**PARKSIDE HIGH SCHOOL CHOIRS 2018-2019 HANDBOOK**

Welcome to the Parkside High School Choir Department. To those returning students and families, I am thrilled to work and sing with you again! To the new members of our program, we are excited to have you join us this year in Choir. Parkside Choirs is a group of dedicated, excellence-seeking, young singer musicians who strive to make exceptional music together, learn with and from one another, and build lasting friendships. We live and work by the five values in the Choir Motto: Passion, Respect, Dedication, Pride and Family. Choir is a place for all students to build not only musicianship skills, but also life and leadership skills. As a member of Parkside Choirs, you join a tradition of excellence, built by the many students who have come before you. Their legacy is now yours, one you have the opportunity to not only uphold, but to enrich and strengthen!

In order to continually improve the quality of our music program, please familiarize yourself with this handbook by carefully reading the policies and expectations of the Choirs. This will help prepare students for the responsibilities they have accepted as a member of this program. When a question arises, consult your handbook; if you need further assistance, consult the director.

Choir students are held to high expectations – we expect only the best from one another. With that in mind, let’s get ready for an, exciting, fun-filled, educational, and best of all, musical year!!

Mrs. Toni Daniel

Director of Choral Activities

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**The Parkside Choir Motto**

Passion

For the art of making music

For doing what it takes to succeed

Drives each and every one of us to inspire

not only our audiences, but also ourselves

Respect

For your fellow choir family members and the director

For yourself

For the music

Dedication

To a goal of becoming a quality group of people and singers

To doing whatever it takes to reach that goal

To becoming a contributing member

To each other

Pride

Never give less than the best you have to give

Never expect less than you deserve

Put your own personal stamp on everything that you do

Have confidence in the part you play in the group

Family

To accomplish our goals, we have to work together

We are much more than a “team” – we are a family

Families help each other when they need it, support each other’s dreams and goals.

**Our Choir Family is made up of caring, intelligent, talented, motivated people who are constantly striving to make sure that their Family is reaching their goals.**

**THE PARKSIDE HS CHOIRS**

Intermediate Choir: A non-auditioned choir comprised of women and men with or without past singing experience designed to fit the needs and desires of students who are interested in vocal music and demonstrate an attitude toward singing with choral excellence. Daily rehearsals will include the study of singing technique, sight-singing, music theory, and performance habits. Students will be expected to participate in 1 concert within the semester. Additional training and performing opportunities will be available to students through activities sponsored by the Eastern Shore Choral Directors Association.

Concert Choir: An auditioned choir comprised of freshman through senior women and men with past singing experience, a demonstrated ability to sight sing, and an attitude toward singing with choral excellence. In addition to studying and performing a broad range of vocal music styles, this ensemble will explore more in-depth techniques for beautiful singing, sight-singing, music theory, and performance practices. Students will be expected to participate in at least 4 concerts/events throughout the year, as well as Eastern Shore District and State Festivals and community events. This ensemble maintains a very active co-curricular rehearsal and performance schedule. Additional training and performing opportunities will be available to students through activities sponsored by the Eastern Shore Choral Directors Association.

**Prerequisite: Audition and Director Approval**

**POLICIES**

**ATTENDANCE** – Every student is required to be at every scheduled rehearsal and performance. To be successful individually, and as a group, consistent attendance, punctuality, and participation are necessary. Choir students are required to be at every rehearsal (regular or extra scheduled) and performance; attendance record is a portion of a student’s grade. Choir is a team effort, and we rely on those around us. When a student is absent, unlike many other classes, the entire chorus of students must adjust and make changes. Individual attendance affects not only the individual, but also the entire group.

Any absence from performance events must be handled through parental contact to Mrs. Daniel directly. Choir schedules are given early in the year and updates made as soon as possible. Students and families are asked to plan around concerts and after school rehearsals. Students with schedule conflicts in sports and other school organizations need to make the director/coach of both events aware of the conflict as soon as possible so that an agreeable plan can be reached in advance. If you have an emergency on a concert night, please leave a message via email at adaniel@wcboe.org.

**GRADING** – Grades will be determined in the following areas:

Formative Assessments (classwork, warmups, musicianship participation) 50%

Summative Assessments (quizzes/tests, vocal evaluations, rehearsals/performances) 50%

**Formative Assessments**

Classwork

In choir, we not only need to learn to how to sing and appreciate choral music, but also how to read, interpret, and analyze the music we perform. The theory concepts we cover are crucial to the musical growth of the individual and ensemble. Written work or exercises will be assigned throughout each marking period and must be turned in on the designated due date at the beginning of class.

Warmups

In choir, there are various activities that reinforce music theory or singing concepts. Each class will begin with a review of previously learned material to reinforce the comprehension music concepts.

Musicianship Participation

Students will receive a daily participation grade of 10 points (50 points/week) based on preparedness, effort, and attitude. Students earn daily points by meeting the daily rehearsal expectations. Daily rehearsal expectations include:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 9-10 points | 90-100% | Student demonstrates overall excellent musicianship and mastery of the skills used in today’s lesson. |
| 7-8 points | 70-80% | Student demonstrated overall acceptable musicianship and understanding of the skills used in today’s lesson. |
| 0-6 points | 0-60% | Student demonstrated overall fair musicianship and understanding of the skills used in today’s lesson. |

\*Preparedness: Arrives on time, has choir folder, music and pencil, demonstrates knowledge of music. Students are expected to work on music outside of class time.

\*Effort: Demonstrates proper posture without being reminded, focuses on proper breathing technique and vocal production, makes eye contact with director, stays on task, complies with rehearsal procedure, and engages in classroom activities.

\*Attitude: Exudes a positive personal attitude, exhibits self-motivation, refrains from disruptive behavior, assist teammates, and strives to have fun!

**Summative Assessments**

Quizzes/Tests

At various times, students will be asked to demonstrate their knowledge through performance and written assessments that include but are not limited to:

\*Sight reading test

\*Written theory quiz

**Vocal Evaluations**

Vocal evaluations are given at least three times per marking term. Students will be graded in the five vocal areas listed below. Those areas are:

* Diction – clarity of consonants, purity of vowels, easily able to understand
* Accuracy – memorization of pitches, lyrics and rhythms
* Breathing/Phrasing – taking breaths at the assigned locations in the music
* Posture – standing tall with hands at sides, eyes on teacher
* Expression – attention to dynamics, tempo and changes in the music

For each evaluation, students will receive a rubric with the grade he/she earned for the rehearsed piece of music. To qualify for performance eligibility, a student must receive an 85% or higher on each evaluated piece of music. If a student does not earn the required grade, it is the student’s responsibility to schedule one (1) “do-over,” with the teacher, as a second attempt to receive the cut-off score.

**Rehearsals and Performances**

Performances are the culmination of our rehearsals, and therefore an important demonstration and assessment of what we learn in class. Attendance at all performances and events on the schedule identified as required are mandatory, and unexcused absences result in a complete loss of points for the given performance. Unexcused absences can be made up with music community service or an assignment. It is the student’s responsibility to request the assignment from the teacher, and it must be completed by the assigned date.

There are two kinds of absences:

* Excused absences
* Unexcused absences

Excused absences are family emergencies, personal illness, member of a sports team, funeral/death in the family, court summons and those given at the discretion of the director when notified in ADVANCE by the parent/guardian. A phone call or letter received prior to the start of the event is required.

Dress rehearsals are **MANDATORY**. Dress rehearsals before concerts and other events are practices for prepared pieces by the Choral Music Department. Not only are music pieces reviewed and polished, but the logistics of sound, lighting, an student placement are also covered during that time. It is pertinent that all students are present for the performance to run smoothly.

To ensure maximum grading fairness, grading will be based on a point system. Rehearsals are valued at 1 point per minute of rehearsal time. EXAMPLE: A one-hour rehearsal is valued at 60 points. Mandatory rehearsals and performances/events include:

1. Winter Concert (Intermediate and Concert Choirs)
2. Choral Festival (Concert Choir with invited Intermediate Choir members)
3. Spring Concert (Intermediate and Concert Choirs)
4. Commencement (Concert Choir)
5. Other events throughout the school year (Concert Choir)

All school rules apply to rehearsals – i.e. cell phone policy, lateness, food, drink, etc. Any student that cannot follow directions during a rehearsal will not perform in the upcoming performance or event. They will be dismissed from the rehearsal and will be ineligible to perform.

**NOTE:** **If a student receives a disciplinary referral from the Choral Department (because of poor behavior) during a semester, he/she is ineligible for the upcoming performance.**

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

1. Choir students will be positive, helpful, musical, hardworking, and respectful.

2. Choir students will have a pencil, folder, and music always. All other belongings (i.e. backpacks, purses, hats, cell phones) are not to be in the rehearsal space.

3. Choir students will be in their seats with their materials on time – they will also arrive to performances and be checked in on time per the “call time.”

4. Choir students will not chew gum or have food and drink in the classroom – with the exception of water.

5. Choir students will affirm one another.

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Parkside High School Student Code of Conduct will apply to all students. Additionally, the following should be noted:

1. Bullying, harassment, speaking negatively to or about another student will not be tolerated.

* Every student is expected to treat each other with respect during and outside of the school day.
* Every student is expected to encourage each other’s learning. Gossip, rumors, exclusion, or negative facial expressions towards another student in the classroom is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

2. No tolerance for drugs and alcohol.

* Use of drugs or alcohol during or outside the school day is unacceptable, and if discovered by the director, will be reported immediately. PHS Code of Conduct will apply.

These expectations are put in place for the success of our ensembles. The consequences for disregarding any of the preceding expectations and/or code of conduct can include: deductions from the Participation Grade, conference with director, parental calls, loss of leadership position, removal from an ensemble, or disciplinary referrals.

**Good Musicians Always……….**

* Give their best effort to make their group sound its best
* Follow the directions of their teacher
* Demonstrate musical skills when perofrming
* Listen (to each other and the music) and adapt when performing
* Repsect and encourage each other so that EVERYONE is successful

**MUSIC AND FOLDERS** – Parkside High School Choral Department will provide a folder and music for each student. That music and folder are solely the responsibility of the student. Music and folder should be kept in the same condition as when received. Should the music or folder become damaged or lost, students will be required to pay for their replacement (just as a damaged or lost textbook):

* Each piece of music = $2.00
* Choir Folder = $15.00

**UNIFORMS** –. Uniforms make us look professional and provide a sense of unity as an ensemble. Singers must have all uniform parts clean and presentable always. If you appear with wrinkled, soiled, or an incomplete uniform, you may not be able to perform and your grade will be affected.

Any member who cannot afford to purchase any of the listed attire below should contact Mrs. Daniel for assistance. Students and/or parents must contact Mrs. Daniel by the specified date to try to receive assistance in a timely manner. Your needs will remain confidential.

The uniform articles for the Winter Concert:

* **Intermediate Choir**

WOMEN – white dress shirt, black skirt with appropriate length, black dress shoes

MEN – white dress shirt, black dress pants, black dress socks, black dress shoes, black belt

* **Concert Choir**

WOMEN – uniform (provided), black dress shoes

MEN – uniform (provided), black dress shoes, black dress socks, black belt

The uniform articles for the Spring Concert:

* WOMEN – blue jeans (no holes, rips or tears), comfortable shoes (no open-toes)
* MEN – blue jeans (no holes, rips or tears, NO SAGGING), comfortable shoes (no open-toes)

All Choir Members

Hair: Hair must be UP and out of your face. Use only brown or black hair bands or barrettes. No headbands will be allowed.

Jewelry: No flashy jewelry. Only stud earrings and no necklaces please, unless provide by Lakeshore Choirs.

A $10.00 dry cleaning fee is requested upon distribution of the uniforms. The fee for a damaged or lost uniform is $100.

TRAVEL AND FIELD TRIPS – Due to the nature of this class, the students can travel quite often. The guidelines listed below must be followed always during travel:

* A permission slip is regarded to leave the school building for EACH event.
* All school rules will be enforced including the cell phone policy. Any student who is insubordinate during any part of the travel event will receive a consequence according to the PHS Cold of Conduct.
* No eating or drinking (other than bottled water) will occur on the bus or in the performance area, unless arrangements have been made prior to the trip.
* The teacher reserves the right to dismiss any student from traveling with the group. We represent not only PHS, but the department, the county and the community. The teacher will not have these entities represented in a negative manner.

**CHOIR PARENT ORGANIZATION** – The Parkside Choir program needs YOUR help! The success of Parkside Choirs is highly augmented by the support of the Parkside Choir members’ parents and guardians. Parent involvement is an essential part of the success of the Parkside Choirs, and every helping hand allows your student to have a better choir experience. Plus, it’s FUN for YOU! The Choir Parent Organization helps with fundraisers, trips and tours, special performances, and other events. Having a student enrolled in the Parkside Choirs automatically makes you a part of the Parkside Choir Parent Organization. Please join us this year for our meetings to find out more!

**CHOIR PARENT ORGANIZATION MEETINGS** - Meetings will take place in the High School Choir Room at 7 pm. Please see the calendar below for dates. You are welcome to attend at any time throughout the year!

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Location** | **Time** |
| September 18, 2018 |  |  |
| October 16, 2018 |  |  |
| November 20, 2018 |  |  |
| December 18, 2018 |  |  |
| January 15, 2018 |  |  |
| February 19, 2019 |  |  |
| March 19, 2019 |  |  |
| April 16, 2019 |  |  |
| May 21, 2018 |  |  |

\*\*There may be extra meetings as the year progresses to address certain events such as the Choral Banquet/Awards and Choral Competition in May.

**CHOIR FEE** – A choir fee is a MANDATORY requirement of each member. This fee aids in the purchase of new music, materials of instruction and activities throughout the year. Choir fees should be turned into Mrs. Daniel in an envelope with the student’s name and class period clearly printed on it. If a student has not paid the choir fee by the assigned date, he or she may forfeit participation in the upcoming concert. This will result in a “0” for the performance.

 REMINDER: NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED

* Intermediate Choir: $20
* Concert Choir: $40

Semester One: Friday, September 14, 2018 Semester Two: Friday, February 22, 2019

**A word about paying for things…**

**Students and their families who may have difficulty paying for items such as choir fees or field trips will never be excluded from participating. Your needs will always remain confidential. Please contact Mrs. Daniel if you have a need.**

**EXTRA CREDIT** – Extra credit opportunities for choir include:

* Donating Kleenex or hand-sanitizer.
* Concert Review (of a concert you attend). Turn in the program with comments.
* Attending Choir Parent Organization meetings (with your parent).

**LEADERSHIP** – Students and parents will have an opportunity to become involved in the leadership of their choir.

Section Leaders: After personal interviews by the teacher, each section will be appointed a section leader to oversee basic attendance, some sectionals, section motivation, and musical and supportive leadership. Section leaders should embody the Parkside Choir values and demonstrate advanced musical knowledge.

Choir Managers: The choir managers, along with the section leaders, form a council/board for the program that meets regularly with the director to discuss artistic improvement, social activities, concert PR, and recruitment. The Choir Manager is also responsible for assisting with music distribution and collection for their ensemble. Students may apply to be a choir manager at the beginning of the school year.

CHORAL BANQUET – This event proves the opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of the PHS Choirs over the course of the year. Any student currently enrolled in Intermediate or Concert Choir for the second semester is invited to attend. Students must have a successful GPA of 3.0 or higher in choir. During the dinner, each student will receive an award for his/her contribution to the PHS Choral Program.

**Awards may include:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Years of Participation** | **Name of Choir Group** | **Award Presented** |
| 1 | Intermediate Choir | Certificate, ribbon |
|  | Concert Choir  | Certificate, pin, ribbon |
| 2 | Intermediate Choir | Certificate, medal |
|  | Concert Choir  | Certificate, pin |
| 3 | Intermediate Choir | Certificate, pin |
|  | Concert Choir  | Certificate, pin, trophy |
| 4 | Intermediate Choir | Certificate, trophy |
|  | Concert Choir  | Certificate, pin, plaque |

Outstanding Member Award: Awarded to the four most outstanding individuals in each ensemble based on musicianship, leadership qualities, attitude, dedication to vocal music, and service to ensemble. (IC)

Student Director’s Award: Awarded to two-three individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership qualities and service to the program. Also based on musicianship and attitude. (CC)

Section Leader Award: Awarded to the individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership qualities and service to the vocal section. Also based on musicianship and attitude. (CC)

Choreography Award: Awarded to the individual(s) who demonstrate exception creativity in development of choral movement. (CC)

**Tri-M Music Honor Society**

The Tri-M Music Honor Society is an NAfME program that recognizes outstanding music students in secondary level school. Tri-M activities increase students’ school and community involvement with music. Tri-M members are selected based on their academic and musical achievement as well as on their strength of character. Chapters invite qualified students from any organized music ensemble or class in their school to join this international music honor society. Chapter members regularly get involved with community-service activities and music-enrichment events, nurturing a more cohesive, broad, and unified music program. Rewards for the activity include scholarships and awards that are available through the Tri-M awards program.

**\*\*More information will be distributed during the first month of school to interested students.**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

Question #1: “How do I participate when most class activities cannot be written down?”

Answer: Follow procedures and directions of the teacher; actively participate in class activities; sing to the best of your ability, with projection, and give your BEST effort every class.

Question #2: “Why am I required to go to rehearsals and concerts?

Answer: The responsibilities of this class are unlike any other class you will have this year. Co-Curricular activities are different than extra-curricular activities. Co-curricular means that our activities outside of the classroom (such as rehearsals and concerts) are considered part of the curriculum. Therefore, these activities are mandatory and count as part of your grade.

Question #3: “I play a sport. Can I still be involved in extra-curricular activities and choir?”

Answer: Absolutely!!! Students are required to attend communicate with the teacher about conflicts with rehearsals and practices/games. A set time will be established as to how the time will be divided between choir rehearsals and sports practices.

Question #4: “How do I memorize music for a performance if I can’t take music home (Int.)?

Answer: During class, students have plenty of time to study musical selections during class time. The teacher will organize/arrange time throughout the semester for students to learn ALL music during class while preparing for an upcoming concert or event.

\*\*Concert Choir students will take musical selections home in order to study and complete homework assignments.

**CHORAL ACTIVITIES, EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Maryland All-State Chorus (November/March) – This event is open to select students. Auditions are held in November. If accepted into the group, the performance is in March. Transportation, lodging and other fees due apply.

Winter Concert (December) – This event is features the Intermediate and Concert Choirs. The music selections performed display the hard work of the students from the beginning of the school year through December. This event is mandatory for all members of the choral ensembles.

Holiday Assembly (December)– This event is for Concert Choir members only. This takes place the morning after the Winter Concert and is performed for the student body.

Talent Show (October) – This event is a PHS Choral Department fundraiser. This event will take place during Homecoming week. Students must have a “show-ready” performance at the time of auditions including memorized routines, lyrics, and quality live or pre-recorded accompaniment.

District Festival (March) – This event is for Concert Choir member and selected Intermediate Choir members. Students who know their vocal part (memorized) by a determined deadline will attend. This event is mandatory for all Concert Choir members and a graded performance. Students will display their musical skills in vocal performance and sight-reading for a distinguished panel of adjudicators.

All-Shore Chorus – This event is open to select students. Auditions are held in February. If accepted into the group, the performance is in April. Transportation and participation fees apply.

Spring Concert (May) - This event is features the Intermediate and Concert Choirs. The music selections performed display the hard work of the students from the beginning of the second semester through May. This event is mandatory for all members of the choral ensembles.

Choral Banquet (May) – This event is held to acknowledge the hard work of the choral students. Families and students are invited to a dinner followed by an awards ceremony.

Concert Choir Auditions (May) – Auditions for Concert Choir take place annually. Each member of Concert Choir does not need to re-audition each year to continue in the ensemble unless notified by the choral director.

Baccalaureate (May) – This event is open to graduating students of the Senior class. Musical performance by audition only.

Lip Sync Battle (March) – This event is a PHS Choral Department fundraiser. This event allows students to display their “lip-syncing” skills. Students must provide costumes and props to enhance their performance. Students will compete in front of an audience and a panel of judges. There will be prizes for the top three performances.

Commencement (May/June) – This event is mandatory for Concert Choir members. Students are required to attend the entire rehearsal as well as the Commencement event. Transportation is not provided for this event.

Field Trips (throughout the school year) – Students will have the opportunity to experience live musical entertainment at various venues throughout the area.