

Red Devil Chorus Expectations for the 2014-2015 School Year

Welcome to Red Devil Chorus!! This year in our choir will prove to be one of the highlights of your life, if you are willing and anxiously engaged in making it so. I am excited to be your director! My goal is to make every day in Red Devil Chorus worthwhile by being organized and engaging. I will be expecting great focus and determination to succeed from each one of you.

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

The object of our choir: To become lifelong lovers of singing in choirs.

The immediate goal: To become the best we can be as individual singers, and as an ensemble.

We will:

1. Master our music.
2. Perform expressively with the goal of giving service to our listeners.
3. Sing beautifully every day.
4. Rehearse with purpose.
5. Continue to learn to become a better musician in every possible way.

More specifically, we will:

1. Conduct ourselves with maturity beyond our years.
2. Know our music: memorize it; remember the shades and nuances we have rehearsed.
3. Work hard to improve our individual vocal problems.
4. Begin the process of learning to read music by sight.
5. Work to become uninhibited in our ability to show expression.

Here are some practical rules:

1. You may play the pianos with permission only.
2. No gum, food or drink (except a water bottle).
3. No use of cell phones during class unless directed to do so by the teacher.
4. Bring a pencil and paper every day, and make sure you have all of your music.

CHORAL CLASSROOM RULES

From the very first day of school, the choir is moving toward the first performance. The performance itself is not the goal but a demonstration of all the musical elements you have previously learned.

1. You should come to class in a spirit of cooperation, wanting to accomplish something positive that day. Coming to a rehearsal to "visit" won't do anyone any good.
2. Be ready to rehearse. Take the gum out of your mouth; have a pencil handy so you can make notes in your score; have your music open; pay attention to your posture.
3. To Learn, YOU MUST LISTEN! Listen to directions, listen to and analyze your tone; listen to your section; listen to your part and its relationship to other parts.

4. Ask questions. When you hear people in your section struggling with a part, don't wait for the director to catch a mistake. Raise your hand and ask how the part should sound without calling attention to those singing incorrectly.
5. When the director is working with another voice part, pay attention to those instructions. Try to follow your part to see how it fits. Remember...the choir is only as good as each of its members.
6. WRITE IT DOWN! Do not assume you will remember.
7. The best disciplinarian in the choir is NOT the director, but each choir member who wants the choir to sound the best it can and will not tolerate those who don't appropriately contribute.

GRADING

Attendance

You will receive 10 points per day for class attendance and participation. If you are tardy, you will automatically lose 5 points. This applies to sleeping past your alarm, not being able to find your keys, etc. Please be on time, even though our class is held first period. Also, please schedule dentist and doctor appointments after school. We need you in rehearsal every day. You are vital to our success.

If you have an excused absence, you will still lose the 10 points. Two of your excused absences will be pardoned at the end of the term. There are no other make-ups for low attendance in this class. If you have an illness that takes you out of class for an extended period, I will need a note from your physician.

Performances

You will receive up to 50 points for your participation at performances. You will be expected to be on time, wearing the appropriate concert attire, including the correct shoes. You will be expected to have stellar behavior during the entire performance, especially when viewing other performers. By stellar, I mean no talking or whispering at all.

Please do not plan any vacations or other outside of school activities, other performances or games over our performances and extra rehearsals. Be sure to get work off well in advance of the performance. If you have a conflict with another school organization, you will need to fill out a written form at least 3 weeks before the performance so that the teachers and coaches can negotiate together. If you know you will not be performing for any reason besides sudden illness or school sponsored activity, you will need to let me know 3 weeks in advance.

Early Morning Rehearsals

There will be some early morning rehearsals scheduled during the year. We will let you know well in advance if you need to be there. Please be there and be on time!

Assignments, Quizzes, Tests, Online Listening

All of these will be assigned randomly throughout the term. Some will be graded, some not. The listening assignments are deemed most important, and you will be graded on those. Please pay attention to the assignment due dates. I will not accept late work.

Region Choir Festival

Students in Red Devil Chorus are expected to participate in Region Choir Festival. This will be counted as a regular performance and will be a big part of your grade.

RED DEVIL CHORUS YEARLY EXPENSES

There are some fees due, which allow us to have good music and equipment for you, and bus rides, if needed. Please pay these fees to the Finance Office by October 1. If you don't pay by this time, you may not be allowed to perform in our fall concert. Please talk to me if this is a problem, well in advance.

Choir Fee: \$60 (One \$60 fee for all of the choir classes you are enrolled in).

Girl's Uniform: Rental Fee is \$35 for the year. Please take good care of your dress. You will also need flat black dress shoes. This is very important!! You will need to have them soon so that we can measure your hem.

Boy's Uniform: Rental Fee is \$35 for the year, plus you will need to have a pair of nice black dress pants and black dress shoes. No athletic shoes. You should also have black socks.

Choir Tee Shirt: We will be making a choir tee shirt just for the Red Devil Choir. This is optional, and will cost between \$5-\$7. Don't pay for it until we order it.

CHOIR WEBSITE

shschoir.org is our choir website. I will post most of our information, assignments, etc. online. Everything that is posted by me will be on the Red Devil Chorus page. I will send emails to let you know if there is something you need to look at, especially if I haven't told you in class. Please pay prompt attention to these communications so that our organization will run smoothly. I will not send notes home. The yearly calendar will be posted online as soon as possible.

PLEASE FILL OUT THE PARENT FORM ON THE SINGERS PAGE TO SHOW THAT YOU HAVE READ THIS DOCUMENT. THIS WILL BE WORTH 20 POINTS TO YOUR STUDENT.

