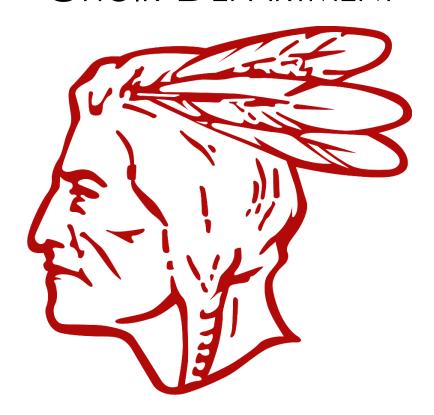
Fox High School

CHOIR DEPARTMENT



VARSITY CHOIR HANDBOOK:

VARSITY SELECT (CHAMBER), VARSITY MIXED (CONCERT), VARSITY BASS (ADV. MEN) & VARSITY TREBLE (CCT)

Mrs. Lydia Hill, Director;
Mr. Kevin Nicoletti, Assistant Director;
Mrs. Johanna Ballou, Accompanist

Excellence. Performance. Character.

Dear Parents and Students,

It is with continued excitement and much anticipation that I welcome you to the Fox High School Choir Department. I am proud to be a Fox High Warrior. I am devoted to continuing the traditions of vocal music at Fox High. I expect to continue our competitive standards, and it is my commitment to focus on excellence in music performance, education, and above all, character.

The pursuit of excellence is a journey filled with hard work and dedication in and out of the classroom. Please understand that VARSITY CHOIR at Fox High is a co-curricular activity, governed by the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA), and all students are subject to MSHSAA



rules, the Fox High School Athletics <u>Code of Conduct</u> and the bylaws specific to <u>MSHSAA Music Activities</u>. This means that while we do meet during the school day and students receive a class grade, choir activities are also conducted and continue outside the school day; students are responsible for staying eligible to participate.

Students participating in any of the Choral Performing Ensembles at Fox High should pledge to hold themselves to high standards musically, and socially. Please understand participation in Choir is a *privilege*, reserved for those who commit themselves to high standards in these areas.

Please review the information in this handbook and keep it as a reference throughout the year.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Lydia J. Hill, M.M.
Director of Choral Music & Tri-M National Music Honor Society Sponsor,
Fox High School

National Association for Music Education (NAfME) Missouri Music Educators Association (MMEA); East Central District #7 American Choral Directors Association (ACDA)

ROOM: Choir Room (425) / Office Hours: By Appointment; 1st Hour Conf.

PHONE: 636.296.5210 x2231 / Fax: 636.282.6980 Email: HillL@foxc6.org

PHILOSOPHY & HISTORY

Art-based education through performance is the central educational philosophy of the Fox High School Choirs. With this philosophy, the Fox High School Choirs are an award-winning, nationally recognized music department and have traveled throughout the United States and consistently rate in the superior category at festivals. The standard is EXCELLENCE.

EXPECTATIONS & GOALS FOR CHORAL STUDENTS

Work hard each day to be prepared musically and physically. □ Take all rehearsals and performances seriously and give 100%. □ Arrange your transportation ahead of time! □ Encourage parents/guardians, friends, principals and teachers to attend concerts. □ Take care of your voice.
MAXIMIZE YOUR TALENT: Work hard each day to improve and form good singing habits. Stand like a real singer. Listen like a real singer. Work outside of class on the music. Apply previously learned material to each rehearsal or performance. Listen and use your pencil to mark your music. Improve your sight-reading skills individually and as an ensemble. Sing with expression and sensitivity. Have a desire to be great! Never be satisfied with low quality/mediocrity. Study with a private voice teacher (See Private Voice Lessons)
PRESENT A POSITIVE IMAGE OF OUR CHOIR TO THE COMMUNITY, SCHOOL AND YOUR PEERS: Show your Choir pride! Walk like a "real" singer! Talk like a "real" singer! Invite people to our concerts. Be competitive (but appreciate and encourage the abilities of others).
 KEEP A POSITIVE ATTITUDE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR: Always look ahead and see the desired goals we are working toward. Don't let personalities get in the way of our unified effort. Work together to make progress. Encourage each other in positive ways. Help each other. Always honor each other and the members of all choirs. Success means you never stop trying
Private Voice Lessons
The voice is an instrument and as such, it is important that each individual avail himself or herself of the opportunity to learn how to use their instrument.
While each Choir class will devote time to vocal development, it is <i>HIGHLY RECOMMENDED</i> that singers study privately either through one of the Private Voice Teachers suggested below or with other quality teachers in the area:
 Mr. Mark Cotter - 314-471-6119/ mcotter1@jeffco.edu Ms. Brenda M. Bailey - 314-753-7290/ baileyvoicestudio@yahoo.com
Students pay the private teacher directly. Fees can vary, based on the level and length of individual instruction

FHS CHOIRS of CHARACTER: C - Cooperation; H - Harmony; O - Opportunity; I - Involvement; R - Responsibility

The object of the voice lesson is for students to learn good vocal technique and how their individual voice

Each individual teacher will provide a studio policy detailing the preferred method of payment and

attendance guidelines.

functions. Students will build a repertoire that includes art songs, arias, and some musical theater or vocal jazz.

Students will study the <u>All-District/State Choir</u> audition repertoire, prepare for Solo & Ensemble, and explore various composers and styles appropriate for the individual.

In order for the student to be successful, it is crucial that the student practice between lessons.

Varsity Choral ensembles at Fox High School

VARSITY BASS (FORMERLY ADV. MEN)

□ Competitive upper-level all tenor/bass ensemble that focuses on the foundations of vocal tone and health. It also explores the changing voice. Tone quality, maturity, proven work ethic, and experience in part-singing and sight-reading are required. Admission by audition approval of the director.

VARSITY TREBLE (FORMERLY CCT)

□ Competitive upper-level all treble ensemble selected that focuses on the foundations of vocal tone and health. Tone quality, maturity, proven work ethic, and experience in part-singing and sight-reading are required. Admission by audition and approval of the director.

VARSITY MIXED (FORMERLY CONCERT)

□ Highly developed mixed ensemble made up of select choral singers (55 Max). Students are experienced, established and advanced in all areas of vocal music. An emphasis is placed on the diversity and breadth of traditional choral literature. *Limited*-admission by audition and approval of the director.

VARSITY SELECT (FORMERLY CHAMBER)

Elite small ensemble characterized by a variety of difficult renaissance, jazz, and contemporary choral music. *Limited*-admission by audition and approval of the director.

EXPECTATIONS & CONDUCT

CHARACTER:

All Fox High choir students are expected to be good citizens. Failure to uphold the standards of good citizenship will result in consequences that will affect participation in choir activities at Fox High School.

*Students are expected to be well behaved in the class and the community, demonstrate good sportsmanship, show respect for others, and remain drug/alcohol-free. Failure to meet these standards of behavior will result in consequences that can include probation, suspension, or expulsion from the choir at the director's discretion.

SELF-DISCIPLINE & RESPECT:

The choir, as a competitive ensemble *and* curricular activity, is built on the principles of self-discipline and respect. It is critical that at all times, members handle themselves with great self-discipline. Students are expected to be respectful of others' property, feelings, opinions, performances, and the right to learn. Discrimination or harassment for any reason *will not* be tolerated.

Respect breeds respect. Students will show respect to all Choir directors, supporting staff, parent-volunteers, chaperones, other Choir members, and themselves. Blatant disrespect to any director or supporting staff member may result in the immediate removal from the ensemble. This is in addition to any and all school policies. Discipline may range from verbal warnings to immediate removal from the ensemble.

Social Networking/Media:

In general, keep in mind that something that is put on the Internet today can be uncovered later. College admission offices and employers can access information tied to social media accounts no matter when they were posted (or even if they were deleted). This not only applies to *pictures* portraying participation in illegal activities, but also could relate to online bullying, harassment, and threats.

With the ability to filter what is uploaded on social media accounts, please use caution with questionable photos, posts, or comments. Students are held accountable for online activity; the second a post is online, responsibility must be taken for the contents. No risky post will ever be worth its potential consequences now or in the future.

Students in the Fox High School Choir Department are asked to refrain from making NEGATIVE comments specifically regarding Choir activities, Choir directors/staff or other Choir members. Students who engage in derogatory comments and actions cause damage to the Choir psyche and overall morale. Attacking directors or openly disputing the decisions of staff will cause an unstable leadership environment within the Choir Department. Continued abuse via online social media may result in dismissal from the group. At all costs, we must avoid this.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY:

	Passed 3.0	Credits in	Proceeding	Semest	ter
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- ☐ Cannot fail more than 2 Classes each semester or less if taking non-credit classes/hours.
- ☐ Actively Enrolled in 3.0 Credits in Current Semester
 - This is especially important for ½ day students and students enrolled in non-credit courses (ie. Office/Library Worker, Study Hall, etc)

CITIZENSHIP ELIGIBILITY:

Students who are charged with a misdemeanor or felony are not eligible to participate in MSHSAA-Sanctioned Choir Activities & Contests until all proceedings with the legal system have been concluded and any penalty satisfied.

In School Suspension (ISS) or Academic Reassignment (AR):

- Students are allowed to attend applicable rehearsals and competitive contests but are not allowed to physically participate.
- The student will be suspended from competitive contests the week(s) of their suspension and are eligible to receive further discipline at the director's discretion
- Five or more total days will result in a minimum of 20% competitive contest participation and a maximum of 100% competitive contest participation at director's discretion and may, as a result, affect the student's performance grade.

OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS) OR (ACE):

- Students are not allowed on school property and cannot attend rehearsals or competitive contests.
- OSS/ACE will result in a minimum of 20% competitive contest participation and a maximum of 100% competitive contest participation at director's discretion and may, as a result, affect the student's performance grade.
- If a student is suspended more than 1 time, they are deemed *ineligible* to compete at the district or state level and *may not travel with the choir*. Any fundraised money that is obtained by the student and is in their account will not be refunded.

ALCOHOL AND/OR DRUG POLICY:

Alcohol or drug related violations will result in a minimum of 20% and maximum 100% competitive contest participation at the director's discretion and may, as a result, affect the student's grade.

COMMUNICATION OPPORTUNITIES



Tyler SIS-K12/Google (Email): Hill@foxc6.org* (Preferred)



REMIND 101: (Texts) Updates and information sent via text message. Free service, with standard texting rates applicable from your provider. Enroll in one of the following ways:

Download the free Remind app and enter the class code:

- Send a text to 424-543-7221 or 81010 with the class code as the message Please enroll in all applicable Remind 101 Choir codes:
 - ☐ Choir Department (ALL CHOIRS): @foxhschoir
 - ALL VARSITY: @fxvarchoir
 - INDIVIDUAL Classes:
 - ☐ Choir Academic Lab: @choiraclab
 - Varsity SELECT: @fxvarslect
 - ☐ Varsity MIXED: @fxvarmixed
 - ☐ Varsity TREBLE: @fxvartrebl
 - ☐ Varsity BASS: @fxvarbass
 - ☐ Choir Trip 2019: @atlchoir19
 - Regarding UNIFORMS:
 - ☐ Dresses: @vdresses Mady Kleinschrodt
 - ☐ Tuxes: @vtuxes Maddie Cooley

Fox High School Fine & Performing Arts Website: https://sites.google.com/foxc6.org/foxhighfinearts



TWITTER: Follow "Fox HS Choirs" on Twitter @FHSChoirWarrior (2018-2019 Tweets by Mady Kleinschrodt)



FACEBOOK: Follow the "Fox High School Choir" Group



GOOGLE CLASSROOM: Go to classroom.google.com, and sign in using your Fox School district Google login. To join your choir page, add a class and enter the code below:

- □ VARSITY CODE: 6us4dw
 - □ VARSITY SELECT & MIXED ONLY: oso3stt
- □ JV CODE: dajmzr8 (if applicable)



CHOIR CALENDAR

*Please note -- this is an ALL-INCLUSIVE Choir Dept. Calendar.



CHOIR COURSE SYLLABUS

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at all rehearsals & performances is *critical* to the success of the Fox High School Choir Department. Music is a *performing*-art and thus classroom rehearsal and performance attendance is of the *utmost* importance. Please review the Choir Calendar and make plans to be in attendance at all applicable events. Students are expected to adhere to the following guidelines:

REHEARSALS:

Students are expected to not only to be in every class and/or rehearsal, but to be on time and ready to go at appointed times all year. ISS is not considered an excused absence from class, and Daily Rehearsal points will be deducted. If a student missed more than 6 unexcused days in a semester, they may be removed from the ensemble at the director's discretion. In addition, participation at all rehearsals is expected and graded.

TARDINESS may result in a conference with the director and even dismissal from the group if the problem persists. Tardy is defined as not being in his/her assigned spot, ready to sing when the bell rings. Daily Rehearsal points are deducted for tardiness

Performances:

Performances are mandatory, graded, and part of the curriculum. Students are expected to stay for the entire performance unless an emergency arises. Missing a performance can be likened in severity to missing a summative exam. Unfortunately, no true equivalent make-up is possible in that the ensemble performance will not occur again.

EXCUSED PERFORMANCE ABSENCES are only made for school-sponsored games/tournaments and verified sickness/family emergencies. An excused absence must be made-up to receive credit and is the responsibility of the student.

Work is *not* an excused absence. Students should give their managers the choir schedule and explain that it is a *class grade* and they cannot work.

An UNEXCUSED PERFORMANCE ABSENCE may result in the lowering of the student's grade by one letter grade. Upon the second unexcused absence, the student may be removed from the Choir. Students will not be allowed to make-up credit lost for an unexcused absence.

According to MSHSAA rules, a student must attend classes all day in order to be eligible to participate in an after-school or evening choral event or competition occuring on the same day.

CONTESTS & FESTIVALS:

Choir contests, competitions, and festivals provide an evaluative and competitive experience for the Choir. Students are required to attend the full day's events unless otherwise excused by the director. Students learn a great deal from watching their peers perform and are encouraged to do so. Students will be expected to show up at appointed times for warm-ups, rehearsals and loading the bus.

Per policy, students must travel to these contests/festivals via school-arranged transportation. Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to drive a vehicle to or from any events.

CHOIR COSTS

The costs of running a competitive choir program can be substantial, and the Fox High School Choir Department is committed to competing without "breaking the bank." *There are department expenses related to purchase of new music, maintenance of uniforms and equipment, as well as busses, accompaniment, and entry fees, when applicable.

FUNDRAISERS are held periodically to offset many of the costs involved (See FUNDRAISING).

ALL Checks & Money Orders should be made payable to: "Fox High School Choirs."

UNIFORM FEE: See FORMAL PERFORMANCE DRESS CODE

Music Fees:

Music is supplied in class, on loan. Students will be fined for unreturned, lost, or damaged music. Students will be charged full price for original scores.

DEBTS:

Debts for music and trip fees may prohibit student participation until paid. A current list of any unpaid debts can be obtained on Tyler/SIS or with the students' grade-level secretary.

FHS CHOIRS & CHARACTER: C - COOPERATION; H - HARMONY; O - OPPORTUNITY; I - INVOLVEMENT; R - RESPONSIBILITY

VARSITY TRIP/FEES:

The 4 Fox High School Varsity Choirs (Select, Mixed, Treble, Bass) customarily travel for an overnight/weekend destination contest/competition each spring semester. The location, distance, length of stay, and a number of travelers will determine the overall cost per student/chaperone. Location and overall cost will be announced during the fall semester to maximize fundraising opportunities.

Additional trip-specific regulations and rules will be addressed prior to the deposit/departure, including trip-specific rules/regulations and a legal (notarized) medical form, insurance information, etc. Students will not be able to travel overnight with the choir without the <u>REQUIRED FORMS</u> completed.

A minimum payment schedule will be provided, but the balance may be paid at any time. Due to the amount of money involved, deadlines cannot be flexible. All monies should be turned in by the appropriate date, or the trip may have to be canceled.

*After the start of the 2nd Semester (JANUARY), ALL MONEY IS NON-REFUNDABLE (fundraised or paid personally) for a trip because the bills have already been paid to the travel company.

CHOIR STAFF

The Fox High School Choir staff includes the director, accompanists, all other support staff involved in teaching vocal music as well as any guest clinicians. At times, this may also include our parent volunteers.

VOLUNTEERS & CHAPERONES

The Fox High School Choir Department cannot fully function without the assistance of our parent and community volunteers. Thank you for your continued assistance and support! Specifically, we need volunteers for UNIFORMS (to include fittings, alterations, maintenance, and uniform check-in/out for concerts and contests). In addition, parental/adult assistance monitoring students at events, moving equipment, and in other areas is also needed.

At least one adult per family is asked to donate at least one hour of their time per semester, if possible. Please contact Mrs. Hill for more information on how you can help. HillL@foxc6.org

Missouri State law requires any parent or volunteer working with students outside the classroom, on a regular basis, to have an FBI Fingerprint Background Check completed. *This specifically includes CHAPERONES for trips. Chaperones must have all required paperwork submitted to Rhonda Fadler in Central Office, no less than 60 days prior to departure. *With the exception of the fingerprinting process, the Volunteer forms must be filled out annually. The required Volunteer Paperwork is available on the District Website, and includes: DFS Form, Volunteer Forms, and Fingerprint Packet. Please contact Rhonda for more information: FadlerR@foxc6.org.

TUTORING & VOLUNTEER HOURS:

Choir students are highly encouraged to complete volunteer, tutoring, and mentoring hours with the Music Department. More information will be made available to those students who ask.

TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY:

Choir & Band students have the opportunity to join Fox High School's chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Tri-M stands for "Modern Music Makers," and is a national music honor society through the National Association for Music Education (NAfME). Chapter meetings are held each month after school and music-related service projects are planned each semester. Upon completing all chapter requirements, to include: 40 music-related volunteer hours, students may graduate Fox High School with a pink (universal regalia color for music/dance) honor cord that is awarded at Senior Awards Ceremony.

Students completing required tutoring and/or volunteer hours (A+, National Honor Society, Tri-M NAfME Music Society, etc.) may not use the hours simultaneously or with any choir fundraising. Students may not receive any monetary compensation for volunteer/service hours.

DONATIONS:

DONATION WISH LIST

Extra-Credit points can be given for donating any of the following items:

Cough DropsBand-AidsHand SanitizerBlank CDsCups/Bottle WaterEnvelopesPencilsDisinfecting WipesFebrezeDry Erase MarkersArt SuppliesBlack Permanent Markers

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is an *indispensable* source for the Choir Department's functioning budget, yet it is *not* mandatory that all students fundraise. All fundraisers are optional and are completed at the discretion of the parents; fundraising is available for anyone that wishes to participate.

Fundraising will be used for raising money for your personal choir trip, helping a friend raise money for their choir trip, and to raise money to help the choir department purchase items needed for the classroom. Fundraising may not, however, be used for personal gain or fundraising other school activities.

PRODUCT-BASED FUNDRAISING:

Per district-policy, students are permitted to hold one fundraiser per school year where individual students sell a product (ie. Magazines, cookie dough, pizza, etc.).

CLUB/GROUP FUNDRAISING:

All other fundraisers are considered "club" fundraisers or "group" fundraisers and have no limitations in frequency. These consistently are the biggest asset to our yearly budget. Choir group fundraisers may include: Donation Letters, Car washes, Talent Show, Santa-Letters, Madrigal/Musical (if applicable), Trivia Night, Warrior Idol, etc and generally raise funds for any specific-student participating. Students will receive the profit percentage from the group fundraisers based on their amount of hours worked and/or amount of tickets sold.

VARSITY CHOIR TRIP ACCOUNTS:

Fundraising may be a necessity for Varsity Choir families to be used for the Varsity Choir Trip. (Also see VARSITY TRIP/FEES). Each student will have an individual account with a total of money raised/turned in. Account status amounts will be updated periodically and able to be viewed at any time via the <u>Trip Spreadsheet</u>.

All checks/money orders are to be made out to "Fox High School" with the student's name in the subject line.

Uniforms & Dress Code

A number of years ago, the school district purchased our current choir uniforms to be used again this year and beyond. Uniforms must stay in peak-condition at all times for continued use year after year. In 2018-2019, Varsity Select & Mixed will begin to explore new, updated uniform options if our budget allows.

GENERAL DRESS CODE:

The general appearance of students reflects the character of our school and choir department to the community. (See Dress Code in FHS Student Handbook). The dress code should not be taken lightly and will be enforced. Repeated offenses of improper dress may result in participation ineligibility.

FORMAL PERFORMANCE DRESS CODE:

Choir uniforms are issued and fitted to each student enrolled in a choir course and must be worn properly. This includes before and after performances, in restaurants, in the audience, etc. Hairstyles that cover the eyes or are a distracting color will not be allowed for performance. Proper care and storage of choir uniforms is expected (Further instructions will be given in class).

Once issued to the student, choir families assume the responsibility that any damage and/or additional cleaning of the choir uniform will be paid by them. The choir department will cover the cost of hemming the uniform. The total replacement cost of a uniform is \$100. Students will only be fined for lost, damaged, dirty, and/or unreturned uniforms.

*At the end of the year/performance period, all tuxedos and dresses must be dry cleaned. A DATED receipt from the dry cleaners must be turned in with the uniform. Failure to provide the dated receipt will result in a \$20.00 fine to cover the cost of dry cleaning. Uniforms may need to be cleaned more than once yearly, but must be dry-cleaned at the end of the year, minimum.

Students not having a proper, clean, uniform will not be allowed to perform and their absence will not be excused. Specific dress requirements are listed below:

TUXEDO Uniform:

- ☐ Black DRESS shoes (no casual footwear).
- Solid BLACK dress socks (no ankle socks).
- Coat, vest, and tie are to be worn at all times unless specified by the director
- ☐ The shirt is buttoned and tucked in pants upon arrival
- ☐ The tie is on and clasped upon arrival

DRESS Uniform:

- Closed toe, black flats are worn upon arrival to warm ups no exceptions
- □ No earrings that dangle or necklaces/bracelets of any kind are to be worn w/uniform.
- ☐ Hair will be worn off the face, half-up, no distracting head apparel (bobby pins OK)

Informal Performance Dress Code:

The director may instruct students on a specific "look" for more informal performance events, auditions, and/or solo/ensemble contests. It is the responsibility of the students to adhere to the dress code that the director provides. The director reserves the right to not allow a student to perform if he or she is not dressed according to the informal performance dress code discussed prior to the event.

For example, a specific color scheme may be used to coincide with informal performance events to include school-spirit colors or "black-out" in which students will wear all black.

Choir T-Shirts/apparel are available for purchase.

PHYSICAL FITNESS

Singing is a very vigorous activity that requires a minimum level of physical fitness in order to be successful. Throughout the year, the choir will participate in activity-appropriate physical training to help prepare their bodies for the physical aspects of singing. Students may be asked to execute breathing, stretching, strength and cardio-building exercises, to include yoga and are expected to participate. Any students with medical restrictions should inform the director.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography/Video images may be publically used throughout the year to document, promote and celebrate the FHS Choir Department in print publications, online publications, presentations, websites, and/or social media. By signing this handbook, choir student's and their families understand that no royalty, fee or other compensation shall become payable by reason of such use. Photos may be shared/viewed throughout the year via google drive. Please inform the director of any restrictions.

CHOIR HANDBOOK AGREEMENT

IHIGH SCHOOL CHOIR E support the decisions influence on those are	DEPARTMENT Ha of my directo	ndbook.	es, I will do	my best	to adhe	re to the	m and
Student Signature	Date						
Parent Signature	 Date						

PARENT/STUDENT COPY- Keep for reference

CHOIR HANDBOOK AGREEMENT

	have read and understand the policies and procedures EPARTMENT Handbook. At all times, I will do my best to adhere of my directors. I am prepared to give 100% at all times and vound me.	to them and
Student Signature	Date	
Parent Signature	 Date	

DIRECTOR'S COPY- Due AUGUST 31, 2018 to Choir Director