

Kings Junior High School Choral Department Policies, Procedures and Guidelines for the

Kings Junior High School Chorus



A Note from the directors:

We would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome your sons and daughters to the Choral Department of Kings Junior High School for this school year. We are thrilled that you have chosen to sing with us this year. If this is your first experience with the choir, we encourage you to be involved in every aspect offered to you. If you are a continuing student, we welcome you back to an exciting year of great music, great friends, and musical growth.

The Kings Junior High School Chorus is open to students with the motivation to enhance their singing ability. It is a fun, exciting way to be part of a large active group during your middle school years. **Students should have a willingness to participate in both daily class singing as well as performance of all choral concerts.** Our mission is to share different types of quality literature through community performances, concerts, festivals, athletic events, and school events. Students will have opportunities to audition for vocal solos at times throughout the year in the choral and drama departments. It is our belief that each student is an essential and very beneficial part of the choral ensemble. We work together as a team, developing our own personal singing and musical skills as well as encouraging all choral members to do their best for the success of the ensemble. Our hope is that we will continue to raise the standard of excellence and achievement that we have been so fortunate to experience in the past. We look forward to a successful year of singing. Thank you for supporting music!

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COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

In order to keep our students as safe as possible, the Kings Choirs are following safety guidelines that have been established by numerous professional music organizations as well as the CDC and Local Health Departments following scientific research on preventing the spread of COVID-19. Here are some of the procedures we will be following:

- Students will be singing outside as much as possible when the weather is permitting. We will be outside if the temperature is between 50-90 degrees with no precipitation. Please plan accordingly (bring water, sunscreen, a small towel, etc)
- Students and teachers will be required to wear a mask that completely covers their mouth and nose. You may want to have a separate mask for singing versus your other classes.
- Students will be assigned a standing/seating location that provides a 6 foot spacing between each student. For safety reasons students **MUST** be in their assigned seat at all times
- If weather conditions do not allow us to be outside, we will have class in the auditorium which will also allow us to have the proper spacing between students.
- In-person concert performances will occur when local health regulations will allow, if an in-person concert experience is not possible we will share a virtual experience with families.

If you are interested in learning more about the scientific studies that are being conducted on safe music making please visit: www.NFHS.org

CLASS SUPPLIES

“What do I need to be an active member of the chorus daily?”

- **A Pencil:** Each student is responsible for having a pencil easily accessible for each and every rehearsal in the choir room.
- **2 pocket folder:** You will be responsible for providing a folder to hold your sheet music and other supplies
- **Choir music:** This is purchased by the school and kept in your folder which will travel with you each day. Students may only write on the choir music **in pencil**.
- **Positive Attitude:** It is up to every student to choose his/her attitude every day, please make yours Positive!

RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

KJH Choir Code of Conduct: The Rules of the Class

1. Show respect to other students, the classroom objects, and the adults in the room.
2. Give your best effort to participate, and behave in a productive, positive manner during rehearsal.
3. Allow others as well as yourself the chance to learn and experience music by following procedures and keeping distractions to a minimum.

Daily Procedures: How to be a productive member of choir.

1. Enter the room in a calm manner. Refrain from running, touching other people, or yelling.
2. Be in the room on time. Be in your assigned seat ready for the start of warm-ups.
3. Use the aisles on the risers to avoid climbing on chairs.
4. If you have books, please place them under your chair on the risers.
5. Use only a pencil to write during class. Avoid writing on folders.
6. Rehearse with correct singing posture, participate fully with you section, without causing distractions to yourself or others.
7. Only one person is allowed away from the risers at a time (restroom, tissue, trash can).
8. Wait for the teacher to dismiss the class by row when the bell rings.

Choosing not to follow rules and procedures result in consequences such as:

In no particular order:

- Teacher Reminder
- Behavior Intervention Points
- Loss of participation points
- Removal from Classroom
- After School Detention
- Change Seats
- Student/Teacher Conference
- Office Referral
- Other Appropriate Action

Student Rights and Responsibilities

<p style="text-align: center;">You Have the Right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A safe learning environment ● Make responsible choices ● Your own thoughts and ideas ● Be treated fairly ● Be yourself 	<p style="text-align: center;">You are Responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintaining a safe learning environment ● The consequences of your choices ● Respecting other’s thoughts and ideas ● Your own actions ● Promoting the learning and safety of yourself and others
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INDIVIDUAL VOICE PROGRESS /RANGE

Middle school voices change and develop rapidly over the course of the year. There will be times throughout the year that middle school chorus students will meet with the directors during school to chart the range of his/her voice. This is primarily to keep record of which voices are changing and to help pick appropriate music for the range of the students. Students will be more comfortable singing in the part of the choir that fits his/her voice range.

The choirs sing in parts, thus it is imperative for each student to find a comfortable part placement in the choir. Voice progress sheets will be kept on each student. Both girls and boys voices can and will change during the middle school years and even into the years of high school. The voice progress will not be tested with a grade, but will be required to help the student and teacher find the most comfortable singing placement in the choir.

If a student does not feel comfortable with singing in a small group or in front of the piano with other students in the class he/she may opt to meet with the director after school for voice progress. Each student must sing for the director individually a few times each year. The intent is not to embarrass anyone. The intent is to hear the child's voice. I hope to encourage, hear, and positively correct any vocal health problems that may exist.

Concert Attire

For the 2020-2021 school year we will only be using the following information if we are able to hold in-person concerts, therefore we will not be requiring families to purchase a polo shirt at the beginning of the year. If we are able to have an in-person concert we will let families use a polo from our stock if they do not have one.

As with many performing groups, presentation is an important aspect of the overall performance.

For 7th and 8th grade chorus students (PARENTS PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)

All students are expected to dress in the official Kings Junior High School performance dress. That dress includes: **Official KJH Music polo shirt, full-length khaki-colored DRESS pants (please no cargo pockets), black dress shoes, and black dress socks.** Students should remember that the school dress code is still in effect. Students should be dressed modestly. **Jeans, shorts, leggings, and yoga pants are NOT appropriate dress.** Tight and/or short fitting clothing is not acceptable. If a chorus student comes to the concert not dressed appropriately, he/she will be asked not to participate in the concert and may lose participation points for the quarter.

If you are a 7th grade student or a new choir student you will need to purchase a polo shirt for concerts this year. The cost of a polo shirt is \$14.00. If you need to order a new shirt, please complete the order form included in this packet and return to the choir director along with payment (Checks to: Kings Junior High) by the second Friday of the school year.

GRADING**KJH CHOIR DEPARTMENT GRADING SCALE****Grades 7 & 8**

- ✓ Daily Participation 50%
- ✓ Learned Musical Knowledge 25%
- ✓ Concert Performances 25%

**Repeated unexcused concert absences could result in failure of class and removal from ensemble.*

	A	B	C	D	F
Procedures	Follows directions the first time every time.	Follows directions the first time most times.	Sometimes has to be reminded to follow directions.	Often has to be reminded to follow directions	At times refuses to follow directions.
Participation	Shows effort, sings out in class and participates in performances all the time.	Shows effort, sings out and participates in performances almost all the times.	Simply participates, minimal effort and needs to sing louder.	Often needs to be reminded to participate. Sings too softly and off pitch.	Refused to participate or try to sing louder and often off pitch.
Cooperation	Shows positive attitude and cooperates all the time through posture, focus, tone of voice and facial expression.	Shows positive attitude and cooperates almost all the time through posture, focus, tone of voice and facial expression.	Shows positive attitude and cooperates some of the time through posture, focus, tone of voice and facial expression.	Often has a negative attitude and is uncooperative through posture, focus, tone of voice and facial expression.	Almost always has a negative attitude and is uncooperative through posture, focus, tone of voice and facial expression.
Self-Control and Rules	Demonstrates self control, raises hand, shows respect, does not argue, and follows class rules.	Demonstrates self control, raises hand, shows respect, does not argue and follows class rules almost all the time.	Demonstrates self control, raises hand, shows respect, does not argue and follows class rules most of the time.	Often has to be reminded to use self control, raise hand, show respect and not argue and follow class rules.	Rarely uses self control, speaks out without being called on, argues, does not show respect and does not follow class rules.
Learned Musical Ability	Sings out in class and demonstrates knowledge of vocal part all the time.	Sings out in class and demonstrates knowledge of vocal part almost all the time.	Has to be reminded occasionally to sing out and be on task by looking at the music.	Has to be reminded most of the time to sing out and be on task.	Can not be heard singing and sings off pitch and does not follow along in the music most of the time.

CONCERTS

For the 2020-2021 school year In-person concert performances will occur when local health regulations will allow, if an in-person concert experience is not possible we will share a virtual experience with families.

Since choir is mainly a performance class, the best way to evaluate students' progress is through group performances. **All students are required to participate in these scheduled events.** Choir is an academic subject and part of the grading requirement comes in the form of performances that occur outside of the school day. It is the student's responsibility to avoid scheduling conflicts with the choir calendar.

To receive full credit for concerts, each student must:

1. Attend all scheduled performances!
2. Arrive on time.
3. Behave properly at all times
4. Wear the uniform as instructed.
5. Follow the code of conduct.
6. Use proper concert etiquette when watching others perform.

Some examples of unexcused concert absences:

1. Homework
2. Lack of transportation
3. Baby-sitting
4. Birthday celebrations
5. Oversleeping
6. Shopping
7. Sporting Practices or Games (talk to director at least 1 month in advance to resolve the situation.)

An **unexcused** absence from concerts or rehearsals will be grounds for concert attendance points to not be assigned, which will lower the grade final grade quarter up to two letter grades and/or 25%. Repeated unexcused absences may result in removal from the choral program.

The following reasons qualify as an EXCUSED ABSENCE from concerts:

1. Illness with doctor's note
 2. Family emergencies with Parent Contact
- Excused Absences require a **make-up project or singing test** determined by the director to make up the 25% of the student's grade that was missed by not being able to attend the concert. This is the fairest way for each student to earn all of the points necessary for the quarter to receive the highest grade possible. The student's grade will not suffer if he/she follows the guidelines for the project.
 - Since the prior examples cannot be known in advance, a student should bring in a note the next day to choir or the parent should e-mail/call the director to notify them of the absence.

ONLINE LEARNING

All students will join the choir Google Classroom at the start of the school year. This will be our online learning hub and will contain all the information for digital assignments. Students are responsible for checking the Google Classroom page for assignments and completing them by their assigned due date/time.

Some of the digital assignments will require the use of specific software or webpages. Mr. Hayward will provide tutorials and explanations on how to use these tools as needed.

Some of the digital assignments will also require students to submit audio and/or video recordings of themselves singing as a way to check for learning and understanding. All students must participate in these assignments. Student audio/video files will remain private between the individual student and the instructor unless permission to share is granted.