 **Ms. Cayla Morton, Director**

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**Handbook**

**2019-2020**

**Welcome to the South Central Calhoun High School Choral Program!**

Please take the time to review this handbook with your family! You are responsible for the information found in this handbook.

This information can also be found at:

<http://titanchoirs.weebly.com>

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***“The arts, it has been said, cannot change the world, but they may change human beings who might change the world.”***

***-Maxine Greene***

**SOUTH CENTRAL CALHOUN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR GOALS**

1. Develop a life-long love of music
2. Experience music as an essential part of history and culture
3. Develop a community where members treat each other with respect and kindness
4. Learn to read and understand the language of musical notation
5. Develop rehearsal skills, responsibilities, and discipline
6. Develop performance confidence, poise, etiquette, and instinct
7. Sing expressively. Sing from the heart. **Sing for life.**

**GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

1. Be on time
2. Have all materials (pencil, folder, music, water bottle)
3. **NO** food, candy, drink, gum, EXCEPT water in a closed container
4. Bathroom trips should take place during passing time
5. Cell Phones, Tablets, etc. – Responsible and Respectful use only
6. If you’re sick and can’t sing – ask director for “Silent but Present” form.

**BASICS FOR REHEARSALS (AND LIFE)**

1. LISTEN to the music, to each other, to the director.
2. COMMUNICATE respectfully, efficiently, effectively.
3. BE KIND. WORK HARD. WORK HARD AT BEING KIND.
4. BE POSITIVE. Exude positive energy, always.
5. EXPLORE. Be open to new things. Be open to different things. Be open to TRYING.
6. CELEBRATE SUCCESS.
7. BE EXPRESSIVE. Be willing to *feel*. Be willing to *emote.* Be willing to *express.*

**SCC HS TITAN CHOIR 2019-2020 CALENDAR**

**Bold events are required for ALL Titan Choir Members**

|  |
| --- |
|  **AUGUST**  |
| Thurs-Fri 1st–2nd | All Day | All State Camp | Storm Lake HS |
|  **SEPTEMBER**  |
| Thursday 5thFriday 6th  | 5:00pm7:00pm | Soloist - Volleyball AnthemLady Patriots - Football Anthem | LC GymFootball Field |
| Thursday 12th Friday 13th Thursday 26th Friday 27th  | 5:30pm7:00pm5:00pm7:00 | Soloist – Volleyball AnthemLady Patriots – Football AnthemSoloist – Volleyball AnthemLady Patriots – Football Anthem | LC GymFootball FieldLC GymFootball Field |
|  **OCTOBER**  |
| Thursday 3rd | 6:00pm | Soloist – Volleyball Anthem | LC Gym |
| Friday 4th Tuesday 8th  | 7:00pm4:30pm | Lady Patriots – Football AnthemSoloist – Cross Country Anthem | Football FieldLC Country Club |
| Friday 18th Friday 25th Saturday 26th  | 7:00pm7:00pmAll Day | Lady Patriots – Football AnthemLady Patriots – Football AnthemAll-State Vocal Auditions | Football FieldFootball FieldStorm Lake |
| **Tuesday 29th**  | **7:30pm** | **Fall Hippie Radio Live Choir Concert** | **HS Auditorium** |
|  **NOVEMBER**  |
| Thurs-Sat 21-23rd | All Day | Iowa All-State Rehearsals and Concert | Iowa State Univ. |
|  **DECEMBER**  |
| Tuesday 3rd Monday 9th Tuesday 10th  **Thursday 19th** Friday 20th  | 6:00pm6:30pm6:30pm**7:30pm**6:30pm | Mixed Patriots – Basketball AnthemMixed Patriots – Basketball AnthemMixed Patriots – Basketball Anthem**Winter Concert – Choir/Band**Mixed Patriots – Basketball Anthem | RC GymLC GymRC Gym**HS Auditorium**RC Gym |
|  **JANUARY**  |
| Monday 6th Tuesday 7th Tuesday 14th Friday 17th  Tuesday 21st Friday 31st  | 6:30pm6:30pm6:00pm6:00pm6:00pm6:30pm | Mixed Patriots – Basketball AnthemMixed Patriots – Basketball AnthemMixed Patriots – Basketball AnthemMixed Patriots – Basketball AnthemMixed Patriots – Basketball AnthemMixed Patriots – Basketball Anthem | RC GymRC GymRC GymRC GymRC GymLC Gym |
|  **FEBRUARY**  |
| Tuesday 4th Tuesday 11th  | 6:00pm6:00pm | Mixed Patriots – Basketball AnthemMixed Patriots – Basketball Anthem – Senior Night | RC GymRC Gym |
|  **MARCH**  |
| **Thursday 5th** **Friday 13th** Monday 30th Tuesday 31st  | **7:30pm****7:30pm**4:30pm6:00pm | **Mid-Winter Choir Concert****Coffeehouse Concert**Soloist – Track AnthemPre-Contest Recital | **HS Auditorium****LC Community Building**LC TrackHS Band/Choir Rooms |
|  **APRIL**  |
| Saturday 4th Monday 6th  | All Day4:30pm | Small Group Music ContestSoloist – Track Anthem | TBALC Track |
|  **MAY**  |
| Friday 1st Thursday 7th **Saturday 9th** | 4:30pm4:30pmTBA | Soloist – Track AnthemSoloist – Track Anthem**Large Group Music Contest** | LC TrackLC Track**TBA** |
| **Tuesday 12th** | **7:30pm** | **HS - Fine Arts Night** | **HS Gym** |
| **Sunday 17th** | **1:30pm** | **Graduation** | **HS Gym** |

**MUSIC AND SUPPLIES**

1. Each choir member will be assigned a folder, pencil, robe and music for class. Each individual is responsible for the robe, folder and its contents. Failure to return folder, robe or music or return in unacceptable condition will result in a charge.
2. Only music related markings should appear on music in **erasable pencil**, no doodles please!
3. You may always take your folder and music home during the school year, but must have it at school each day for rehearsals.
4. There are many instruments and electronics in the choir room, these must be used responsibly and respectfully and with permission from the director. Please do not use instruments as tables!

**CONCERT ATTENDANCE**

*Attendance at every concert listed on the Choir Calendar is a requirement for this course.*

It is a high honor to perform, and your choir counts on *you* for your musical, physical, and moral support at concerts and rehearsals. Concert attendance is **required** of all members of choir at SCC. Concerts are the culmination of weeks of preparation, development, and teamwork. They are a unique opportunity to share your work with peers, family, and the entire community and can be memorable, remarkable, and transforming experiences.

An unexcused absence at a concert will result a significant lowering of your letter grade. If you do not plan to attend the concerts, you should not be in this course.

If an unavoidable conflict arises, you should notify Ms. Morton **in writing** as soon as you know (at least 3 weeks prior to the concert, preferably at the beginning of the semester). Concert absences must be followed up with **written** parental contact to Ms. Morton. Work does not constitute an excused absence from concerts. Clear your work schedule *now* while there is plenty of time and notify your employer of concert dates *now* to avoid miscommunication later.

If you need transportation to or from a concert, please let the director know! We want you (and need you!) to be there, and will find a way to help!

The choir appreciates your taking this responsibility seriously as a member of the SCC Choir Program!

 **REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE**

Rehearsal points from an UNEXCUSED absence cannot be made-up. Because each singer is a component of the entire choir’s success, attendance at all rehearsals is expected. Unlike many other classes, the work missed in a choir rehearsal cannot be made-up as a musical experience cannot be replicated. Therefore, when a student misses a rehearsal and the absence is UNEXCUSED, the student will not receive points for that day’s work (20pts/rehearsal).

If a student misses rehearsal and the absence is EXCUSED, the student can access make-up assignments on the Weebly page. This is the student’s responsibility to check days that they miss. If there is an assignment the day a student is absent and the student fails to check the class page, the assignment goes in as a zero. Make-up assignments are posted by midnight on the day of the rehearsal. Please be diligent about making up rehearsal points if you are absent from rehearsal!

**CO-CURRICULAR VOCAL ENSEMBLES**

Students enrolled in choir at SCC may also choose to audition for one of several co-curricular vocal ensembles. These include Titanium (a cappella), Titan Treble, Lady Patriots, and Mixed Patriots. As these ensembles are built on skills developed in curricular choir, students who are interested in participating are expected to be enrolled in curricular choir as well. Auditions for these ensembles will generally take place in the spring prior to the following school year.

 **ALL-STATE CHOIR**

The Iowa HS Music Association offers a performance opportunity through the All-State Choir. Individual singers attend an All-State camp in August to prepare for auditions that take place in October. Those chosen to participate in the All-State Choir based on that audition sing at the All-State Music Festival in November. In preparing for auditions and participating in the All-State Choir individual singers improve singing and become musical leaders for the Titan Choirs. Students interested in auditioning will work with Ms. Morton to prepare for auditions and must be willing to practice outside of regular choir rehearsal time. Details will be communicated at the end of each school year, and further details about the auditions will be communicated at the start of the school year and during the summer.

**SMALL GROUP CONTEST**

Small Group Contest will take place on Saturday, April, 2020. This is an excellent performance opportunity through the Iowa HS Music Association for all students enrolled in the choir program. Participation in this event is optional, but recommended. The preparation process for contest improves individual singing, and as individual singers become stronger, so does the whole choir. Details will be discussed and communicated at the beginning of second semester.

**LARGE GROUP CONTEST**

Large Group Contest will take place on Saturday, May 9, 2020. This is a **required** event for all members enrolled in the choir program. At this event the choir will perform selections from our spring concert for a judge who will score our performance. This is an excellent performance opportunity through the Iowa HS Music Association that allows us to strive for excellence and share our work beyond our home community. Details will be discussed and communicated at the beginning of second semester.

**CONCERT ATTIRE**

At the beginning of the school year, each singer will be assigned a choir robe which will be stored at the school to wear for concerts. It is the STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY to keep robes in professional shape during concerts. Students will be responsible for lost or damaged attire.

**Students are responsible for the following regarding concert attire**:

1. Black shoes with closed toe and heel (no sandals, flip-flops, athletic wear). Shoes should be flat (no heels) if possible. Black tights or socks should also be worn.
2. Black pants, tights, long skirts or long dresses must be worn to cover any leg that shows at the hem of the robe. Generally, black on anything that shows below the robe.
3. Accessories should be limited to small items that do not distract from the ensemble.
4. Hair should be out of your face/eyes.
5. Be considerate of your audience and choir peers by limiting perfumes/colognes and remember that you should sing, act, and smell like a professional at performances. ☺

If acquiring any part of the concert attire is an issue for you or your family please discuss with Ms. Morton and she will be happy to help!

 **GRADING**

Grading in choir may be different than in many of your other classes.

Grading is based largely on your attitude, preparedness, participation, cooperation, and desire to learn, as these things are vital in supporting your personal musical growth and the growth of the entire choir.

This page will help you understand how you earn your grade in choir.

**Rehearsal Points – 50% of grade**

20 Points Possible each day, 100 Points each full week of rehearsals

 **5 points** – Be Present: physically, mentally, and on time

 **5 points** – Be Prepared: have all materials needed to be successful

 **10 points** – Be a Positive Presence: follow the Basics for Rehearsals (and Life)

 Points will be deducted for each negative “incident.”

1. Listen.
2. Communicate.
3. Be kind. Work hard. Work hard at being kind.
4. Be Positive.
5. Explore.
6. Celebrate Success.
7. Be Expressive.

**Variable Points**– Concert Attendance

 **Individual Student Growth** **– 50% of grade**

Variable points as assigned for each assessment

 Includes but not limited to –

- Concert Reflections, Thoughtful Assignment Completion

- Submitted Recordings

- Effort toward progress in musical literacy for in-class assignments and lessons

- Effort toward progress in vocal technique for in-class assignments and lessons

**If you ever have questions about your grade in choir, *PLEASE* *ASK!***

**If you want to be successful in choir, you will be successful in choir, but you must choose to want it!**

**WHY CHOIR??**

Many of you don’t have to ask this question, you just *know* the answer.

Others may need some convincing of music’s power. I could *tell* you about the power of music all day, but you will not understand until you *feel* it.

Celebrations bring students, teachers, administrators, and communities together. *Singing* celebrations bring communities together, strengthen listening, charge the brain, increase learning potential, stimulate the desire to learn, and form strong interpersonal bonds.

Singing together is a way that we can all remember that it is okay to be amazing.

Singing together opens our eyes and our hearts to cultures other than our own.

Singing together is a way to learn about our *selves*. To explore who we are and who we can become. To transform ourselves and mold our hearts to be compassionate, bold, expressive, collaborative members of our community and of our world.

Singing together develops more than a musician, it develops a *spirit*. It takes what we already have inside us and helps us express our spirits on the outside. Music, and singing, is a part of every human being. It’s a part of life. It’s a part of being *human*. The power of singing shows itself in many different ways (sometimes laughter, sometimes tears, sometimes silliness, fear, joy) – but it is *real,* and it is *powerful*.

So why *shouldn’t* you sing?



***“Music is something terribly special… it does not have to pass through the censor of the brain before it can reach the heart. An F# does not have to be considered in the mind… it is a direct hit… and therefore, all the more powerful.”***

***-Leonard Bernstein***