



2018-2019

Mitchell High School

Choir Department Handbook

*Home of Women's Choir, Men's Choir, Varsity Treble,
Varsity Chorale, and Friend de Coup Show Choir*

Mrs. Jennifer Randall, Director

www.kernelchoirs.com

UNIFORMS

Students will need to wear “concert black” for majority of our performances.

Ladies- Black dress (at least knee length – no spaghetti straps or strapless) with black hose/tights and shoes. Black slacks with a black blouse is also acceptable. Jewelry needs to be minimal and tasteful.

Gentlemen- Black slacks, black dress shirt, necktie tie (provided, based on choir placement), and black socks and black shoes.

In addition, each student will be issued a choir t-shirt for use as their informal uniform. These are **\$10 per student** and need to be purchased by September 1st. Checks can be made out to Mitchell High School. If a student misplaces his/her shirt, they will need to purchase another. These shirts are considered a uniform and should be treated as such. Each year’s distinctive design is chosen by the director.

SUPPLIES

Mitchell H.S. Choir binders must be purchased by the student and brought to school for their own personal use. These binders must meet the following specifications:

- Solid black with no markings or decoration of any kind
- 3-ring (with or without pockets)
- 1/2 “ is ideal. No larger than 1 inch.

Students will also need to provide the following for their folders:

- Six (6) pencils – mechanical or classic
- A pencil bag that snaps into the three rings of the black binder
- Color highlighter(s)- at least 3 colors
- Single subject spiral notebook

The full cost of the above items should not exceed \$8.00. Let Mrs. Randall know if you have any issue obtaining your supplies.

Each student should come to rehearsal with his folder every day. There is no flexibility in this requirement. Music will be provided to the students at no extra charge. Mistakes that are not marked **in the student’s own copy of the music** are not corrected and that is not acceptable.

UPDATES and INFORMATION

To receive TEXT message updates and reminders from Mitchell Kernel Choirs, text @kernelc to the number 81010 or send an email to kernel@mail.remind.com.

Our website should be your first place to check for information/updates on our department. The calendar, contact information and newsletter are all available here! www.kernelchoirs.com

GRADING POLICY

Choir is a performance-based class; **therefore, it is inevitable that students who miss performances for any reason other than death or serious illness will see a significant drop in their grade for that grading period.** For that reason, it is crucial that the student **and his parents** understand that choir requires a commitment that occasionally extends beyond the normal school day. Choir is curricular and extra-curricular simultaneously. Since the students receive major grades for performances, students who miss performances without a director-approved excuse could easily fail the class for that grading period. The commitment is not the child's alone, however, and parents should carefully note the dates on the choir calendar marked as mandatory.

Grades for performances are as follows:

- 100—On time for warm up in complete uniform and modeling proper performance etiquette through the entire activity
- 90----Tardy and/or in incomplete uniform
- 80----Excused absence supported by a parental phone call and email or written excuse
- 60----Unexcused absence supported by a parental phone call and email or written excuse
- 0----Unexcused absence with no parent communication

****Notification must be received in a timely manner in order to avoid a grade of zero being assessed.**

Excused absences include medical emergency or personal injury, death in the family, and other special circumstances approved by the directors. Unexcused absences include but may not be limited to babysitting siblings, failure to be excused from work, transportation difficulties, family outings, and oversleeping. In the case of conflicts with other school activities, arrangements for a compromise between the choral directors and the sponsor of the other activity be made. However, the student is responsible to notify all sponsors of the conflict as far in advance as possible.

Choir grades will be weighted as follows:

Summative Grades – 40%

This includes (but is not limited to): Performances, Quizzes, Tests, Mid Terms

Formative Grades – 60%

This includes (but is not limited to): Daily Participation Grades, Sight-reading

DISCIPLINE MANAGEMENT

Choir students are expected to exhibit exemplary behavior at all times. Infractions of school rules and rules of the MHS Choir will not be tolerated. Students who interfere with teaching and learning on a repeated basis will be called in for a conference with the directors. If the behavior is not corrected, the parents will be contacted by one of the directors. If the problem persists, the matter will be turned over to the school

administration for appropriate disciplinary action. Repeated disciplinary problems may result in a student's removal from the choral music program.

Drinking, smoking, the use of illegal drugs, cutting/mutilation, profanity, and unprofessional attire/behavior are all punishable offenses and will be treated as such. Director discovery of any of the above behaviors will result in removal from the program.

HEALTH

The voice is literally an instrument housed in the body. As with any instrument, the voice requires care. To insure good vocal health, choir students should not do anything that would damage their instrument. Because of the negative effects of smoking on the voice, choir students should not smoke!! The voice is most positively affected by drinking lots of water, avoiding tobacco products, and getting plenty of rest (which also reduces stress).

CONFERENCES

All parent conferences must be arranged by contacting the director. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or concerns. However, please do not come to the choir room expecting a conference without contacting your student's director and signing in through the front office.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Kernel Choirs calendar is only available on our website. Once the calendar is posted online, the student becomes responsible for notifying his or her family, employer, and coach/sponsor of any conflicting school activity occurring on these dates. When additions, deletions, or modifications are made to the choir calendar, the students will be notified and the websites will be updated. At that point, it becomes the *student's* responsibility to deliver the information to his parents.

Please go to our website and fill out the "Handbook Acknowledgement Form" on the front page. Please take care of this by September 1st.

Thank you! – Mrs. Randall