

Campus High School

Choral Department

2023-2024 Choral Handbook



Becky Riffie, Director

Campus High School

2100 W. 55th St. S., Wichita, KS 67217

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316.554.2236 ext. 1904

Dear Choral Parents and Students,

I am so glad that you have chosen to be part of the Campus High School choral program! I am very excited about the opportunities and experiences that await us this school year. Music is an integral part of education, and it awakens imagination and activates the body and mind. Throughout this semester, we will make music and learn to understand it and its impact in our lives. Additionally, as a member of a performance ensemble, students will learn and utilize skills that help them grow their understanding of the importance of professionalism, punctuality, and organization. I understand that for some of you, this is your first time singing in a choir. Rest assured that by the end of the semester (or year) you will not only be a better singer, but a better performer, music theorist, and musician. My primary goal for you is to not only accomplish these things, but to also have fun while doing them.

This handbook is provided as a resource to inform students about the procedures and requirements for being in choir. I encourage both students and parents to read this handbook to have a stronger understanding of the policies and expectations for each member of this program. For your convenience, this handbook will reside on the CHS Choirs website for easy access!

I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you. I am excited to see strong talents grow, to see new talents develop, and to help all of you feel more confident in your voice – a voice that is meant to be heard.

Parents- your support is crucial to the success and growth of this choral department! If you have an interest in volunteering to help at concerts, on field trips, or provide other support, please reach out to me via email at briffee@usd261.com. You are invited to join your student’s Google Classroom and the Remind app should you choose to receive notifications and have access to assignments, etc.

Block	Class Name	Remind	Google
1B	Men’s Choir	@mensing060	way32o3
2B	Women’s Choir 2B	@chswomen2b	hyk4i5h
3B	Women’s Choir 3B	@chswomen3b	jymcrbk
1W	Treble Choir	@treble060	pbcfo45
2W	Campus Singers	@coltsing	rzm7mwy
3W	Fundamentals of Music: Theory	@fundtheory	s64tgi4

Please follow Campus Choirs on social media and on our website!

Instagram: [campus.choir](https://www.instagram.com/campus.choir)

Facebook: [campuschoirs060](https://www.facebook.com/campuschoirs060)

<https://campushighchoirs.weebly.com/>

Sincerely,

Becky Riffie

Choral Director

briffee@usd261.com

Choir Office: 316.554.2236 ext. 1904

Learning Objectives

As members of this program, most of the success that you will achieve will come through your willingness to work with others, to actively participate in instruction, and to give your attention to details in the music and remarks given by the director. It has rightly been said that success is 1% talent and 99% effort. For you to reach the highest level of success as both a soloist as well as an ensemble member, you must strive to do your best and encourage one another to do the same. Over the course of this semester, you will:

- Develop the vocal technique and aural skills required for singing beautifully and artistically in an ensemble or as a soloist.
- Read music proficiently.
- Understand the proper care and use of the voice.
- Demonstrate the use of breath support, vowel production, and modification.
- Develop a basic understanding of music theory and its connection to performance, including meter and key signatures, dynamics, expression markings, musical phrasing, and general music terminology.
- Craft intelligent critical appraisals of performances in order to develop a functional appreciation of all types of choral music of various styles and time periods
- Perform a diverse repertoire of vocal music with accuracy, expression, and in a stylistically appropriate manner.

National Standards

Instruction for all choral ensembles and classes will be based on the nine National Core Music Standards. The standards emphasize music literacy and understanding in areas that reflect the actual processes in which musicians engage.

Personal Skills Emphasized

- Singing to inspire, not to impress.
- Growing and developing confidence in yourself and the Campus Choral Program.
- Collaborating with others and working towards a common goal: the enjoyment of singing.
- Accepting responsibility for attendance at rehearsals, mandatory concert dress rehearsals, concerts, festivals, clinics, and workshops.
- Exhibiting positive self-discipline and classroom behavior.
- Developing your vocal skills and leadership skills.
- Striving to always do the best you can do that day.
- Showing a desire to draw new students to the choral program.

Vocal Health

Vocal hygiene refers to maintaining and taking care of your voice. As a member of the Campus choral program, you are expected to maintain your voice to the best of your ability. This will benefit you, your fellow choir singers, and the people who come to support you at performances.

- Try to get enough sleep every night.
- Stay hydrated- your body and voice need to stay hydrated throughout the day.
- Refrain from yelling or screaming.
- Before singing, always make sure your voice is warmed up–humming counts!
- Do not sing what does not feel comfortable.

COURSES OFFERED THROUGH THE CHORAL DEPARTMENT

Men's Choir

Men's Choir is a non-auditioned male chorus that sings a variety of literature including classical, jazz, pop tunes, folksongs, and classic rock 'n roll favorites. Men's Choir is offered in the fall semester only to all men. Students are expected to purchase their own concert attire (concert black).

Women's Choir

Women's Choir is a non-auditioned women's chorus that sings a variety of literature including classical, jazz, pop tunes, folksongs, and classic rock 'n roll favorites. Women's Choir is offered in the fall semester only to all women. Students are expected to purchase their own concert attire (concert black).

Concert Choir

Concert Choir is a non-auditioned mixed chorus of approximately 70 singers in which students are taught the foundations of choral singing. Concert Choir is offered in the spring semester to first and second year high school choral students. Students are expected to purchase their own concert attire (concert black).

Symphonic Choir

Symphonic Choir is an auditioned mixed chorus of approximately 35-50 members that sings quality literature from all periods of music history. Symphonic Choir is offered in the spring semester only to sophomores, juniors, and seniors, or by instructor permission. Students are expected to purchase their own concert attire (concert black).

Campus Singers

Campus Singers is an auditioned mixed ensemble of twenty-four students that sings a variety of literature from various historical periods including contemporary genres of jazz and pop. Campus Singers is a year-long class open to junior and senior men and women or by instructor permission. Students are expected to purchase full concert attire at school (tuxes for men, concert dresses for women).

Treble Choir

Treble Choir is an auditioned women's chorus of approximately 25-45 students that sings a variety of literature arranged for treble voices. Treble Choir is a year-long class open to sophomore, junior, and senior women, or by instructor permission. Students are expected to purchase concert dresses at school.

Fundamentals of Music (Theory/Piano)

This course offers students the opportunity to learn basic piano skills while learning music theory at a deeper level than is usually possible in an ensemble setting. This course is open to all students concurrently enrolled in band, choir, or orchestra in both the fall and spring semesters and is repeatable for credit. This course is capped at 14 enrollees.

Fundamentals of Music (Voice)

This course allows students to develop their vocal skills in a smaller lesson and masterclass setting with more one-on-one time with the instructor in order to prepare repertoire for festival and college auditions. This course is open to all students concurrently enrolled in choir and is offered in the spring semester only. Attention will be given to learning proper vocal technique, exploring vocal music in foreign languages, and honing performance skills. This class is repeatable for credit and is capped at 10 enrollees (to ensure each student receives a mini-lesson every week) on a first come, first serve basis. All enrolled students are required to perform at festival.

Expectations: Campus PRIDE

Preparation, Respect, Integrity, Discipline, and Excellence

1. Arrive on time: Enter and exit the choral room with professionalism. Place personal belongings along the wall and retrieve your choir binder. Be in your riser formation and ready to rehearse!
2. No talking during rehearsal time. Questions are essential to music learning, so please raise your hand if you need to speak.
3. Please try to use the restroom/grab water before or after classes. If a student must use the restroom, they must wait for an appropriate break, signal to the director and ask for permission. E-hall pass.
4. Posture – Sit up straight, both feet on the floor, holding music up. When standing, arms should be at your sides unless holding music.
5. Food, gum, candy, and drinks are not allowed in the choral room at any time. Clear water is the only exception.
6. Be respectful of the choir room and equipment and be sure to take care of the materials given to you.
7. Cell phones should not be SEEN or HEARD! Store phones on silent in the Cell Phone Comfort Pocket provided. In the event that you need your phone, please consult with the director first.
8. Show proper respect to your fellow peers and director. Treat others with professionalism and courtesy.
9. Have a positive attitude and be consistently active in rehearsals, concerts, and performances.
10. Have all music and materials in hand before rehearsal or performance begins.
11. No Scent Zone: please refrain from using perfumes/colognes/lotions/body sprays or other scents as many choir members have allergies/asthma/migraines that can be triggered by scents.

COLT PRIDE IN MUSIC

	ENSEMBLE ROOMS	PRACTICE ROOMS	OUTSIDE (Band Only)	PERFORMANCE AREAS	TRIPS
P reparation	Have instrument, music, accessories, parts learned	Have instrument, music, supplies	Have instrument, music, lyre, charts	Have instrument, music, appropriate uniform, supplies	Be sure to have all materials needed for the trip (appropriate clothing & uniforms); all instruments, music and supplies
R espect	Don't play or speak out of turn; listen when others ask or answer questions; be respectful of others and equipment; follow class expectations	Be respectful of people in practice rooms; no food or drink in rooms	Don't play or speak out of turn, listen when others ask or answer questions; be respectful of others and equipment; follow class expectations	Show appropriate stage manners; show proper concert etiquette; have an open mind when listening to performances	Use excellent manners; be respectful of others' property and facilities
I ntegrity	Clean up after yourself and others; have high expectations; admit when you've made a mistake and accept responsibility; do what's right	Clean up after yourself and others; have high expectations; do what's right	Clean up after yourself and others; have high expectations; admit when you've made a mistake and accept responsibility; do what's right	Act with discipline and self-control	Be excellent ambassadors for Campus, USD 261, and Haysville
D iscipline	Follow class expectations; act responsibly; follow through with commitments	Work without being a distraction or being distracted	Act responsibly; follow outdoor rehearsal expectations	Follow class expectations; act responsibly	Follow all District, Campus, and class expectations
E xcellence	Always strive to do your best; work hard to learn your parts	Accomplish goals for practice time	Work smart; make the most of limited outdoor rehearsal time	Perform to best of your ability; strive for a great performance; learn something while performing	Enjoy and make the most of the opportunity to travel; be appreciative of the opportunity

Daily Procedures

Before class, please follow these guidelines:

- When entering the Choir Room, check for new information. 3 B4 Me: ask three other people/sources before the teacher.
- Take care of things such as getting music you may need, turning in money/fees, etc.
- Please have your music and all supplies out and ready for the beginning of class.

During class, please follow these guidelines:

- At the second bell, you should be preparing for class, gathering your materials, and completing assigned tasks. Read the white board.
- When the Director, Accompanist, Choir Council Officer, or a guest steps onto the podium, please give them your full attention.
- Wait for an appropriate pause in rehearsal between selections to ask questions or take restroom or water breaks.
- When rehearsal is finished (as decided by the Director, not the bell), you will be dismissed to put your materials away. Music, folders, and notebooks are to be stored neatly in your assigned number in the folder storage cabinet.
- NO cell phone usage during rehearsal, please. All cell phones will be placed in assigned numbered cell phone comfort pockets (CPCP's) at the beginning of each class. Students may retrieve them when they are dismissed to put their music away. In case of a personal emergency/issue, communicate with the director before class. Special exceptions to this policy may be made on a case-by-case basis.

Rehearsals

Rehearsal begins when the director steps onto the podium or in front of the music stand. At that time, please quickly wrap up any conversations and direct your attention to the podium. It is expected that anyone (Miss Riffie, Mrs. Scott, Student Teacher, Choir Officer, Clinician, Guest Conductor, etc.) who steps onto the podium during rehearsals will receive the utmost courtesy.

Tardies

You must be in the choir room before the bell rings. If you enter the room late, you must sign in on the clipboard-filling in your name, the date, and the time that you entered the Choir Room. Clip the pass to the clipboard, and then get your music out as quickly and as quietly as possible. Please do not hand me your pass as it interrupts the flow of rehearsal. If you enter class after the bell without a tardy pass from the office during first block, you will be asked to go to the office to get a pass. Tardiness results in the loss of a daily point.

Participation

Participation in rehearsals and music activities is crucial to the success of the ensemble. Students are expected to be prepared with proper materials (pencil, music, folder, materials) and be engaged and attentive throughout the entire rehearsal. If a student chooses not to actively participate in rehearsals, the student will lose daily points. Repeatedly choosing not to participate will result in parental and administrative contact, and subsequently, the student may not be allowed to participate in any upcoming performances.

Students will receive 3 points per day for being on time, being prepared, and being actively engaged in class.

Performances

Attendance at concerts/performances is required and is part of the grading criteria in choir classes. This is a fundamental and integral part of your membership in the choir. Concerts and performances are a public demonstration of what has been learned in choir. Music is meant to be heard. Each performer in the ensemble is dependent on each choir member being present to perform his or her part. Because the choir is more than just a collection of individual performers, it is necessary that we rehearse and perform as a unified group. A problem with an individual performer's attendance seriously inhibits our consistency and excellence.

All performances are listed on the choir website which can be found at <https://campushighchoirs.weebly.com>. All performances are required. This includes concerts, dress rehearsals, athletic events, caroling, and any other special performances that are listed as required on the syllabus or that are added to the calendar. Any unexcused absence will result in a grade of zero for that performance and will not be allowed to be made up. All performances will be announced well in advance so as to avoid conflicts, and students will be given at least two weeks notice for any additions made to the calendar.

If you have a conflict (school-related, personal illness, hospitalization of an immediate family member, death of an immediate family member, personal or family accident or injury), please discuss it with me as soon as possible. Work conflicts, family vacations, family reunions, birthday celebrations, etc., are not excused absences from concerts. If your conflict is excused, please provide Miss Riffée with a note from your parent/guardian/coach regarding the conflict in order that you may make up your concert points. Points can be made up by attending another choral concert that is middle school level or above and writing an essay over the performance using the state rubric on the website as a guide. Failure to have complete and correct concert attire for a performance may result in not being allowed to perform and/or a point deduction.

Performance—like rehearsal—is a privilege, not a right. Students who choose not to adhere to the expectations of the CHS Choir Program or those who have an excessive number of absences (regardless of reason) will not be allowed to perform since they have not been able to rehearse. Any student whose performance privilege has been revoked for an upcoming performance for anything other than illness, family emergency, or death in the immediate family will be required to attend that performance in uniform and help usher or perform other duties in order to receive partial credit (80%) for the performance. Any student who has his or her performance privilege revoked will not be eligible to letter.

Missed Work

If a student is absent for any reason, it will be their responsibility to consult with their section leader for anything they have missed and Miss Riffée for any make-up work. Academic responsibility, accountability, and communication are important skills. Students should do this upon their return to school. If there is a circumstance where a student is absent for a long period, their best interest would be to consult beforehand with Miss Riffée to ensure they do not fall behind.

Discipline

Members of the Campus High School Choirs are held to high standards of discipline. The actions of each member reflect the overall image of the choir in both the school and the community. Tardies/Absences and discipline issues such as excessive talking, disruption, gum chewing, vulgarity, swearing, disrespect, rudeness, cell phone use, non-participation, etc., will be dealt with as outlined in the Campus High School Student Handbook and the choral department policies stated in this syllabus.

Grading Policy

In addition to performances, choir students are expected to demonstrate their knowledge of important musical skills and concepts. All grades will fall into one of the following categories:

I. Artistic Development/Musicianship (25%)

- Periodic written and listening assignments, theory assignments, notebook checks
- Daily rhythm, clapping, and sight reading
- Informal assessments of the music being rehearsed

II. Performances and Assessments (30%)

- 100 points for each performance
- 0 points for absence (unless deemed excused by the director)
- 10 points deducted for being tardy to a concert
- 15 points deducted for improper attire; performance privileges could be revoked
- 50 points deducted for inappropriate concert behavior/etiquette; student may not be allowed to finish the concert and will receive a parent/guardian phone call and office referral

III. Participation: PRIDE Points (25%)

- On time (1 point)
- Has all materials (1 point)
- Actively participates in all activities (singing, board work, etc.) throughout the duration of class and exhibits proper behavior and a positive attitude (1 point)
- Causing a disturbance or being disruptive during class may result in possible removal from the rehearsal setting, a phone call with parent/guardian, and, potentially, an office referral

IV. Final Exam (20%)

- final semester performance and/or written exam at the discretion of instructor

Points will be deducted for the following:

- non-compliance with stated classroom procedures and routines

Consequences

Any student who does not meet expectations may face the following consequences:

- Teacher/student conference
- Loss of points
- Parent contact
- Alternate seating assignment
- Removal from rehearsal/performance setting
- Removal from class

Concert Etiquette

Audience members are encouraged to follow established standards for formal concerts. This helps provide a positive experience for performers and audience members.

- Refrain from talking or using electronic devices during the performance.
- Enter/exit the auditorium only between songs.
- Prevent disruptions by silencing electronic devices and removing small children who are making noise.
- Students must stay for the full duration of each concert

Concert Attire

All concert attire must be modest, matte black, opaque, and without any designs or patterns.

Treble Choir and Campus Singer students will purchase concert attire through the Choir Department.

Dresses: \$65

Separates (palazzo pants and top): \$75

Tuxes (tux, dress shirt, tie, and cummerbund): (\$125)

Men's and Women's Choirs are responsible for purchasing their own concert attire.

Women's Choir:

1. Solid black dresses with a sleeve (cap, short, $\frac{3}{4}$ length, or long) at least knee-length or longer with solid black opaque tights (no pattern) and plain black flats (no patterns, sequins or bling) OR
2. Solid black shirts or blouses modestly cut (no cleavage showing) with a sleeve (cap, short, $\frac{3}{4}$ length, or long); solid black skirts at least knee-length or longer OR solid black slacks OR solid black full-length black pants OR solid black full-length wide-legged palazzo pants (NO ATHLETIC WEAR OR JEANS) worn with solid black socks, knee-highs, or tights and plain black flats (no patterns, sequins or bling)

Men's Choir:

1. Solid white long-sleeved button-down dress shirt worn with white undershirt
2. Solid black tie (long tie or bowtie)
3. Solid black slacks OR solid black full-length black pants (NO ATHLETIC WEAR OR JEANS) worn with solid black socks and solid black dress shoes (slip-on or tie)

Shoes must be black flats or black dress shoes. No athletic shoes, flip-flops, or sandals. Socks must be black.

Hair accessories should be neutral or black unless specified by Miss Riffée.

Jewelry must be simple and not distracting.

*If your student is enrolled in any choir in the spring semester, they will be required to purchase a Spring Show t-shirt for our final jeans-and-t-shirt pops concert in May. The cost is \$15 for S/M/L/XL and \$18 for 2XL/3XL.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Miss Riffée at least three weeks prior to performances.

Class Supplies

- ½-inch or 1-inch, 3-ring black binder
- Pencil and eraser (no pens, markers, colored pencils, etc., may be used to write in scores)
- Dividers
- Tissues (freshmen and new students only; please label with student name visible)
- Water bottle (because singers dehydrate easily! This can be refilled in the Choir Classroom.)

Extracurricular Opportunities

Students are encouraged to participate in events and activities outside of the choral classroom. Throughout the year, there are countless opportunities that are available to students to continue their development as a singer and musicians. Those opportunities include but are not limited to field trips, choral clinics and workshops, District and All-State Choral auditions and honor choirs, and Solo & Ensemble Festival. Students will be notified well in advance of events if they choose to participate.

Performance and Rehearsal Dates

Musical Auditions: <i>You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown</i>	Open Auditions) 9/5 and 9/6, Auditorium, 3:30-5:30 Callbacks 9/7, 3:30-5:30, IF needed
Gathering at the Gazebo (Campus & Treble)	9/23, 8:00 PM @ Haysville Historic District (7:45 PM call for students @ the Gazebo)
WSU District Prep Day (district auditionees only)	(tentative) Friday, 10/6 @ WSU, 8AM-3PM
Fall Concert (ALL)	10/12, 7 PM, Auditorium (6:30 call for students)
District Auditions (district auditionees only)	11/4, Goddard USD, 8 AM-5 PM
Caroling in Haysville (Campus Singers & Treble Choir)	11/29, 5-9 PM; Meet at 5:00 PM in the Choir Room
District Honor Choir Rehearsal & Concert (those who made audition cut)	12/2, 8 AM-6 PM @ East High
Winter Choir & Jazz Bands Concert (ALL)	12/14, 7:00 PM, CHS Auditorium (6:30 call for students)
Hesston Women's Choir Festival (All women)	1/24, 7 AM-3:30 PM @ Hesston College
Real Men Sing Event (All men)	1/25, 6:30 AM-4:00 PM @ Bethany College
Choir SSB @ CHS Basketball	2/23 @ CHS; Meet in Choir room at 6:30
Music in Our Schools Month Concert (ALL)	3/21, 7 PM, Gymnasium (6:30 call for students)
Solo/Ensemble Festival (Campus Singers and soloists by audition)	4/6 @ Wichita Heights
State Large Group Festival (Treble Choir)	4/17 @ Wichita East
State Solo/Ensemble Festival (rating of I at district)	4/27, Washburn Rural HS (Topeka); all day
Spring Show Dress Rehearsal (ALL)	5/4, 9AM-Noon, Auditorium
Spring Show (ALL)	5/4, Auditorium, 7:00 PM (6:30 call for students; jeans/t-shirt attire)
Graduation (Campus, Symphonic, and Treble)	5/19, 1:00 PM @ Koch (11:30 AM call @ CHS)

**2023-2024 Campus High School Choir
Syllabus Signature Page**

Complete and return by Thursday/Friday, August 31st/September 1, 2023, for an assignment grade.

I have read the 2023-2024 Campus High School Choir Syllabus.

I understand and accept the responsibilities and requirements for this class in the following areas:

- Any Fees for Attire purchased through Campus
- Performance Dates
- Performance Attire
- Expectations
- Grading Policy
- Attendance/Tardiness
- Consequences

Print Student Name

Student Signature

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Phone Number

Parent/Guardian Email (please print clearly)

Please email me at briffee@usd261.com with any questions or concerns or if you are interested in volunteering to help at concerts or chaperone field trips, etc.