

*Desert Oasis High School
Choral Department*



Mr. Michael Polutnik, Director of Choirs

2025-2026 Choir Handbook

Desert Oasis HS Choirs

On behalf of our administration and myself, I gladly welcome you to the Desert Oasis High School Choral Music Program. You are now a very important member of what continues to be recognized as one of the finest high school choirs in the state of Nevada. Your decision to participate in the Desert Oasis High School Choir represents the opening of a door to tremendous opportunity. We are incredibly fortunate to be in a school district that has a tradition of outstanding choirs and to have a school administration that values and supports this type of study. Please recognize the value of this opportunity and make the most of it.

The Choral Program at Desert Oasis High School offers a unique educational experience in which you may gain not only musical skills and a lifelong appreciation of music, but discipline, self-confidence and a sense of accomplishment by working with others toward a common goal of “Commitment to Excellence”. As a member of the DOHS Choir you are expected to be a credit to your choir, your school, and your community. Because we are “Committed to Excellence” we must have a common high standard. The purpose of this handbook is to define that standard.

In our first eighteen years of existence, our choral department has established an outstanding reputation in Nevada, as well as around the United States. As members of the department, it should be our goal to continue building that reputation. We can be as outstanding as we want to be; it all depends on you. Superior music groups are a result of many hours of hard work as well as a strong dedication and commitment from each member.

This handbook is a guideline to make your experience in choir as productive and enjoyable as possible. The rules it contains have been developed over many years of experience and refinement. All of the rules are meant to serve one purpose: to promote the learning and development of the choir members. I am looking forward to working with each one of you. Your talent and hard work can make this year at Desert Oasis very exciting, fun-filled, and musically rewarding for all of us.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Polutnik
Choral Director
Desert Oasis High School
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A Few Words About Choir Citizenship.....

You will quickly realize that the students with whom I work mean a great deal to me. You can count on me as a source of support in all your efforts -- a champion of your cause in applying yourselves in an industrious manner toward becoming all that you can be. I always set very large goals for us; I have big dreams of what the Desert Oasis High School Choirs can do now and in the distant future. But my greatest goal is your growth and betterment. If you take me in earnest, I can promise you opportunities for great musical growth and even growth in areas where we need it most to survive successfully in life.

That which we choose to do, we will want to do to the best of our ability. To that end I commit my full energy. I will give you my very best each and every day. From you I expect the same. As we continue to support each other, giving each other our best effort, no one could dare set a limit to our combined potential!!!

I know you are very busy; I also know that the busiest students are the best students. Do not suppose that I will spend my time dreaming up things to add to your schedule. But there will be difficult "time crunches" when you will have very heavy expectations coming at you from all angles. I challenge you to be disciplined, organized people who can plan and prepare for those difficult times. I expect you to be healthy, using wisdom in eating, exercise, and rest. I expect you to appear and conduct yourself in the manner appropriate of those who often represent the ideals of Desert Oasis High School. Remember, the success of our group rests upon your individual self-discipline.

Lastly, please, always be up front with me. When you have criticisms or questions, avoid agonizing over such problems with others, especially other choir members - this only compounds the problem. Bring such criticisms or questions straight to my attention so something concrete can be done as quickly as possible. You will find that I approach rehearsal in a very strong, certain manner -- simply because I desire to use our time as wisely as possible. But never conclude that I am closed to your ideas, suggestions, criticisms, or needs. When given in the right spirit and at the right time, we will all be able to accept and appreciate help from other singers.

Here's to the best year of music and fellowship yet!

~ Mr. Polutnik

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General Information

Description

The Desert Oasis High School Choir Department offers courses with the goal of helping the student become the creator of music both through performance and active classroom participation. All grade levels are eligible for membership through auditions and/or with the approval of the director.

The choir department takes great pride in the academic achievements of our members. We support and encourage all students to maintain their grades. You will find a cross-section of the school in the choir department. Our members represent all athletic groups, cheerleaders, forensics, dancers, theater students, instrumental music students, student council, and various clubs. The diversity of our members makes this a special and unique group. We encourage our students to be involved in many activities and to maintain regular, proactive communication with all sponsors and directors.

Choir Mission

Our mission is to develop a musical community. Before we can attain harmony, balance, and blend within our music, we must establish it with each other. To build and strengthen our musical performances, we have to build and strengthen our personal relationships within the group. We must create a safe atmosphere that encourages risk, growth, persistence, and a focus on excellence.

Purpose

- To serve the school and community through quality concert performances.
- To encourage an appreciation for music as an art form.
- To promote and encourage school spirit and pride.
- To encourage and develop leadership qualities.
- To assist students in gaining an appreciation of all forms and styles of music.
- To help students gain a respect for great performers and performances and discover the demands that quality music performance places on the individual student.
- To cultivate interpersonal skills and help to build self-esteem and confidence.

Choir Department Goals/Objectives

- To develop performance confidence, poise and etiquette.
- To develop ensemble skills including blend, balance, group intonation, rhythmic precision, and vocal technique.
- To learn to read and use the language of musical notation.
- To teach a high degree of music reading encompassing correct pitch, rhythm, tempo, and dynamics.
- To experience a wide variety of vocal literature.
- To develop the ability to comprehend and foster high-level thinking skills.
- To learn the art of teamwork and cooperation.
- To develop individual responsibility, group and individual respect, and a commitment to our musical family.

Code of Conduct

This code of conduct exists to help each and every student be successful in growing and maturing as a human being, as a musician and singer, and to give each student the chance to have the best musical experience and education possible.

- All persons in the class will address each other with professionalism and respect.
- The words “please”, “thank you”, and “you’re welcome” should be used at every opportunity. No matter how directly, forcefully, or critically you must speak, respect and politeness are the rules for communication.
- Full and enthusiastic participation is expected from everyone for the entire rehearsal, including board work and warm-ups.
- Excellent self-discipline and order is expected at ALL times. In choir we are learning in a large group setting. Self-discipline and unselfish consideration for the group is the way choir members can reach their potential as individuals and as a group.
- We will behave in a **CON**structive manner, rather than a **DE**structive one. All actions that build up other members of the choir and help us reach our goals together will be strongly encouraged. Any behavior that “tears down” choir members, distracts from the musical or educational task at hand, or does not demonstrate an appropriate, very high level or focus, will be discouraged.
- Our classroom and all of the items it houses will be treated with the utmost care and respect. Students should not move, change or in any way disturb any classroom items unless specifically directed to do so. The piano(s) may only be played when Mr. Polutnik grants specific permission.
- Membership in choir is truly a privilege. Each member must take the responsibility to be positive and be interested in working hard for the betterment of the entire ensemble. Students who, by their actions, display that they are not interested in putting forth such effort jeopardize both their grade and their membership in choir.

Classroom Procedures and Expectations

Choir is a Community and Family, not just a class

There is a bond that occurs between people who sing together that is different from any other. When you become a choir member at DOHS, you not only receive outstanding opportunities for making music. You also become part of a large family of people who are committed to supporting one another. It is crucial that you, as a member of this community show respect for others, making sure everyone feels welcome and safe as a part of the group.

Commitment to Excellence

Our concerts and performances can only be as good as our rehearsals. The key to a successful rehearsal is hard work! Attaining group excellence depends upon focused, diligent efforts of each member each day in each rehearsal. It is no coincidence that students who give their all are among the most accomplished and most respected musicians in their respective choirs. *Every student has to be committed to giving their best effort in all aspects of rehearsals for the choirs to be successful.* The reward for this hard work is an experience unlike any other in high school – fun, excitement, the chance to be a part of a very successful group, team-working skills, self-discipline and a lifelong passion for music and life.

General Expectations

- Be on time to class.
- Be in your seat with all materials when the bell rings. (music, pencil, folder).
- NO cell phones/ear buds. Respectful and appropriate use only – unless used for instructional purposes. **Cell phones will be checked in your Choir folder slot every day. Refusal to do so is insubordination and a discipline referral will be made.**
- Check the DOHS Choir website for calendar, vocabulary, and announcements.
- **No food, candy, drinks, or gum allowed on the risers. Exception: WATER.**
- Bathroom trips should take place during passing time. Please plan accordingly. **No restroom during the first and last 10 minutes of class. This is SCHOOL POLICY.**
- If you are sick (laryngitis) and cannot participate in rehearsal, let Mr. Polutnik know before class begins. Fill out a “**Rehearsal Observation Google Form**” to receive your daily rehearsal skills points. Failure to do so by the end of the period, will result in a 0/10 points for the daily formative assessment..
- Please remain in your assigned seat during rehearsals unless otherwise instructed by Mr.P
- Singers are responsible for the care of the choir room. Clean up after yourself!!!
- **STAY INFORMED** by updating your personal calendar! Check the Choir Website Calendar AND follow us on Instagram, Facebook @dohschoirs for reminders. Listen and read all communications about upcoming events/concerts. If you are unsure of something ... ASK! The more involved you are, the more fun Choir can become.

Rehearsal Basics

- Follow directions the first time they are given.
- LISTEN (to the music, to the director, to each other).
- Speak and act with respect, kindness, and compassion.
- Exhibit positive energy and rehearse with maximum effort.
- Exercise self-control and self-discipline.
- Work together. This is about US, not about ME.
- Be open to the unfamiliar.
- Celebrate success and accomplishment.

Hallway & Practice Rooms

Use of the practice rooms is a privilege. Only students enrolled in a performing art at Desert Oasis High School may use a practice room. All rooms in the performing arts hallway are to be locked when not in use. **It is your responsibility to not eat or drink anything other than water in the performing arts hallway and practice rooms.** Disregarding the rules will result in everyone's loss of use of practice rooms for two weeks or longer and a detention. Please respect other classes in the hallway by choosing to not use disruptive behaviors. Do not loiter in the performing arts hallway. Eating lunch in the hallway is also not permitted.

*The best disciplinarian in the choir is NOT the director,
but each choir member who wants the choir to be the best it can be.*

Tardies

When students are tardy, they disrupt the class and interrupt the learning process.

Classes/rehearsals are scheduled at a specific time and it is expected that students be punctual. Students are considered tardy if BOTH FEET are not physically in the choir classroom at the time the tardy bell rings. Excessive tardies (3 in a quarter, which also lowers your citizenship grade) or tardiness on the day of a performance may result in forfeiture of the performance, based on the decision made by the director. This decision will be based on attitude, discipline and attendance.

TARDY POLICY/PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PLAN

1. 1st offense: Warning, Reteach Expectation
2. 2nd offense: Teacher Phone Call to Parent
3. 3rd offense: Administrator Phone Call to Parent; Counselor Referral
4. 4th offense: Referral for Insubordination; In-House (next school day)
5. 5th offense: Required Parent Conference (RPC)

CLASSROOM PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PLAN

1. Verbal Warning/Reteaching Expectations
2. Parent Contact
3. Counselor and/or Social Worker Referral; Parent Contact.
4. Referral to House Administrator; Parent Contact. Loss of performance opportunity, possible removal from the DOHS Choir program.

****If a student causes a major problem or blatantly breaks school rules, he/she will be sent directly to the House Administrator with a referral. Examples: Fighting, Insubordination, Stealing, Property Damage.****

Hall Passes

Students are to remain in the classroom at all times unless permission has been granted to leave. Written passes are obtained from Mr. Polutnik Any abuse in the privilege may result in the denial of a pass. No student is to be out of the room at any time without the director's knowledge. **Passes (INCLUDING RESTROOM) WILL NOT be issued during the first 10 minutes or last 10 minutes of class unless in cases of emergency. SCHOOL POLICY.**

Restroom

Just like hall passes ... you may use the restroom only AFTER the first 10 minutes and BEFORE the last 10 minutes of class without asking permission. If it is an emergency ... PLEASE ASK or just exit the room immediately and let someone know where you are. I do not waste class time policing the restroom use ... unless it becomes a problem. If you have to go ... you have to go. I just ask that you please wait for a time in between songs or activities if at all possible to exit the room respectfully and quietly. Please remember to sign out using MINGA, AND on the clipboard, and take the bathroom pass. Cell phones MAY NOT be taken with you. Please remember to sign back in on the clipboard. Failure or refusal to follow these expectations will result in a parent conference/discipline referral and/or having to be escorted by a campus monitor to use the restroom in the future.

Student Grading & Assessment

Choir seldom requires “traditional” homework or written assignments as in other classes; however, you are responsible for **practicing your music at least 15 minutes each evening**. Grade evaluation in the DOHS Choirs is determined on the positive progress and eventual mastery of rehearsal and performance skills. These skills are based on the National, State and CCSD Music Standards.

Each day, every student makes a choice about how they will contribute and excel at ensemble rehearsal and performance skills during each class/rehearsal or performance. Students will receive a formative grade based on the rehearsal skills rubric weekly. **Please see the rehearsal skills and performance skills rubrics below and on the Choir Website on how students are graded.**

The effort you put forth in this class is very important. If students choose to act inappropriately in class, are constantly tardy, or do not follow the class rules this will affect their quarterly citizenship grade.

Each day, every student makes a choice about how he/she will conduct himself/herself and how he/she will behave during the class/rehearsal or performance. **The student must accept the consequences of his/her choices and behavior.** The superior choral music student will demonstrate:

- Positive contribution to class sessions and concert performances
- Consistent and punctual attendance
- Interest in the content of the class
- Qualities of leadership within the section and choir
- Attentiveness, a conscientious attitude and a sincere concern for others
- A willingness to grow musically and personally
- Respect for class materials and equipment
- Exemplary musicianship and vocal skill
- A desire to work hard to meet the National, State and CCSD Music Standards

Students will be graded on a 0-100 point scale, with the following grade equivalents:

90-100%	=	A	Consistently Exceeds Standards
80-89%	=	B	Consistently Meets Standards
70-79%	=	C	Approaching Standards
60-69%	=	D	Emergent
50-59%	=	F	Does Not Meet Standards

In order to demonstrate sufficient evidence of proficiency, a student will be required to make arrangements with the teacher to make up any assessments missed due to an absence. Failure to complete required assessments may result in a lower grade or a failing grade due to a lack of evidence. Grades will be weighted as follows:

Formative Assessments (20%)

Daily Rehearsal Skills assessment (based on the Rehearsal Skills Assessment Rubric), Classwork and Homework -

Summative Assessments (80%)

All Performances (based on Performance Skills Assessment Rubric), Out of Class Rehearsals, Digital and In Class Voice Tests, Vocabulary/Melody/Rhythm/Sight Reading Assessments

According to CCSD regulation 5121, "Semester exams shall be comprehensive of the material covered during the semester and may be worth up to, but not exceed, 20% of the student's final semester grade. Final semester grades reflect assignments and assessments completed throughout the semester and the final exam grade." Semester grades will be calculated as follows:

Quarter 1/2	=	40%
Quarter 3/4	=	40%
Semester Exam	=	20%
Semester Grade	=	100%

Canvas Studio Vocal Assessments

The DOHS Choir Department uses Canvas Studio for all Vocal Assessments. It is a wonderful tool to track the progress of our singers individually. **Students in ALL CHOIRS will be required to receive an 85% or above on all vocal assessments to be eligible to perform in our concerts, festivals, and performances out of state.** These assessments will help our choir students to continue to grow as musicians and encourage them to put in the practice time that is needed to continue our tradition of "Commitment to Excellence". Grades will be posted on Infinite Campus within one week of the test. Students will only be tested on the music that we have learned and practiced in class daily. Please review the Schoolwide Summative Reassessment policy below.

REASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

- If a student wishes to retake a summative assessment, a reassessment reflection must be submitted AND completed to the teacher within 5 school days of the original grade being posted.
- Teachers *may* require that students complete and pass 75% of formative assessments before a student retakes a summative assessment.
- For reassessments, a student's higher score will replace a lower one.
- Students are given at least one opportunity to reassess for each summative assessment. Subsequent reassessments are subject to teacher discretion.

- Summative assessment retakes must take place within 5 school days of the initial grade being posted.
- Reassessments must take place prior to the date posted on the Assignment Submission Deadline table (see table below).
- Reassessment accommodations in IEPs and/or Section 504 Plans supersede District reassessment guidelines.

Infinite Campus/Canvas

You may access your grade through Infinite Campus and Canvas. It is updated every Friday afternoon. It is the student's and parent's responsibility to keep informed of all grades. Please remember that grade passback from IC to Canvas can sometimes take up to 48 hours to reflect the correct grade in Canvas. Infinite Campus is the FINAL Gradebook, NOT Canvas.

Attendance, Extra Rehearsals, Performances

Attendance

Attendance is crucial for every choir member! Due to the nature of the course, when a student is absent he/she misses rehearsal and experiences that cannot be recreated. In addition, the entire choir suffers because that student was not in school to learn his/her part along with the rest of the choir. **In order for a student to be considered excused by Mr. Polutnik, a TWO WEEK written notification is required from the parent stating the reason for the absence.**

Extra Rehearsals

Many times the difference between a superior and a poor musical performance is determined by the amount of rehearsal time spent in preparation. Extra rehearsals allow for many things: individual and small group work, help from visiting clinicians, and more time for that "extra polishing." They are vital for any good performing organizations.

All extra rehearsals are required and they will not be scheduled unless absolutely necessary. You will always be notified of an extra rehearsal two weeks in advance in order to make arrangements to attend. **If students are late or have to leave early, they must clear it with Mr. Polutnik prior to the rehearsal. Excuses will be accepted for missing an extra rehearsal only if notification is received 24 hours prior to the rehearsal. The director will determine whether an absence is excused or unexcused. WORK/NOT HAVING A RIDE IS NOT AN EXCUSE TO MISS REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE.**

Any student who does not attend the mandatory after school rehearsal will not perform in pre-festival, festival or our out of state festival performance. In addition - if you do not perform in pre-festival you are not eligible to perform at festival or in our out of state festival performances, and will not be allowed to attend the Spring Choir trip.

Performances

Choir is a performance-based class. Performances are required and 90% of your grade. We work constantly to be prepared to perform. When performing, students receive a deeper appreciation of music and a greater feeling of unity from the organization and the people with whom they are involved.

There is no other way as a director to duplicate a performance for the student who is absent. There is no other means to make-up the unique thrill of performing, feeling the reaction from the audience, or the excitement of knowing the hard work in preparation for the performance was worthwhile.

Every member of the choir plays a vital role in the success of the entire organization. As a director, I cannot expect a total commitment from any one student without expecting the same amount of commitment from every member in the choir. Therefore, the following rules apply to performances:

- **ALL PERFORMANCES ARE REQUIRED! Including Out of Town Festivals/Performances**
- Students are **REQUIRED** to attend all performances for which a two- week notice is given. Work schedules **MUST BE ADJUSTED TO FIT THE PERFORMANCE SCHEDULES** as absences due to a student's job are considered to be unexcused.
- Grades for each performance will be based on the following:

Punctuality	Proper Dress	Following Instructions
Stay for entire concert	Positive Attitude	Exemplary Behavior
- Students will only be excused from a performance due to a personal illness, death in the family, or an emergency over which the student has no control. Students will not be excused because they do not have a ride.
- **Students will not be permitted to perform if they are absent on the day of a concert, as our dress rehearsal is during our class time on that day. NO EXCEPTIONS will be made. This is CCSD policy.**
- The director must be notified by a parent/guardian of an expected absence by email **14 days prior to the performance.** No exceptions will be made for failure to do so.
- The director will determine whether an absence from a performance is excused or unexcused. If excused, it is the students' responsibility to follow the reassessment guidelines. If unexcused, the student will not be given the privilege of making up the points lost due to his/her absence. No points will be taken away from any student who cannot attend a performance due to religious observations. However, **a two week notice still must be given to the director.**
- Students will perform **at the discretion of the director** based on attitude, g.p.a, discipline, adherence to rules, knowledge of music, excessive tardies and attendance.
- Students who do not attend mandatory **PERFORMANCES and REHEARSALS** will be subject to removal from the DOHS performing choirs.

Student Activity Conflicts

There are times when students simultaneously participate in an organized sport or performing group. Conflicts occasionally arise when practices and regularly scheduled events take place concurrently. Although every attempt will be made to keep such scheduling to a minimum, the following guidelines from the CCSD Student Handbook will be followed:

- When a practice or rehearsal and an event are scheduled simultaneously, the **EVENT** takes precedent.
- When a practice/rehearsal or concert/game are scheduled simultaneously, the students may SELECT the event in which she/he will participate. **He/She should make the decision, whenever possible, at least fourteen (14) days in advance. He/she should advise the coach or Mr. Polutnik immediately.**
- **Under NO circumstance** will the student be penalized for his/her decision from either the coach or teacher; that is, class grades are not to be lowered or unreasonable make-up work required, **the student will not be benched**, nor will the student's ability to earn a letter be impaired because of the decision. **THIS IS CCSD POLICY. ALL COACHES/TEACHERS/STAFF MUST FOLLOW THIS POLICY.**

****Athletes** - It is YOUR responsibility to check your practice and game schedule with the choir calendar on the choir website as soon as you receive the schedule from the coach - this way we can try to work the conflicts out early**

Concert Attire/Uniform Rental Fee

Our choir has a reputation of looking very professional. In order for us to look this way, we must all wear the same outfits. All concert attire must be wrinkle - free and in tip-top condition for **ALL** performances. Students wearing dirty or wrinkled uniforms, as well as incomplete uniforms (missing tie, wrong shoes, white socks etc.), may lose the privilege to perform and the students grade will be lowered to an 80% for that performance. Uniforms are the property of the Desert Oasis High School Choral Music Department and must be returned in a timely manner.

Women of Chamber Singer, Concert Choir & Bella Voce:

The DOHS women in Chamber Singers, Chamber Women, Concert Choir, and Bella Voce wear formal gowns. All gowns are made by a reputable company and are rented through the choral department. The \$30 uniform rental fee covers initial alterations and dry cleaning at the end of the year. The women will also need **closed-toe, black, low heeled shoes. No jewelry or colored hair accessories are to be worn. Hair MUST be pulled and pinned back off the face.** You are responsible for keeping it in good condition. At the end of each year, you must return your gown in good condition or a fine will be placed with the school banker in the amount of \$150.00 for the cost of the dress.

Men of Chamber Singers, Concert Choir, and Varsity Men's Choir:

The DOHS men in Chamber Singers, Concert Choir, and Varsity Men's Choir wear full tuxedos. The \$30 uniform rental fee covers alterations and dry cleaning to the tuxedo. The tuxedos include: shirt, tie, vest, jacket, studs, and pants. At the end of each year, students need to turn in your tuxedo and all accessories or you will be fined \$250.00 for the cost of the tuxedo. You will be responsible for obtaining **BLACK DRESS SHOES (NO TENNIS SHOES) AND BLACK DRESS SOCKS** to be worn with the tuxedo. A limited number of tuxedo shoes are available as part of the package for an additional \$10.00.

*All formals are placed inside DOHS vinyl garment bags. A lost or damaged garment bag fine is \$25.00. This must be taken care of directly with the school banker.

Choir Course Fees \$40.00/Uniform Rental Fees \$30

Realistically, it takes a lot of money to have an effective and competitive choir program each year. The (\$40.00) will help with the costs of running our program. The money is used to pay accompanists, purchase new music, maintain/replace equipment, music technology, sound equipment, choir library maintenance, uniform maintenance (including dry cleaning) hire clinicians, pay festival fees, hire substitutes for when we travel, bus travel to and from local performance venues, purchase classroom supplies and other expenses. The course fee also covers the cost of the choir t-shirt. No uniforms/t-shirts will be given to a student without paying the course fee. **The choir course fee and uniform rental fee is due by Friday, August 29, 2025.**

** Online payments may be made on the DOHS School Webstore. [CLICK HERE.](#)

**Students will not be allowed to pay these fees during instructional time.

Students are to pay fees only during lunch and/or before/after school with the school banker.

Minimum G.P.A. and Attendance

Choir students are very visible in the school and must represent DOHS in a responsible fashion. It is imperative that you keep your grades up and attend **ALL** of your classes on a regular basis. There will be times that you will miss school due to performances and trips, if your grades are not up to par **OR** you have had too many absences, your teachers can keep you from these performances. As you are aware, if you are not at these performances you are jeopardizing the ensemble and our performance. Your grade will suffer if this situation occurs.

Therefore, the following rules will apply:

- **All choir students must maintain a minimum Grade Point Average of 2.0.** Report cards will be checked during class on report card day. Anyone without a 2.0 GPA will not be eligible to perform for the following quarter (this includes traveling) ***. **Parents will be informed of this situation by phone if it is within a few days of the performance/trip.** *** Anyone who is ineligible for 2 consecutive quarters may be subject to removal from the DOHS choirs.

- **Choir students may have no more than 8 overall absences a semester** (this is very generous). It is important that you attend all of your classes everyday - missing one class counts as a full day absence. Any choir student who has more than 8 absences from school in one semester will be ineligible for the following semester.

With Infinite Campus so readily available, there is no excuse not to know what your grades are and what is expected of each student. If report cards come out close (i.e. within days) of a performance or trip the above rules still apply and your trip fees will be forfeited.

Truant students from choir or other classes are ineligible to perform/travel.

Choir Tours and Travel

One of the most rewarding parts of being in a performing group is the opportunity to travel with that group in order to perform. This is a privilege and only students who exhibit proper execution of all classroom rules/expectations, attend all performances/rehearsals, are in good academic standing, and have the permission of the director may attend. All out of town trips are mandatory required performances for Chamber Singers, Chamber Women, Concert Choir, and Varsity Men's Choir. Students who do not attend the out of town trips for any reason will be given a make-up assignment and will be dismissed from the ensemble. Costs for each trip will be determined and announced in advance. The costs of the trips will depend on the availability of funds, location and duration of the trip, and other factors.

Once a deposit has been made, no refunds (on any portion of the trip) will be given, and you are responsible for the total amount of the trip payment. *** We often travel with a tour company and cannot get the money refunded due to the contracts that I have to sign. A complete schedule and trip guidelines for each trip will be issued to each student and parent in advance. Students will be required to follow all trip rules as stated in the trip guidelines. Any infraction of the rules will be dealt with on an individual basis. All payments for travel must be made online at the DOHS web store.

*****Please understand that if you do not travel due to GPA/grade requirements, attendance, behavior violations, theft, or any act within the control of the student, no refunds on any portion of the trip will be given and you will still be responsible for the total amount of the trip payment.*****

Please be aware of the following travel guidelines:

- You will be required to sign rule sheets for each trip to make sure you are aware of all of the travel expectations. These will be provided with the itinerary.
- There will be one (1) chaperone for every 15 students traveling on the trip.
- Room and bus assignments will be selected by Mr. Polutnik if needed.
- No smoking (including vapor cigarettes) or drinking of alcoholic beverages will be tolerated at any time at any function. Violators will be dealt with severely and in accordance to CCSD and DOHS policies.
- Only exemplary conduct will be accepted from the members of any Desert Oasis Choir performing ensemble. Members must be on their best behavior at all times. This includes conduct on the buses, in hotels, in restaurants, at other schools, and in all group appearances.

Fundraising for Travel

Students are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to raise money to help pay expenses for choir travel. We offer many off campus opportunities throughout the year. This SHOULD NOT be the responsibility of the parent. The money raised by the student is placed aside in our Choir account for the student to use for future trip payments. The money is not transferable to any other Desert Oasis High School account or activities. Because we are a non-profit organization, money used by students cannot be refunded to them when they leave the choral program.

MONIES EARNED ONLY APPLY TO THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR - THEY DO NOT "ROLL OVER" INTO THE NEXT YEAR. Any lost, stolen or damaged materials are the responsibility of the student, and will be charged with the school banker accordingly.
STUDENTS MAY BE CHARGED A FEE FOR LATE PAYMENTS ON FUNDRAISERS AND/OR TRIP PAYMENTS.

****All proceeds from fundraisers must be turned in two weeks following the initial start of the fundraiser. If monies are not turned in within this time frame, all profit will go to the DOHS Choir Program and it will result in a fine.**

Music Room Responsibilities

Music is a part of the choir equipment owned by the school and careful handling of it will extend its usefulness. Music should be kept in your choir folder when not in use. Do not use pen to mark your music – PENCIL ONLY!! Each time music is passed out, your music number will be recorded on an inventory sheet. If your music and/or folder is not returned in good condition, you will be fined for the amount of the music. You are responsible for keeping your folder in good shape. You are also responsible for returning it to the assigned spot at the end of class. ****All music must be returned to the DO Choir within 1 week following the concert for which it was used. After 1 week, you will be charged a fine for the music regardless of whether you turn it in or not. This will assist with keeping our choral library in good shape.**

Senior Cords & Four Year Choir Medallion

Senior cords will be awarded to every Senior who has been in the DOHS Choirs for at least one full year. A four year choir medallion will be awarded to FOUR YEAR senior choir members who have been upstanding members of the choir department *during their tenure at Desert Oasis HS*. This includes students who transfer from other HS in and out of our district. Recipients of the medallion will be determined by the director. The senior cords and medallions will be awarded at the Choir Banquet in May and are to be worn at graduation.

*****Upstanding members – attend all concerts, no behavior infractions, and no action on their part that will bring disgrace to the DOHS Choral Program.**

Requirements to Letter in Vocal Music

Students will be awarded letters based on an accumulation of points; a minimum of **20 points** must be earned. Students can letter in choir each year they are in the program but the points are awarded yearly. POINTS ACCUMULATE OVER ONE YEAR. THEY DO NOT “ROLL OVER” INTO THE NEXT YEAR. It is the responsibility of the student to keep track of his/her individual point totals. A form will be made available to students at the end of the year to apply for a letter. **IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A LETTER, STUDENTS MUST HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED CHOIR WITH A GRADE OF A “B” OR HIGHER (SEMESTER GRADE AVERAGE).**

Points are awarded on the following basis:

3 points Participation in Cantare, Men’s Choir, Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, Chamber Women, Bella Voce, or A Cappella with a grade of “B” or higher every quarter.

4 points Serve on Choir Council for the full school year.

4 points Taking private lessons for the given school year. Students must take regularly scheduled weekly lessons for a **minimum of one year** to qualify for these points, and must provide written proof from the instructor.

3 points Audition for the CCSD Honor Choir

6 points Successfully complete the CCSD Honor Choir

3 points Audition for the Nevada ACDA All-State Choir

6 points Successfully complete Nevada ACDA All-State Choir

3 points Participation in the Pop Concert/Talent Show. (A Cappella class excluded).

Private Voice Lessons

Every attempt is being made to find competent vocal coaches for each choir member who shows interest in taking private voice lessons. Individual voice lessons should be an integral part of every serious choir student's curriculum. A list of instructors will be made available to students within the first month of the school year, lesson prices will vary. If a student is serious about his/her training, he/she should plan a minimum of three hours of weekly practice time for each weekly lesson received. If a student is planning on auditioning for college scholarships (you can still receive \$\$\$ even if you do not major in music – singing can help you pay for college), you should seriously consider taking private lessons.

Extra-Curricular Choral Groups/Activities

DOHS Choir students will have the opportunity to perform in various extra-curricular choral ensembles throughout the school year. ACDA Honor Choir, Sing Out! Tenor/Bass Choir Festival, CCSD Honor Choir, Nevada ACDA All-State Choir, & Acapalooza are just a few.

All students who engage in these extra-curricular choral activities will be held to the same rules and standards that are expected of DOHS Choir students in our curricular choirs. This includes all of the aspects discussed in this handbook. Students who fail to follow the rules, G.P.A. requirements, or represent the DOHS Choir Department in nothing but an exemplary manner will be removed from these events.

*"unless you try to do something beyond what you
have already mastered, you will never grow."*

Achieving Musicianship

The Importance of Attitude

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any individual is attitude. Students should keep a positive attitude toward reaching high expectations all the time. It takes dedication to reach goals and a positive attitude makes achieving goals enjoyable. The "right attitude" must be present with sincerity, concentration, and dedication as the foundation.

Approach each new musical piece the same way: What can I make out of this? What is the music trying to say? Am I giving every last effort to make my part contribute to the whole sound of the ensemble? This shows a positive attitude.

Music is an academic discipline, but it is not something that only a few especially gifted can appreciate. Music is not something that is mysterious and difficult to understand, though it is a complicated science. It is demanding, and only by great effort and study can you really be rewarded as a performer. By keeping our expectations high, we can challenge the boundaries of our limited perception and really appreciate the beauties of life.

Analyze your own attitude and try to develop more positivity. You who are in musical ensembles are a favored few. Choir can do much for you. Make the most of it in every rehearsal and in every performance. Make each rehearsal like a concert.

The Importance of Discipline

Because of the nature of the organization, choir discipline must be strict. Choir students and parents must be willing to accept the ideals, principles, and rules of the organization.

Because musicians are constantly on display, each must continually be aware of the importance of good behavior. The student should remember that he/she represents his/her organization, school, and community whenever he/she performs or appears publicly. Any misconduct casts a direct reflection on our school and community and may well undo the work of hundreds of loyal students.

A good musical ensemble is built on discipline and discipline must be evident in every aspect of the program. The self-discipline needed to practice diligently whether individually or as a group is vital to the program. Rehearsals must also be disciplined. With discipline comes attainment of things worth-while.

"There must be individual achievement if there is to be achievement in our musical ensembles. The progress of each student will reflect in the performances of the organizations in which he/she performs, and in turn will act as his/her benefactors in providing him/her with an outlet for his/her expressive talent and a basis for furtherance of his/her appreciation "

--Mark Hindsley

Six Rules for Choral Success

1. **It's more fun to be good.** Participating in choir is a fun, life – long activity. We are here to have as much fun as possible. It will be more fun for all of us and our audiences if we are good at what we do.

2. **Attitude is everything.** No matter what our talent, intelligence or experience level, if we do not bring a positive attitude through the door, then we bring nothing.

3. **Never be afraid to fail.** The only way to fail in choir is to not try. If we all try, the guarantee is that we will do fine. What we do is HARD. It is hard to take a chance and sing in front of others. It is hard to show true inner feelings. It is hard to possibly make a mistake in front of others. We will only get better and more secure when we take a chance. GO FOR IT!!!

4. **Communicate, Communicate, Communicate!!!** There is no way we can all know what everyone's thinking, feeling and going through each day. Expect to be pushed everyday to be our best. If we cannot be our best for some extenuating circumstance, COMMUNICATE!

5. **Be there and be on time.** To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, to be late is unacceptable. To be late is selfish and the essence of an ensemble is teamwork, not self. Do not make the entire choir repeat something because of lateness or unpreparedness.

6. **Support each other.** The only way for us to be not afraid to fail is if we support each other when we try. There is no place in choir for those who are non – supportive of others. Treat others as you would be treated. Kindness matters.

"Teamwork is a challenge. It means coordinating our efforts with those of others, not solely for personal glory, but for team achievement." -Eph Ehly

"Leaders are not born. They are made. They are made just like anything else...through hard work. That's the price we have to pay to achieve that goal or any goal." - Vince Lombardi