

Springville High School Singers Expectations for the 2014-2015 School Year

Welcome to Singers! 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 Singers 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 difficult 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. Become independent in our ability 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 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 an early morning rehearsal every second A Day throughout the year. If you are not enrolled in Concert Choir, you will need to attend all of these extra rehearsals. If you are in Concert Choir, you will only need to attend half. This will count on your grade, and being on time will also be part of that grade. We are doing this so that all Singers will be very confident singing the Concert Choir and Combined numbers for our concerts.

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.

Solo and Ensemble Festival/ Region and State Choir Festivals

Students in Springville High Singers are expected to participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival and Region and State Choir Festivals. These will be counted as regular performances and will be a big part of your grade. Each student will need to prepare early for the Solo and Ensemble Festival by choosing solo music and practicing with the help of a voice teacher or other music professional. You will also be assigned to a small group. You may also choose to do a small group or duet on your own. Everyone will be expected to sing in an ensemble, and most should sing a solo.

Nebo District Honor Choir

Each Singer will be expected to rehearse and perform with the Nebo District Honor Choir. This year, we have Jo-Michael Scheibe as our guest conductor. He is a nationally acclaimed conductor from University of Southern California, where we did a clinic on tour last year. We are honored to have him. Singers will be expected to learn the music for this choir mostly on their own, with a little help during class. The dates and times for rehearsals and performances will be posted well in advance, and you will be expected to get out of work, and other activities in order to participate. It will be part of your grade.

SINGERS YEARLY EXPENSES

As with all other highly visible organizations: performing arts, sports, cheerleading, dance, student council, etc., there are large expenses involved in making our choir great. Here is a rundown of expenses. Please pay these fees at the finance office, or at myschoolfees.com.

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

Girl's Uniform/ Necklace/ Sash: \$120 (if you have already paid the first \$100, you will need to pay the \$20 for the sash and necklace) You will also need black

dress flats or shoes with no more than a 1” inch heel—very soon so that we can measure for hemming.

Boy’s Tuxedo/ Shoes/ Vest: \$35 rental fee for vest plus a tuxedo if you don’t already have one. The tuxedos are about \$150, plus about \$35 for the shoes. I will find out for sure when Clark’s Tuxedos comes to do fittings. Do not pay for any tuxedo part until you are fitted.

Choir Jacket: I would like to encourage you to purchase a choir jacket this year. They will be \$50, and they will be great to wear all fall, winter and spring. We won’t be getting a tee shirt this year specifically for Singers, but the jacket will be designed just for us.

All State Choir: (12 students, auditioned) \$50

Choir Tour: \$50 down payment due this week to hold your place, if you haven’t already paid. \$1,000 total to go to New York during the last half of Spring Break. You are expected to go on tour as a member of Singers if at all humanly possible.

ALL-STATE CHOIR

All-State Choir is made up of advanced singers from all over Utah. This is a prestigious choir which rehearses and performs with a nationally acclaimed choir director. Each choir member is expected to do most of the learning on their own with an accompaniment track. We will hold a few extra rehearsals in the mornings before we go. All-State is held during Fall Break, and the performance is in the Salt Lake Tabernacle. We will have auditions for All-State during the first full week of school. Twelve singers will be invited to participate. We will audition with a piece we have rehearsed in choir.

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 Singers page. I will send emails and texts 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. If you (or your student) does not have a cell phone, please pay even closer attention to the emails. 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.