

**Shippensburg Area Senior High School
Choral Music Department**

2017-2018 Choir Handbook



**Mrs. Jennifer Deibler
Choral Director**

Introduction

Hello Choral Members and Parents,

Welcome to the 2017-2018 season of the Shippensburg Area Senior High School Chorus! Inside are policies, important dates and times, and tips to help you make the most out of your scholastic choral career. I encourage you to read this thoroughly, as some information has changed since last year and some information is brand new altogether. With some new vocal opportunities and experiences available for Shippensburg students and some excellent repertoire to be sung, I have high expectations for all the choral groups and am excited to begin this year's journey. I look forward to seeing everyone at the concerts!

Musically yours,

Mrs. Jennifer Deibler

Jennifer.Deibler@ship.k12.pa.us

HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS EXPECTATIONS

TARDINESS/LEAVING THE CLASSROOM:

- A. Each student is expected to be in the auditorium by 7:25 when the start of school bell rings.
- B. If you arrive late (after 7:25 bell), the student must sign in at the main office and obtain a pass to class. (as stated in the student handbook)
- C. Tardiness due to going to the bathroom, getting materials from your locker, getting food from the cafeteria, etc. are considered **unexcused!** You will automatically be marked as tardy and asked to obtain a late pass.
- D. Regarding bathroom, nurse, locker, office, etc.:
 - a. No student may leave the classroom without signing out and only if you have permission from Mrs. Deibler. Students must take a pass to leave the classroom. One student at a time may use each pass (two students may not use the same pass).
 - b. In the event you are going to be sick, please tell the person next to you and leave to take care of yourself at the nearest restroom.

GUM/FOOD/DRINKS:

- A. **NO GUM, FOOD, OR DRINKS** (except clear water bottles) will be allowed in the auditorium. (as stated in the student handbook)
- B. Students wishing to eat breakfast may do so within the first five minutes of the block (7:25-7:30) in the hallway. Students should sign out to eat breakfast, but do not need to take a pass with them.
- C. Students with gum, candy, or other food during rehearsal will first receive a warning. Any student who repeatedly eats gum, candy, or other food in the auditorium will be written up for an office referral.

CELL PHONES:

- A. Cell phones are prohibited during rehearsal without express permission from Mrs. Deibler.
- B. Any student using a cell phone during rehearsal for any reason will first receive a warning.

CLASS BEHAVIOR/REHEARSALS:

- A. Be prepared for rehearsal with your folder, music, and a sharpened pencil.
- B. Students are expected to participate throughout the duration of rehearsal. (see rubric)
- C. Be respectful and courteous to your fellow chorus members and the teacher.
- D. This chorus needs students who are driven, ambitious, and curious. This chorus does not need students who are quitters or lazy. This is not social hour.
- E. Soft talking or whispering is allowed when other sections are rehearsing their parts. Students may work on other homework during class/rehearsal time only when Mrs. Deibler is not working with them or their voice part. If unwanted behavior (loud talking and distractions) become a problem after a warning and/or movement of location, etc., the student will be written up for an office referral.
- F. No obscene or offensive language will be tolerated.
- G. No rough horseplay, bullying, or fighting is allowed. If any of these actions take place, that student will be sent to the office immediately.
- H. Remember, the actions you do today may affect you and those around you for a long time. Please choose to do the right thing.
- I. Come with an open mind, expecting to be challenged to be your best. Ask questions! Never settle for “just okay,” demand more of yourself each and every day!

PRACTICE:

- A. Each student is required to complete a practice chart as stated below. Practice charts are included in the student’s choral folder. If the practice chart is lost, replacement practice charts can be found at: <http://sasdmusicdepartment.weebly.com/>
 - a. Spring Semester:
 - i. February: Wednesday, February 28, 2017
 - ii. March: Wednesday, March 28, 2017
 - iii. April: Thursday, April 26, 2017
- B. Practice charts given to Mrs. Deibler after the date listed above will be counted as late and will lose points.
- C. **Practice!** If you need help, ask. Don’t be surprised when singing tests roll around. Use the resources that are available to you to always be getting better as a singer and musician.

CHORUS FOLDER & MUSIC:

- A. Each student is responsible for the upkeep and whereabouts of their folder and music.
- B. Students should bring their music with them to EVERY rehearsal. Do not ask to go to your locker to get your music. Bring it with you!
- C. Your music is your responsibility. Any music that is lost or damaged, no matter the reason, must be either found/returned, or paid for by the student that lost it. Any student who does not turn in music or pay for lost music will be added to the obligation list at the high school office.

SINGING TESTS:

- A. With choir being a performing arts class, the student's ability to sing and read the assigned repertoire is a critical part of their grade. Consistent, age-appropriate improvement is the most important component to their success in rehearsal and in their singing tests.
- B. Singing tests help to objectively analyze the student's strengths and areas for improvement while also providing the student with experience in performing in an individual format. Material for the singing test will include excerpts from our concert repertoire. The specific singing test material will be announced at least two weeks in advance of the test. All students should therefore be adequately prepared for their singing test.
- C. Along with the test material, test dates will be announced at least two weeks prior to the start of the tests.
- D. Singing tests will be given in small groups of two or three. (see rubric)
- E. If a student is absent from chorus for any reason on the day the singing test is given the student should make up the singing test on the next day they are in chorus.

CONCERTS/PERFORMANCES:

- A. 2017-2018 School Year Choral Concert Dates:
 - a. Spring Semester: Thursday, May 10, 2018, at 7:00pm in the High School Auditorium (report time 6:15pm)
- B. As outlined in the course description, student **attendance at all concerts is mandatory** and is a significant portion of the student's grade. In the event of an extreme circumstance, please communicate with the director, prior to the concert if possible. Work, no transportation, doctor appointment, family vacation, etc., are **unexcused absences**. Please plan ahead to block off these dates and communicate with the director of any foreseen dilemmas.
- C. Concert attire: If you do not have the required attire, take the time to get it now instead of rushing out for it right before the concert! If attire is "questionable", ask ahead! Better yet, wear something else!
 - a. Women – white blouse and black skirt (at least knee-length), black dress (at least knee-length) or white blouse and black dress pants. Covered shoulders, no spaghetti straps, no bare-midriffs, no revealing clothing. Dress shoes, no flip flops.
 - b. Men – white collared, button-down dress shirt (needs to be tucked in) and black dress pants, dress socks and shoes

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

- A. County Chorus: held in the fall each year with a concert in November, consists of selected members from the 13 schools in Cumberland County, intense practice and dedication necessary, see Mrs. Deibler if interested
- B. District Chorus: auditions held in the fall each year, students from District 7 include the following 8 counties in south central PA: Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, and York Counties, the top 25 students in each voice part participate in District Chorus, intense practice and dedication necessary, see Mrs. Deibler if interested
- C. Regional Chorus: the top 12 students at District Chorus Auditions participate in Region V Chorus, intense practice and dedication necessary, see Mrs. Deibler if interested
- D. State Chorus: the top 5 students at Regional Chorus Auditions participate in State Chorus, intense practice and dedication necessary, see Mrs. Deibler if interested
- E. Sharps: Shippensburg's select mixed choral ensemble; auditions held at the end of the year for the next year's ensemble; auditions held Tuesday, May 22, 2018.

PRIVATE VOICE TEACHERS: Private, weekly instruction is absolutely the best and fastest way to personally advance as a vocal student. Private teachers are a valuable asset to any student who wants to take their game "to the next level", or "step it up a notch". Please see me if interested, I'd be glad to help!

Shippensburg's Music Department Website: <http://sasdmusicdepartment.weebly.com/>

SASHS Choral Contract & Information

****PLEASE COMPLETE & RETURN to Mrs. Deibler by Monday, January 22nd, 2018****

To Parents/Guardians:

Please read the Chorus Handbook, sign this page, and have your son/daughter return this page to Mrs. Deibler by Monday, January 22, 2018. This page is worth 25 points of your child's grade.

I have read the Shippensburg Area Senior High School Chorus Handbook, and I understand the responsibilities and commitment required by the choral department. I agree to encourage my son/daughter to abide by the rules set forth in the chorus handbook, to participate daily in class, to be respectful of Mrs. Deibler and the other chorus members, to turn in any homework assignments or money in a timely manner, and to be at performances on time and in appropriate performance attire.

I agree to support the Shippensburg Area Senior High School Chorus and Mrs. Deibler in a positive way:

I (the student) agree to adhere to all of the policies as stated in the Handbook.

Student Name (print) _____

Student Signature _____

I (the parent) have contacted or will contact Mrs. Deibler with any questions or concerns regarding the Handbook, my student, or the SASHS Choral Program.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Parent Guardian Phone # _____

Parent e-mail* _____