

## REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

1. You **MUST** bring your enthusiasm, high energy level, and love for music with you each day. Every singer needs to participate at all times through proper posture, attention to the director, and controlling oneself from talking or interrupting rehearsal in any way.
2. **BE ON TIME!!!!** You must have your folder and pencil ready and be in your seat when the bell rings. Otherwise, you will receive a tardy for the day. **There will be consequences after five tardies to class.**
3. You will be assigned a folder, and it is your responsibility to keep track of your music and have your folder ready each day. Any marks made in the music must only be made with a **PENCIL** and must be erased before turning the folder back in at the end of the semester.
4. Talking is **NOT PERMITTED** during rehearsal. You will demonstrate maturity and responsibility during rehearsals, as well as respect for your teacher and peers.
5. We have a beautiful choir room – please keep it that way! Please straighten your chair and pick up any trash before leaving your area of the choir room each day – it is our second home!

## CLASSROOM RULES

1. Be prepared at all times! Have paper or a notebook to take notes, and a pencil to mark your music!
2. Show respect for any member of the class, their property, and that of the music room as well.
3. Ask before acting. I will allow you to borrow something, write an announcement on the board, play the piano, or use the restroom if you ask at an appropriate time with “May I...”
4. Be an active listener instead of talking while the teacher or another member of the class is talking. Great musicians are good listeners!
5. Gum, food, candy, and drinks are not allowed at any time in class. You may bring a water bottle – water is great for your body as well as your voice!
6. Cell phones are not permitted to be used during class time. If I see that it is out, being used, or ringing, I will confiscate it.
7. In order to be on time to class and not marked tardy, you must be seated with your music folder when the bell rings!
8. Actively participate in every moment you are in class!

*Make good choices and avoid the consequences.*

## **GRADING**

Students are graded on four things:

- 30% Daily Participation
- 10% In classroom assignments
- 30% Rehearsals
- 30% Performances.

Every school day students are awarded five points for participation. These points can be taken away for various reasons. These reasons include being late to class, not being prepared for the rehearsal, no music, no pencil, playing on your their phone, talking during rehearsal, eating food at inappropriate times.

Each student will receive an individual grade on classroom assignments. Grades will vary depending on the assignment.

## **PERFORMANCE GRADE**

Students will receive 400 points for each concert in which they participate.

- 100 points of the concert grade will be showing up ON TIME dressed correctly.
- 300 points of the concert grade will be the performance itself.

Concert grades will be lowered for inappropriate concert behavior such as talking, causing any kind of distraction during a performance, tardiness, improper uniform, etc.

If a student has a severe illness (fever, vomiting, etc.) at the time of the concert, a parent should call the choir room and leave a message prior to the end of the school day. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure to have a parent contact Mrs. Smith before the concert. There are no exceptions to this item!

Students who miss the concert and do not call the choir room (or leave a note in the main office) or do not bring a written excuse the day they return to school after the concert, will receive a grade of “0” for the performance section of the concert grade. Concerts will only be excused by Mrs. Smith in instances of extreme illness or family emergency. Forgetting about the concert, not having a ride, not having a uniform, had to baby-sit younger siblings, had to work, etc...will not be considered excused concert absences and will result in a grade of “0”. **Students must not be absent from school the day of the concert and are required to attend the concert that evening, unless excused by Mrs. Smith.**

### 2019 - 2020 Concert Dates

<b>Fall Concert</b>	<b>October 3, 2019</b>
<b>Halloween Carnvial</b>	<b>October 23 &amp; 24, 2019</b>
<b>Winter Concert</b>	<b>December 13, 2019</b>
<b>Spring Festival</b>	<b>February 28, 2020</b>
<b>End of Year Concert</b>	<b>May 22, 2020</b>

**\*\*\*Alternative assignments will NOT be given to any unexcused student who misses a performance. Concert grades CANNOT be made up.**

### **DRESS REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCE BEHAVIOR**

Each choir member is an important part of the group he/she is in – a performing group can’t perform if part of it is missing. Therefore, attendance at all dress rehearsals and performances is mandatory! Ladies in Show Choir, if you miss two choreography rehearsals, I have the right as the director to pull you out of the set and you will

not be able to perform. Dress rehearsals will be held immediately after school in the theater, and may not be missed. These rehearsals run about two hours long. You are given at least three weeks' notice for each performance and dress rehearsal. If there is a conflict with a scheduled school activity, see Mrs. Smith at once. Please avoid scheduling ROUTINE dentist/orthodontist/doctor/vision appointments during dress rehearsal and/or concert days. Days for dress rehearsal are **10/1**, **12/10**, and **5/21**

Students: As a member of CSHS choir department, you are on display, representing your school, your peers, and your director. Because of this, I expect you to display appropriate behavior, both in and out of uniform. Immature or inappropriate behavior can be grounds for dismissal from our department. There is to be no smoking, drinking, taking drugs, fighting, inappropriate sexual behavior, or profanity of any kind.

Choir students will exhibit proper concert behavior during ALL performances in order to reflect positively on the CSHS Choir program. Students will be graded on their performance behavior. The following rules will be followed at all performances:

1. Talking is not allowed on stage or in the audience. It is disrespectful to the performers on stage and audience members who wish to hear the performance, and does not show support for the CSHS Choir program.
2. Do NOT leave your seat FOR ANY REASON (other than an extreme emergency). You will be given ample opportunity to use the restroom and drinking fountain before concerts begin, therefore, these are not considered extreme emergencies. If you must leave, do so as quietly as possible (Make sure the doors do not slam shut).
3. No food or drink is allowed in the performance area, including the stage, backstage, and seating area. This includes water bottles.
4. Support your fellow choir members with appropriate applause. Yelling, whistling, shouting names, etc. are not acceptable. The

audience should never cause attention to be shifted from the performers on the stage.

5. Set a good example for the audience and other students. Other people may not know how to act at a choir performance and will be watching you for clues.
6. Move between the stage and seating area in quiet, single file lines. Sit in your assigned seat/row.
7. Students are expected to stay for the entire concert.

**Please make concerts a priority, mark it on your calendars,  
and invite everyone you know!**

### **ADVANCED GROUPS**

Madrigals and Treble Choir are the advanced groups on CSHS campus. That being said there are more expectations for both of these groups. Treble choir has choreography rehearsals to learn their routine to their musical pieces. These rehearsals are TBA. Most of them will fall on Saturdays which coincide with Steam Saturday School. Students do get attendance credit for being there and it's a great way to make up attendance if needed. Both groups will have more dates added on during the school year for various trips. Madrigals will be expected to sing the National Anthem at the football home games. The dates for the football games are the following: **08/23, 09/13, 10/11, 10/18 and 10/25**. If you have any questions regarding these groups or dates please feel free to contact me.

### **SPECIALS**

Specials are solos, duets, trios, or groups who sing a particular piece during concerts. A specific day and time will be announced for audition, needing to be completed no less than one week before each concert. Your selection must be memorized when you audition. Upcoming Audition dates for Specials are: 9/20, 12/06, 2/13, 5/8. These auditions will take place in the choir room after school. Sign-up sheets will be made available.

## ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is determined by a student's grade and/or behavior in all of his/her classes throughout the school year. Students **MUST** be eligible in order to participate in any performance that occurs during the school day. **Required evening concerts are mandatory regardless of a student's eligibility.**

In order to be eligible for any choir trip, or activity during the school day:

- You must possess a 2.0 GPA at all times.
- You cannot have been suspended for any reason at any time during the semester in which the trip occurs.
- You cannot receive more than 3 detentions in choir class in a semester.
- You cannot have received an office referral from Mrs. Smith during the semester in which the trip occurs.
- You cannot have received more than 3 office referrals in a semester from any teacher or administrator.

Mrs. Smith reserves the right to determine who is and is not eligible for choir trips. Eligibility for field trips may also include other factors including, but not limited to: classroom behavior, excessive absences or tardiness, and lack of attitude/effort. Other CSHS teachers may request that a student not attend a choir trip during the school day if that student is behind or missing assignments in their class.

***PLEASE KEEP ALL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA IN MIND  
DURING THE YEAR!***

## FIELD TRIPS

As a reward for hard work, excellent behavior, and for the opportunity to perform, only eligible choir students may participate in field trips at various times during the school year. Mrs. Smith will determine who is allowed to participate in choir co-curricular activities according to the eligibility guidelines stated in this handbook.

- All school and choir rules and consequences will be enforced on trips. Choir students are expected to treat their chaperones and bus drivers with respect. Students who misbehave will lose their eligibility to participate in future choir trips and/or will be sent home from the trip.
- Parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged to join the choirs on any of their outings.
- It is imperative that parents be prompt when picking up their children from choir trips. To help ensure student safety, all students should be picked up at the drop off area in front of the choir room.
- Students are expected to ride the bus to and from the field trip. In rare circumstances, special arrangements will need to be made. It is imperative that Mrs. Smith be contacted by phone and in writing one week in advance of the field trip if this is the case.

## UNIFORMS

All CSHS Choir students are required to have a choir uniform/performance outfit. Thanks to the generosity of Moreno Valley Unified School District students do not need to purchase their choir uniform but they are expected to sign a rental contract. This contract will cover the entire school year. Each uniform has been given a number so students will be able to keep track of which uniform is theirs. Choir Uniforms must be washed in cold water and hung dry. **Do not dry clean!** Treble choir is expected to make a purchase of nude character shoes. These are designed especially for dance. Madrigal Ladies are expected to purchase a jewelry set from Southeastern Apparel.



During performances, choir members may not wear large dangling earrings, bracelets, watches, hats or headbands. Any choir member with a pierced tongue or any part of the face must remove the jewelry for a performance (small stud earrings are permitted). Madrigal Ladies are allowed to wear the jewelry set purchased from South-eastern. Long hair must be worn up and off the face for performances.

Students should not come to performances with extreme hairstyles or colors. The audience responds to the performer depending upon how he/she is dressed. Concerts are about the entire choir, and students should not strive for individuality at this occasion.

Students with inappropriate concert attire will not be allowed to participate in the performance, their grade will be affected, and depending on the severity of the offence, they may be given an office referral.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Choir is a group effort; we all need to support each other! Instead of charging a fee for choir, we will try to provide a few fundraisers to supply needed income in order to purchase music, provide any transportation that is needed, pay for festivals, and any other needs to run the choir department throughout the school year. We will be selling tickets to our concerts – each member will be responsible for a portion of these fundraisers. Thank you!

- All fundraised money belongs to CSHS Choirs and cannot ever be refunded to a student. If a student raises money and then is unable to attend the choir trip for any reason, the money the student raised becomes the property of the CSHS Choir activity account.
- Students cannot carry over unused fundraising amount to the next school year. Fundraising amounts are for the current school year only.

- Students cannot use fundraising money to pay for meals or souvenirs.
- Once students take their boxes of orders from the choir room they are responsible for all of the contents and must pay for the things that they take with them. It is the student's responsibility to inform Mrs. Smith within 24 hours of any missing or damaged items.
- All fundraising money must be turned in on assigned turn-in days. No partial payments will be taken.

## **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POLICY**

No student will be denied participation in the CSHS Choir due to financial hardship. Please speak to Mrs. Smith so that arrangements can be made for those in need of consideration.

## **LETTERING REQUIREMENTS**

Yes you can earn a choir letter! The following bullet points must be met in order to receive a letter.

- Earn an "A" or "B" in choir for two consecutive years. A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required. Please note: in order to letter in choir a student must be in the department for two years. After a student has earned a letter, if the requirements are met the following year the student will receive a bar and the following year a pin.
- Have a CSHS A.S.B. card.
- Be an active member of the Choir Club.
- Participate in all dress rehearsals and concerts.
- Participate in all mandatory fundraisers at least at the minimum level.

- Participate in at least two choral festivals
- Have a minimum of at least ten hours of participation after school hours.
- Owe no money to the Choir department.
- Teacher's discretion based on: daily attendance, attitude and participation level, enthusiasm and cooperation.

## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

We will elect student representatives. These representatives will help Mrs. Smith in planning choir activities and have classroom duties. Such representatives are:

**Student Director** – if a student demonstrates excellent leadership and musical skills, he/she may be chosen as a student director for a given choir. This leader will be in charge of the choir before and after performances. Checks choir members' attire, takes attendance and monitors behavior during concerts. They will have the opportunity to assist the sub in the leading of class if Mrs. Smith is absent!

**Librarian** – is responsible for making sure each student is assigned a folder and music. Assists with filing music and organizing music library.

**Section Leaders** – will be nominated by class vote and to be chosen by Mrs. Smith. These students must have a basic knowledge of music and have leadership qualities. Conduct sectional rehearsals and assist every day in taking roll. In addition, section leaders will record attendance at dress rehearsals and concerts along with the student director and Mrs. Smith.

**Recruitment Officer** – will help Mrs. Smith come up with creative ways to recruit new choir members on campus and incoming freshman. This person needs to have a love for choir and be very outgoing. This student will also help contact students who are interested in being in choir.

**Social/Historian Chair** – helps organize events to help the choir get to know one another, celebrate birthdays and special events throughout the school year. Also this student will help in document memories and taking pictures. This student must be organized and creative in what they do!

**Fundraising Officer** – assists Mrs. Smith with the collection of money and organizing of all fundraisers for his/her choir.

### GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- There is no eating when you are in your tuxedo, concert dress, or costume. You are in charge of keeping yourself looking clean and respectable.
- My office is off-limits, unless you are coming in to talk to me (and please do)!
- Do not write on the board or play the piano without permission.
- Do not leave your belongings in the classroom overnight.
- When choir members must change for a performance during school-the restrooms will be used. If you have to get ready for a performance while another class is in session- do not disturb!
- Choir has an instagram account! If you wish to follow us look for the username *cshs\_cougar\_choir*
- Choir also has a website where you can follow up with what we are doing during the school year. Please visit *www.canyon-springschoir.com*

*Please direct all questions concerning CSHS Choirs to:*

*Mrs. Smith at [scsmith@mvusd.net](mailto:scsmith@mvusd.net) or 951-571-4760 x31214*