



JUAB HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL DEPARTMENT

2015- 2016 Choir Disclosure

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On behalf of the administration of Juab High School and myself, I gladly welcome you into the choirs of Juab High School! We are so excited you are here! I sincerely hope you will enjoy being a part of our choirs. I believe that the choirs of JHS will offer you opportunities to develop a keen sense of responsibility as you consistently demonstrate and build your musical abilities. Your participation in rehearsals, concerts, clinics and festivals will keep you busy and continuously working toward excellence.

The JHS choirs have a reputation for excellence. They have worked hard to achieve this. You are expected to be completely focused on being an "ultimate team-player," and strive for high academic records in all classes. In general, JHS Choral students should distinguish themselves by always doing the right thing at the right time. Superior music groups are a result of many hours of hard work as well as strong dedication and commitment from each member of the choir. Teamwork will be paramount in accomplishing not only musical tasks and goals, but also personal achievements and ambitions.

I am looking forward to working with each one of you! Our willingness to build relationships of respect, responsibility, trust, and accountability will pay off in unimaginable ways. Your talent and hard work can make this year at JHS very exciting, fun-filled, and musically rewarding for all!

Objectives and Goals

Students in all choirs at Juab High School will be participants of a choral program that has the comprehensive objective of helping students become LIFELONG singers. The curriculum for each choir will be tailored to fit the needs and abilities of each singer, and will address five main areas of focus.

These are:

1. Music Fundamentals and Skills (key and time signatures, scales, rhythm and terminology.)
2. Sight Singing (singing a written melody without hearing it first.)
3. Diction (correct and unified shaping of vowels, consonant articulation, etc.)
4. Vocal Production and Enhancement (how to sing, what needs to happen physically, mentally and emotionally to produce a good sound).
5. Repertoire Expansion (the in-depth study of choral music representative of varying genres, eras, composers, and cultures.)

Each choral student is encouraged to set their own personal goals to help maintain a clear focus throughout the year. Such personal goals should also include the following:

1. Conduct yourself in a consistently positive manner in rehearsals and performance.
2. Know ALL of your pitches and rhythms of every studied and performed work. Memorize!
3. Work to sing with a beautiful, focused tone.
4. Be an independent singer and musician, and gain competency in sight singing.
5. Respond appropriately to conductor's gestures, musical styles, phrasing and dynamics. Turn the notes into MUSIC!

General Guidelines

It is expected that students comply with both district and school policies as well as additional guidelines as outlined below:

- ABSOLUTELY NO GUM, food (including candy), or drink is allowed in the choral room or the practice rooms. The only exception AND RECOMMENDATION is water for use during choral rehearsals.
- Students should bring a PENCIL and all choral music to rehearsal every day.
- Students should use the restroom before or after class.
- Homework, study from other courses and recreational reading is not to be done during class time. Personal grooming of self or others should not be done during class time.
- In order to progress, students are expected to do their best in following directions given by Mrs. Esplin the FIRST time, with great promptness and accuracy. Staying on task and developing the correct mind-set for teamwork will help student to accomplish this goal.
- Students will respect everyone and everything with the choir room and school.
- Cell phones and all other electronic devices are to be turned off and completely out of sight before entering the choir room. Mrs. Esplin will confiscate any electronics visible. Habitual offenders will be turned over to the office.

Rehearsal Etiquette

If everyone remembers that the success of the choir is everyone's responsibility, we won't need to use our precious rehearsal time for tedious, non-essential discipline. Rehearsals are held to achieve specific musical goals. Completing these goals will help you prepare for very enjoyable, compelling musical performances. Choir is not designed to only promote social interactions. It is hoped that friendships will be developed, maintained and enjoyed as we work together to create beautiful music. In order to achieve this, singers should:

- Arrive to rehearsal early enough to get to your seat, and get your music organized according to the agenda on the board.
- During the rehearsal, please don't talk while someone else is speaking, or while another section of the choir is rehearsing. Always think, "What can I be learning from this? How does this relate to what I should do?" Relate all that we do in rehearsal to your part, your voice, your talents and musicianship.
- Always be ready to sing on the conductor's downbeat. Don't be the last one to know what is going on. Choose to be "in the loop".
- USE YOUR PENCIL! Mark your music in every rehearsal. Amateur singers remember, professional singers write it down!

Daily Attendance and Participation 40%

Because choir is a participation activity, it is extremely difficult to duplicate a rehearsal experience for students who are absent. Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and to participate actively in the rehearsal process. Though attendance at all rehearsals is mandatory, attendance is only part of the requirement; students are expected to sing warm-ups, participate in theory, sight-singing and ear-training exercises, work alone, in small groups, and in sections. Students are also expected to maintain high standards of behavior, discipline, and decorum during rehearsals. Students' attendance and participation in rehearsals constitutes 40% of their grade.

Tardies

Students will please do all that they can to be on time to class CONSISTENTLY. Attendance is taken at the very start of every class period. The very start of the class period is activated by the tardy bell. Once it rings, the doors to the choral room are closed and rehearsal begins. Students should be in their seat when the doors close. Late students will please sign the "tardy sign in" sheet, and will please include their first and last name, the class period, and the time that they are signing in. Honest accuracy on the tardy sheet is a must. Once the class roll is taken, late students will please quickly and quietly take their

seats without causing interruption or undue attention to themselves. If you have a note from the office or a teacher regarding the tardy, please place it next to the tardy sign-in sheet to be considered for excusal. Being tardy will result in a point reduction of participation points. Because we are human, one or two tardies per term are not a great concern. Habitual tardies will hurt your grade. Tardy deductions in the participation points cannot be made up, so choose wisely and prepare to be on time. Each of you are important to the choir and are needed at the start of every rehearsal. Tardies of greater than 10 minutes will count as a “too late” absence and will need to be excused.

Assignments and Pass Offs 20%

Throughout the year, occasional assignments will be provided to enhance or comprehension of the choral literature we study in class. Late work is not acceptable, unless extreme circumstances prevail. Extreme circumstances do not include work, class load of other classes or teams, birthday parties or other social events, or anything to do with family pets. Under TRUE extreme circumstances, students and Mrs. Esplin will work together to find solutions to allow late work that will benefit student learning and academic progress. Assignments or opportunities missed due to unexcused absences, including in or out of school suspension, cannot be made up. Occasionally, in-class vocal evaluations will provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and preparation of their individual musical growth and mastery of the studied literature. Written assignments and pass-offs will constitute 10% of the student’s grade.

Concerts, Performances and Extra Rehearsals (40%)

Attendance at concerts and performances is ABSOLUTELY mandatory. Performances are like final exams for a performing ensemble. We have worked hard to avoid school-related conflicts. All JHS choral students are expected to be responsible about communicating with their families about their performances that are outside of the regular school day. The known choir calendar is provided at the beginning of the course. It is important that the parent/guardian of the student also plan ahead and clear conflicts that could potentially arise. Please do not plan a family vacation over a concert or major performance.

If a student **MUST** miss a performance, the parent or guardian of the student should notify Mrs. Esplin at least *three weeks* in advance. Extenuating circumstances (i.e. death in the family, serious illness, etc.) will be courteously and professionally dealt with on an individual basis.

Other local performance opportunities (senior citizens, etc.) may arise. If these performances have at least **THREE WEEKS** notice, they are required performances.

IF A STUDENT MISSED CONCERT AND HAS GIVEN MRS. ESPLIN AT LEAST THREE WEEKS NOTICE:

They can make up the grade by one of two options.

1. The student can do a report on a topic assigned by Mrs. Esplin, however, they will only receive 75% credit for the missed concert, even if the report is perfect. Report specifics will be given at the time of assignment.

2. The student can sing the concert songs with any other students who may have missed concert in front of the class the next rehearsal. Your grade would depend on your accuracy, tone quality, diction, dynamics and independence on your part. It is possible to score from 0 to 100 %.

JHS Grading Scale

A	94 - 100 %	C+	77 – 79 %
A-	90 - 93 %	C	72 – 76 %
B+	87 - 89 %	C-	70 – 71 %
B	82 - 86 %	D+	67 – 69 %
B-	80 - 81 %	D	62 – 66 %

Grading Policy

1) Rehearsal Attendance and Participation

There are two elements of the rehearsal participation score: attendance and rehearsal participation. Students are given 5 points each rehearsal for attendance. The students' rehearsal participation score will be determined by level of participation, their attitude and their behavior during rehearsals.

Daily Rehearsal Participation

Students will begin each rehearsal with 5 participation points. Based on their level of focused participation, they may either accrue additional points or be deducted points. The instructor will keep a record of point balances.

Making up Rehearsal Participation Points

To make-up rehearsals, students must use an Rehearsal Make-up Form available from Mrs. Esplin. The students must complete 30-minutes of private rehearsal with our current repertoire to make-up the rehearsal. In most cases, the student will be able to make-up all the points they missed by being absent, but the instructor reserves the right to reward or to remove points as necessary. Students will have 2-weeks from the day of the absence to make up the points.

Unexcused Absences and Sluffing

Students are not permitted to sluff a rehearsal for any reason. Students will not be able to make-up points, even if detention is served. In-school or out-of-school suspensions count as an unexcused absence.

2) Performance Participation

Each required performance is worth a pre-determined amount of points. If the student attends all performances on time, properly attired, they will earn all possible points.

Excused Performance Absences

In the rare circumstance that a student needs to miss a performance, the instructor must receive an **e-mail** notification from a parent/guardian **at least three weeks prior** to the performance. If the instructor receives adequate notification and the instructor deems the circumstances justified, the student will be eligible to make-up some or all of that performance's points by completed a performance make-up assignment. Written performance make up assignments are due 2 weeks after the concert or at the end of the term, whichever is first. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Unexcused Performance Absences

If a student misses a performance without prior notification, the student may **not** be able to make-up that performance's points and it may result in the student being dismissed from the choir. Of course, the instructor reserves the right to discern when circumstances are emergency situations out of the hands of the student. Nevertheless, the eligibility of the student to make-up points will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Music

All sheet music is property of the school. It is expensive! Students are expected to keep the music in excellent condition, and are responsible for the return of the music in good condition. Loss of or damage to the music will be the assigned student's financial responsibility and will result in the student paying the full replacement cost (including shipping and handling) for the affected music. Each student should provide a music folder with interior pockets to keep their music in to help keep their music in good condition.

Out of District Performances

Out of district performing opportunities exist for students who meet expectations. Students must travel to these performing opportunities with the school. Students must be attendance in school the entire day of the departure. Keep this requirement in mind as you schedule. Doctor's or dentist's appointments need to be cleared with the office if they fall within the affected time slot. Students may travel home with a parent or guardian. According to district policy, students may only be released to their parent or guardian.

The off campus trips may include, but are not limited to:

Utah All State Choir

Utah Honor Choir

Region Solo and Ensemble
Region Large Group Choral Festival
State Solo and Ensemble
State Large Group Festival
Other Region or Area Festivals
Temple Square Christmas Performance
Spring Tour (on affected years)
Elementary Performances
Other local (within Juab High School boundaries) performances.

Academic Integrity

JHS choral students are expected to demonstrate honesty and integrity at all times, setting a good example for everyone in the school, without boasting. Cheating, plagiarizing, or other forms of dishonesty will affect your ability to be a trusted, integral member of the choir. Please do not sacrifice your honor, the honor of your family, school and community by making unwise decisions. Do your best to be always strive to be found doing the right thing at the right time.

UHSAA Standards

JHS Choir Eligibility standards will be maintained. This includes maintenance of a 2.0 GPA with no failing (F) grade. Grades will be checked previous to any out of school event. Any student not maintaining this standard will not be able to travel outside of JHS to attend any event. Consistently ineligible grades may result in the student being asked to find another class so as to not hinder their graduation goals.

Fees

Covered on the Fee and Wardrobe Page

Fundraising

Occasional fundraising opportunities will arise. Students in the affected groups will be expected to participate to the best of their abilities. All funds raised will go directly to support the JHS choir activities. If at any time you have questions about how these funds are allotted and spent, please feel free to talk with Mrs. Esplin and Mrs. Anderson.

Concert Attire

Covered on the Fee and Wardrobe Page.

Communication with Mrs. Esplin

The best way to contact Mrs. Esplin is through the school email or school voice mail. The secretaries at the high school are also very good at taking messages. Please try to respect her family time and not contact her at home.

Email – tana.esplin@juab.k12.ut.us

School Voice Mail – 435 623-1764

All Concert Choir Students should be sure to join the Facebook Group for the Concert Choir. Also, please check the choir web site: www.juabchoirs.org