound check. Wear graduation robe and hat!!

Attendance Policy:
Attendance is mandatory for all members of the choir program. The attendance policy for the class during the school day is in line with the school’s policy on attendance. Please reference the student handbook for that policy. Attendance at all performances and rehearsals outside of the school day is mandatory for each student. Your grade will reflect your attendance at after-school rehearsals and performances. In order to reach the potential for the entire group, attendance is vital. Each student must attend all performances and rehearsals outside of school in order to maintain a good standing with the choir and achieve a better grade. Students will be excused from these performances or rehearsals for extenuating circumstances only. Mrs. Newton will approve these extenuating circumstances on a cases-by-case basis.

The following list is a list of common excuses for missing a rehearsal or performance. These are not acceptable reasons to miss:
1. Work – please give your boss a copy of your choir calendar.
2. Vacation – please plan accordingly
3. Wedding of a friend
4. Birthday party/Dinner
5. Baby-sitting
6. Concert tickets
7. Doctors appointments that can be made in advance
8. Last minute trips
9. Social gatherings
This is a short list, but gives you some idea of some of the reasons that are no longer acceptable for missing a performance or rehearsal. **IF THE ABSENCE WOULD NOT BE EXCUSED FROM SCHOOL THEN IT WILL NOT BE EXCUSED FROM CHOIR.**

It is imperative that we establish attendance guidelines that amplify this learning process for both the student and the ensemble. Attendance is related to both self-discipline and learning. If a student is not in rehearsal, his or her absence negatively affects the ability of others to perform and maximize learning.

Students are expected to attend each choir function and should plan to remain the entire length of the activity. For the vast majority of our students, this is not a problem. If a student misses a choir function it should be due to illness or family emergency. In addition, students and parents constantly juggle work schedules, vacation schedules, and other responsibilities in order to maintain choir membership. For these actions, we are grateful. However, it is not fair for the majority of our students to sacrifice their time in order to attend choir functions while a small group ignore the schedule and attendance rules. **WITH PROPER PLANNING, REHEARSAL CONFLICTS CAN BE AVOIDED.**

**TO REPORT AN ABSENCE:**

The following procedures will be followed when a student anticipates a conflict:

1. A written note from the parent/guardian seeking to have their child excused must be presented to Mrs. Newton no less than one week prior to the event.
2. The note should state why the student is seeking to be excused.
3. The note should include a phone number and email address to contact the parent.
4. The director will respond to the student and parent/guardian if the child will not be excused.

The following procedures will be followed when there is an unforeseen absence/emergency:

1. The student will email Mrs. Newton directly at sheila.newton@mansfieldschools.com with an explanation regarding the unforeseen conflict.
2. In addition, the student will bring in a note from the parent or guardian explaining the absence on the next school day.

*This is only the procedure for a last minute conflict such as sudden illness, etc.*

**ALL OTHER ABSENCES WILL BE UNEXCUSED UNLESS APPROVED BY MRS. NEWTON AND WILL IMPACT YOUR GRADE.**
By signing below I acknowledge that I have read and understand the policies put forth in the attendance policy and the expectations listed in the course syllabus.

________________________________________________
Student Name (Please Print)

________________________________________________    __________
Student Signature                                  Date

________________________________________________
Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

________________________________________________    __________
Parent/Guardian Signature                          Date

Parent/Guardian Questionnaire:
(Please provide the following information even if you have provided it before. This ensures that the records are up to date. Your personal information will not be shared with anyone unless you authorize me to do so.)

Name(s):

Cell Phone(s):

Home Phone(s):

Email Address(es):

Do you prefer to be contacted by email? Yes          No