

Kingsburg High School Choir



Handbook

Digital Version

Welcome to the Kingsburg High School Choral Department! I hope this will be an enjoyable year for you. I sincerely believe that this year will not only be a year of hard work as a choir, but a year of great fun and excitement.

The Kingsburg High School Vocal Music Program provides an opportunity for students to develop an appreciation for music and encourages the skills and discipline necessary for achieving musical success. Students learn the importance of a cooperative team effort while working with fellow members to accomplish the shared goals of the Women's and Men's Ensembles, Concert Choir, and Jazz Choir.

Students in music have fun meeting new friends and traveling to new and exciting places. In addition, the program challenges students in areas of personal growth and musicianship.

What is a Choir?

A choir is a group of singing musicians working together towards the common goal of a quality concert or a festival performance. Reaching this goal requires a total effort from each member. Even though this choir operates very much like any team sport there is one exception: in choir ***EVERYBODY IS FIRST STRING!*** This means that there is no bench for substitutes or "second stringers". Music is the only activity in which everyone performs all the time, and as such is unique in your school activities. The responsibility is great, but the rewards in terms of personal satisfaction are tremendous - and the memories will last a life time.

What Kind of Choirs are there at KHS??

Women's & Men's Ensembles: These groups consist of students who may have had little or no choral experience. The ensembles are open to any students who would like to sing. The goal of these groups is to ready the singer wishing to continue to the next level of ensemble such as Concert Choir or Jazz Choir. Singers will gain this experience and knowledge of the fundamentals of singing, and working together as they acquaint themselves with the art of singing choral music. These ensembles typically perform at the Fall Concert, Christmas Concert, Pre-Festival, and Spring Concert.

Concert Choir: Consists of intermediate to advanced singers who have passed the audition at the end of the previous school year or within the first two weeks of the new school year. Students in this group are expected to have a good work ethic and working knowledge of vocal and music fundamentals. In order to ensure that all students can be successful in concert choir, you can also expect to spend a considerable amount of time reviewing and learning these music fundamentals in the first few weeks of school. This ensemble historically performs at the Fall Concert, Christmas Concert, Pre-Festival, FMCMEA Large Group Festival, and Spring Concert. Other festivals and performances might be added as the year progresses.

Chamber/Jazz Choir: This audition only group consists of boys and girls who have an excellent knowledge of music and singing. Members of Chamber/Jazz Choir are expected to have an excellent work ethic and working knowledge of vocal and music fundamentals. The performance demand for this ensemble is considerable and is known for its several Dickens Carolers performances during the Holiday season and jazz performances at several vocal jazz festivals especially the Reno Jazz Festival. This group also performs as part of the Concert Choir at the Fall Concert, Christmas Concert, Pre-Festival, FMCMEA Large Group Festival, and Spring Concert.

Your Responsibility as a Choir Member

This manual is filled with detailed information telling you what is expected of you and what you can expect in return. It is important that each member does his or her share if the choir is to function smoothly and successfully, and each member is to get maximum benefit out of his or her choir experience.

Students involved in the choirs of KHS have enjoyed a rich tradition of making quality music over the years. It is because of our quality and reputation that we have celebrated many opportunities such as traveling to Sweden as well as closer to home performing in front of thousands at Disneyland and across the country with performances at the world famous Carnegie Hall in New York.

In the event this is your first time reading this (or maybe it is review for you), I encourage you to pay close attention to the information. It will give you a good picture of what it takes to maintain quality, tradition and excellence.

Responsibility to Ourselves

We owe ourselves the benefit of proper vocal training and proper practice and lessons. It is important that at all times you avail yourself of proper vocal use and training. This is accomplished by knowing your voice and the best possible use of it. You will be exposed to the correct use of your voice for singing and speaking and it will be important that you use the techniques learned daily to ensure a lifetime of good voice. You are also highly encouraged to take private voice lessons. Rehearsal time at school can only teach you at a moderate level. *The KHS Music Boosters will pay up to \$30.00 per month of your private lessons.* You have the primary responsibility for learning and contributing your talent to the group.

Responsibility to the School

The school district provides the necessary setting and facilities for our performances. The Music Boosters are responsible for many large purchases. We then have the obligation to use these benefits to educate ourselves at the highest possible level and to provide the best possible performances for the school, community, and citizens of our area. This means that you agree to give some of your free time for the entertainment of others. It also means that you are willing to take the proper care of all equipment owned by the school and music boosters. In the event that you are responsible for damage to equipment that requires repair or replacement: all costs associated with this will be your responsibility. This includes but is not limited to sheet music, concert outfits, instruments, sound equipment, computers and furniture.

Responsibility to Each Other

Getting along with each other in our complex society is indeed a difficult task all by itself. You have the obligation and responsibility to respect the rights of others. Antisocial behavior will only breed the same from others. Excessive talking, rumor, bad manners, are all examples of antisocial behavior. Both on the risers and off – treat others as you wish to be treated.

Responsibility for Promptness and Commitment to the Program

These are two essential facts vital to the success of our choir. Many times we are leaving the area to perform. It is obvious that if you are late, you are left behind. YOU MUST arrange your schedule so you are able to honor your commitment to the performing groups.

Remember –

To be early is to be on time –

To be on time is to be late –

To be late is unthinkable.

Financial Responsibility

While we receive some financial support from school funds, it is not enough to support the program to the extent that the community and the members expect. Therefore all choir students are responsible for some fundraising events each year. It is reasonable to expect that each member participate equally in these projects or donate an amount of money equal to the profit that would be generated had he or she participated. We have a very active, supportive booster organization. We ask that your parents join this group and help with its activities.

Responsibility for Attendance

In accordance with KHS administrative philosophy students who have school related conflicts with scheduled performances must make a choice as to which function to attend. Every attempt made to ensure that KHS Music events do not conflict with athletic or other school events. However, in the event a conflict does arise it is extremely important that each choir student knows the expectations as described in detail in the grading policy.

It is impossible to “make up” a performance...

... other members carry an extra burden because of someone else’s

...inconsideration and poor planning.

As a student member of the **KHS Performing Arts Department**, please understand that the **performance** is the culmination of everything you’ve worked so hard at during the year. It is therefore essential to your fine arts education that you experience the **performance** of your art.

Rehearsals

Daily rehearsal is where we will spend 95% of our time as a choir. It is therefore expected that all students will participate fully in all aspects of rehearsal including warm-ups, theory lessons, sight-reading, sectionals (both group and individual), and ensemble practice.

The following elements make up the daily rehearsal procedure for all KHS Choirs.

Entering Class, Choir Warm-ups and Announcements:

1. Enter the choir room with a great attitude. The choir room is one location where you can set all the issues you might be facing that day at the door and truly make music for awhile.
2. Put all backpacks and other items will be kept against the wall to the right of entering room just under Mr. Mynderup's office window.
3. Cell Phone is off or on silent tucked away in your backpack (NO EXCEPTIONS)
4. Get your music folder from the assigned location or your backpack and take your seat.
5. Make sure you have all of the music and a pencil at the beginning of rehearsal.
6. Get your chair from one of the stacks and place it in the area you have been assigned. Sit only in your assigned spot.
7. Check the white board at the front of the room for important announcements and dates to remember. Being informed is very important to being successful.
8. No talking during the morning bulletin.
9. Warm-ups will be both physical and vocal in nature with the intent of getting you the singer to be prepared for the musical tasks demanded during that rehearsal. Several things will be accomplished during the warm-up period;
 - a. Vocal chords will be warmed up to avoid stress or possible damage to them.
 - b. Concepts of proper vocalizing and choral technique.
 - c. Concepts in music theory.

Everyone is expected to participate fully in choir. Warm-up time will include everyone even if you are feeling under the weather that day. Talking and non-participation is not acceptable and will result in the forfeiture of rehearsal points.

The Process of Rehearsal:

This is the time after the warm-up period and is where we begin or continue learning a piece of music. Probably the most boring and mundane thing that can happen in a choir rehearsal is the daily continued "plunking" out of notes and rhythms. This process is known as "rote" and is proven to be the slowest way to learn anything. The purpose of rehearsal is to take the ink written on the page and turn it into a beautiful sounding piece of music. Rehearsal is valuable and time spent there must be efficient and productive.

The following is a list of rehearsal "do's and don'ts" for all successful KHS choir students.

- Gum, food, and drinks* ***are not allowed*** at any time.
- *Students may only drink bottled water in the classroom.
- Check your music folder to see that music scheduled for rehearsal is in order. Missing music, announcements, or homework should be reported to your section leader at once.
- Sheet music you receive is the property of the school and is to be treated as such. It is expected that you will treat school property with respect. Do not roll it into a tube, etc., as it

damages it. Damaged or lost music that has been assigned to you will be replaced at current publisher rates by you.

- Make sure you have a pencil (and not a pen) to mark your music.
- Wear clothing that will allow you to maintain good singing posture. Do not cross legs. Keep both feet squarely on the floor at all times. When standing stand straight and always support.
- Talking should stop immediately when Mr. Mynderup begins rehearsal.
- There is no such thing as a dumb question when it comes to learning music, so ask away!! ☺
- Should Mr. Mynderup be called from the rehearsal, Mrs. Assisi or a student director will continue with the rehearsal.

Rehearsal Efficiency and Sectional Rehearsals:

The rules and regulations outlined so far are not meant to make choir “not fun” but rather increase the enjoyment level for each member in the process of making music. Therefore it is important that the following guidelines be followed by all choir members.

1. Students engaged in the music making process from start to finish will find maximum enjoyment while learning.
2. Talking should stop or be kept to a minimum during the rehearsal process. Believe it or not most students don't hear your constant chatter...rather only the sounds of beautiful music.
3. Be an active participant at all times. It's a lot more fun to be in charge of your personal performance...don't let the other singers “carry” you. Have confidence in your ability.
4. Rehearsal is full of stops and starts. This is to fix things. It's not a time to start to chatter. Doing this does not allow you to know what to fix which leads to making the same mistake twice. This is unacceptable in a group striving for excellence.
5. Mark in your music with a pencil at all times. These markings will help you remember the things Mr. Mynderup wants you to do in that spot.
6. If you are arriving late to or have to leave early from rehearsal please do so quietly.

Sectional rehearsals and practice recordings are learning tools that are effective for learning music quickly. Mr. Mynderup will schedule time for each section of the choir; soprano, alto, tenor, or bass to go to a pre-determined location in the room or practice rooms to work on their part. The practice recording is a pre-recorded track with your part played on piano or another instrument and a demo choir much softer in the background. This method of learning has been proven to be very efficient and allows each member to quickly learn their part. The main function of the practice recordings is to learn notes and rhythms very quickly. It is not intended to teach musicality. That will be done when all the notes have been learned.

The following guidelines are to be strictly adhered to for group sectionals.

1. A student leader will be assigned to lead the sectional. Their job is to stop and start the practice recording as the rehearsal progresses. It is not the leader's responsibility to urge a member to participate. This is your job.
2. All students in the sectional should be completely engaged in the process and refrain from socializing as this obviously wastes time. Students not participating will forfeit rehearsal points for that day.
3. Students should focus on working out the musical problems the section is experiencing...not just sing through the song once and move on...no learning is happening this way.
4. Each student should work toward the goal of musical independence meaning that although you can sing your part with the group, you should be able to do it on your own just as successfully.

Practice Recordings:

1. Use them!! They don't do any good sitting on your laptop unused.
2. If you have an issue with the playback please let Mr. Mynderup or Mrs. Assisi know ASAP so it can be fixed.
3. Make sure you are listening to the correct practice track...nothing worse than learning the wrong part.

Of course there is no substitution for utilizing your own ability to read music to learn quickly. Music is like any language. If you know what the symbols and words mean on the written page, you will have a much more successful time learning your music quickly. Just think how it would feel if you were expected to read a paper completely written in French and you had no knowledge of French words...you might feel a bit lost.

Cell Phones: We all have one (for the most part) and they are a big part of our lives. However they are a distraction during rehearsal. Review the page titled "Rehearsal" a few pages back for reminder of the choir policy about cell phones**. KHS Admin policies with regards to cell phones will be strictly adhered.

**Smart Phones will be used occasionally in choir rehearsal for part recording and vocal testing. This has proven to be an extremely efficient tool in class. Mr. Mynderup will instruct you when it's ok to retrieve your cell phone for this use.

End of Rehearsal:

You are responsible for putting your music away in the correct slot or your backpack. You are also responsible for stacking your own chair. You are also responsible for picking up anything on the floor that was not there when you first entered the room. The ensemble will not be dismissed until the room is completely cleaned and ready for the next class.

Concert Music

Choosing the correct concert music for an ensemble takes a lot of time. Music is chosen for its educational or historic value. It is also chosen for its entertainment value. Music is also with regard to difficulty level and appropriateness based on the ensemble. So it is impossible and impractical to find music that will please the many personalities that make the choir. While it is my hope that you like the music, it is not a deal breaker if you don't. My main expectation is that you refrain from judging a piece of music until you've learned it thoroughly. Only after you learned a piece of music well can you make a judgment call as to its quality. Complaining also only serves to downgrade the overall morale of the choir.

You are responsible for the care of each piece of music checked out to you. Please take extra care not to lose it. Do not damage it by rolling it up in a tube or marking it with ballpoint or felt-tip pen, or rip the edges or covers off. Students who have lost or damaged music will be billed at current publisher replacement costs.

- Before rehearsal begins make sure you have your music only. Do not ever just randomly take someone else's because you don't have yours. Once you receive your music it should be placed in your department issued music folder or a binder.

- Taking your music home to practice is always allowed and recommended. However you must be sure to bring it to the next class. Students who habitually forget to bring music to class are unable to rehearse properly and will therefore be given an alternate assignment to complete.
- All marks in the music must be done with a pencil.

Part Assignment and Seating

Each student will be assessed vocally during the first or second week of school. The purpose of this assessment is for Mr. Mynderup to get know each singer and their voice. Although this may seem a little scary at first I hope you will be able to relax and do your best. I really get excited at the abundance of new talent that comes into the choir each year.

After the vocal assessment I will be able to determine what your comfortable vocal range is; how high and low you can sing. I will also be listening to each student and their ability to match pitches played on the piano. Your seating in the choir will be determined after everyone is assessed. Careful consideration is given to the seating of each individual singer according to voice quality, ability, etc. Singers are also placed in order to create optimal balance and sound of the choir.

Seating can change only by the director if the overall sound quality of the choir or student behavior proves to be unsatisfactory. If you have questions or concerns about your individual seating assignment, please see Mr. Mynderup individually outside of class.

Music Department and Room Equipment

KHS Choir students should feel quite privileged with the quality of environment and equipment that has been built or obtained on their behalf. We enjoy a beautiful facility that was built using funds voted by our community. The choir room is a large room able to accommodate a large choir. The music department has three practice rooms for student use.

Choir Room: The choir room is your room to rehearse each day we meet. It is also a place you can “hang out” if you so desire and you are always most welcome to stop by and visit Mr. Mynderup. I always enjoy your company. It is important though to keep the facility clean at all times. Please be good stewards of the room and throw away any trash you may have and make sure you always put your music and chair away.

Choir Equipment:

1. Piano – the piano is off limits to students unless Mr. Mynderup or Mrs. Assisi gives permission to use it. Simply ask to play it and usually your request is granted. However, do not bang on the piano keys or do anything that could possibly damage it.
2. Sound System – the choir sound system is very expensive and is completely off limits to all choir students unless you have been trained in the proper care and use of it. This includes but is not limited to the speakers, mixer, microphones, and cables.
3. Choir Library System – The choir library houses many song titles obtained over the years. Some are very old and some are very new. Do not go into the library and take out a tune unless you secure permission first. It is also very important to make sure a song is put right back where you got it from.
4. Music Cabinet – the music cabinet is where you will keep your music and pencil safely and securely. A slot and number will be assigned to you. Each day make sure you retrieve your

music from the correct slot and return it there at the conclusion of rehearsal. DO NOT TAKE anyone else's music or pencil...these are not yours.

5. Visual Media Cart – Currently house a projector and stereo system. You are never allowed to hook up your media player and play music without first asking Mr. Mynderup or Mrs. Assisi.

Practice Rooms are for students practicing their music. They are not intended to be used as a lunch room or social place. Practice rooms are to remain clean at all times. Lights must also be on anytime a student is occupying them. Students can easily lose the privilege to use the practice room for not treating them properly.

Band Room: The band room is off limits unless it is used for a sectional rehearsal location. Choir students are not allowed to “hang out” in the band room. Students may use the water fountain but only for getting a drink. Interfering with a band rehearsal is never allowed. All equipment i.e. drums, percussion equipment, etc. are off limits at all times...no exceptions.

Concerts and Festivals

Concerts and festivals are the culmination of all the rehearsing and work we have done. It is for this reason that these events are a big part of your final quarter or semester grades. Think of them as part of your final exam in choir. It is expected by your participation in the KHS Choirs that you attend concerts and festivals. Most concerts and festivals are already scheduled so please refer to the attached choir calendar included with this packet. The in-class calendar and daily announcements will also serve as clear reminders of an impending concert or festival. Be sure to write all dates on you calendar at home so there will not be any confusion as a date draws near. In some instances such as Dickens Carolers dates are not posted until the event draws closer. I try to make a point of not scheduling anything without at least two weeks notice.

Concert and Festival Outfits - Tuxedos and Black Gowns

All concerts and festivals are considered formal unless otherwise announced. We try to present a formal, dignified appearance at our concerts. The following guidelines should be followed when wearing concert clothing.

The choir outfit i.e. robe, tux, gown, jazz outfit, choir t-shirt is the symbol that identifies us as KHS Choir and is our uniform. It is important to look respectable at all times while in our uniform.

- In the public eye, being in full uniform is required at all times.
- Tuxedos, gowns and jazz outfits and choir t-shirts will be kept with the student at home.
- Students are completely responsible for the care of their choir outfit, and will be required to replace any part of the outfit should it be lost or damaged during the time it is issued to them.

The official choir outfit can change from year to year depending on availability. But the following are basic guidelines for students and their respective ensembles.

Department Provided:

1. Concert Tuxedo – Includes black pants, black jacket, white wing-tip tux shirt, cummerbund/bowtie or vest/bowtie.
2. Concert Gown – available in a variety of sizes starting at 0 up to 26 (only in even numbers)
3. Dickens Carolers – For Jazz Choir only during the Christmas season.

Student Provided:

1. Black KHS Choir T-Shirt* (\$10 - \$15)
2. Black KHS Jazz Choir Polo Shirt* (\$30)
3. Shoes (see below for what is accepted and what is not)
4. Non-tuxedo pants for wear with choir t-shirt, jazz polo, etc.
5. Special “Theme” oriented Spring Concert T-shirt (\$10-\$15)

*These are items are purchased by the student and are therefore the sole property of the student. A student can either pay outright for a shirt or fundraise, or a combination of the two.

Sizes and orders for the black choir t-shirt and jazz polo will take place during the first few weeks of school.

Jazz Choir- Besides the outfits described above jazz students will wear a formal (individually chosen) “jazz” outfit as well as a more casual one. At events such as Columbia festivals jazz singers will wear the Jazz logo green polo shirt and khaki pants. A more detailed discussion will occur in class the first week of school.

Money Matters

Unfortunately being a member in the KHS Choirs is not free. The many festivals, outfits, and trips we might participate in all have a cost. Each choir member is expected to participate fully in all fundraisers when they are scheduled. After all each student is the direct beneficiary of the funds earned. The two advantages obviously are (1) the added \$\$ with which the choir has to operate and (2) the satisfaction from each member of contributing extra time to the music program other than class and rehearsal time. Students who might not want to participate in fundraising have the option of paying directly for their portion of the cost of the program or event.

All students will be expected to take part in the each tier of fundraising as explained below.

1. **Department Wide:** The Annual Crab Fest is our biggest fundraiser that benefits the entire department by providing funds for the everyday expenses such as music purchase, festival fees, outfits, cleaning, instrument repair, etc.
2. **Department/Student Benefit:** The Rick Helm dinners fall in this category. Students are expected to sell as many dinner tickets as they can. The Music Boosters will typically set a minimum (6) that will benefit the general music booster fund. Any tickets sold above the minimum the students will realize the full profit from each ticket sold.
3. **Trip Specific:** These fundraisers i.e. cookie dough, poinsettia sales, etc benefit the student 100%. It’s not impossible for a student who really works hard to pay off a trip by these fundraisers.

Most payments for trips, fundraisers, fees are made to the **KHS Music Boosters**. So checks will usually be made payable to **KHS Music Boosters**. However on a few occasions payment may need to be made to the KHS ASB office through Mrs. Lund. In either event clear instructions will be given to both students and parents so payment can reach the right party. All money and forms including parent acknowledgement, permission slips, and unsold tickets (for any event) should be deposited in the deposit box located at the entrance of the choir room. Please make sure your name is clearly marked on all items before making your deposit. Also make sure you deposit your items in the correct slot for your class and period. Mr. Mynderup is not responsible for items that are not marked correctly or clearly. And please make sure all money is sealed in an envelope with your name clearly marked on the outside.

Travel

One of the many memory builders from being in choir is the chance to travel and see the world (at least outside of Kingsburg). Choirs of the past have had the privilege of traveling to Sweden, New York, Reno, and even as close as Disneyland and San Luis Obispo. Travel is a privilege given to choirs and members that demonstrate a continual drive towards excellence. To ensure a quality trip experience for all the following rules and regulations will be strictly enforced.

- If you are late, you are left behind.
- You are to be on your best behavior at all times. Remember you not only represent yourself, but your choir, school and your community.
- Listen to and follow directions given by Mr. Mynderup or any chaperone the first time.
- Be sure you have packed the correct performance outfit.
- Students must report to all designated meeting spots on time.
- If travel is overnight no boy may cross the threshold of a girl's hotel room and no girl may cross the threshold of a boy's room.
- All school rules apply.
- A student who demonstrates behavior problems that cannot be resolved by Mr. Mynderup or supervising adult may lose their trip privilege with the parent being contacted to make arrangements to bring their student home early.

Choir Awards

At the end of each year, during our final spring concert in mid May, recognition is given to choir students who demonstrate exceptional musical and leadership abilities during the year. The following is brief description of the award and reason for giving it:

National Choral Award: Given to the senior who has excelled in all areas: musicianship, attitude, leadership and dedication. This award is accompanied by a scholarship.

Louis Armstrong Jazz Award: Given to the senior who has shown the greatest achievement in the area of jazz. This award is accompanied by a scholarship.

Choir Director's Award: Given to the senior who possesses a high level of musicianship and leadership abilities and has maintained an exemplary attitude.

Outstanding Senior, Junior, Sophomore, & Freshman: Given to the member of each class who has been a model for their peers in terms of musicianship, attitude, attendance, and leadership.

Special "Humorous" Awards: These are given to students that have had a special and unique impact on the choir for the year. They are meant to be fun and hopefully provide a good chuckle or laugh at our spring concert.

Block 'K' Awards: Given to all members that have been in choir at least three years (6 semesters)

Four Year Awards: Given to seniors who have been in choir all four years (8 semesters).



Music Boosters

The purpose of the **KHS Music Boosters** is to promote and support the activities of the music students and performing groups of the Kingsburg High School Music Department. The Music Boosters promote and encourage:

- Musical excellence in the program
- Teamwork and cooperation in all activities
- An environment of mutual respect and dignity
- The communication of the exceptional quality of the program to the community at large.

Communication – How Parents Stay Informed

The music directors and the Music Boosters organization have set up the following procedures for communicating information to all members:

Telephone Committee – is used to remind members of monthly general meetings, as well as provide information on all major events throughout the year.

General Meetings – of the Music Boosters are held on the second Tuesday of each month at Kingsburg High School in the choral room. In addition to conducting the business of the organization, a large segment of the meeting is devoted to providing information on various events and activities. The directors are present as well. Attendance at general meetings is encouraged. Meetings are held on the dates listed on the event calendar at 7:00 p.m. Students of parents attending a monthly booster meeting will receive extra credit towards a quarter or semester grade.

Music Students – are given detailed performance schedules and other information by the directors. Parents should ask their students to see any fliers that are sent home.

rmynderup@kingsburghigh.com is definitely the best way of communication with the choir director.

...and don't forget to like us on Facebook!!



Kingsburg High School Music Boosters

Grading Policy

Grading for the KHS Choirs is broken down into 4 separate categories

Rehearsal Points - 40%
Homework - 15%
Vocal/Written Tests - 15%
Concert/Festival Attendance - 30%

Rehearsal Points: 40% of total grade

Each choir student begins each rehearsal day with 10 points, which is equal to an “A”. Rehearsal points will be taken away for conduct detrimental to the rehearsal process and for not following the guidelines stated in this manual. The following is a partial list of reasons a student may lose daily rehearsal points.

- -2pts for gum, food, and drink other than bottled water in rehearsal.
- -2pts for talking without permission while the director is at the podium.
- -8pts for coming to rehearsal without proper materials i.e. music, pencil, homework binder.
- -5pts for mistreatment of school equipment.
- -1pt for unnecessary disturbance in the choir room at any time.
- -1pt for using equipment without permission of the director i.e. piano, stereo, sound system, etc
- -3pts for unexcused tardiness.
- -10pts for missing a rehearsal (excused or unexcused) *see Rehearsal Attendance below.

Cell Phones – refer back to earlier discussion under “Rehearsal”.

Rehearsal Attendance: A student with either an excused or unexcused absence from any daily or special scheduled rehearsal will earn a zero points for that rehearsal resulting in an F for that event. Students with “excused” absences can reclaim their lost rehearsal points by signing up for a make-up time on the posted weekly schedule. Schedules are make-up times for absences only from the previous week. Further explanation will be given in class.

Homework: 15% of total grade

Students in all choirs can expect some homework. Time will be given in class for the completion of homework assignments. However, a student that needs more than the allotted time who may take their work home to complete it. It will be due the very next class time.

Homework may also come in the form of informational documents pertaining to a music department event that is coming up. Many times the student only needs to take the document home to share with his/her parent and have that parent sign a verification that they’ve seen the information and have it returned by the student by the given due date.

Vocal/Written Tests: 15% of total grade

Students can expect a vocal test at least once prior to a major performance event such as the fall, Christmas, and Pre-festival concerts, as well as scheduled festivals. The vocal test evaluates if the student is learning his or her music. Each student will sing in a quartet and be recorded into a multi-track recording system. Aural evaluation includes singing the correct part, rhythms, pronunciation (for foreign language songs) and articulation, as well as correct use of dynamics, and intonation (singing in tune). Written tests will be given from time to time in order to assess each student's progress with what's being taught in class relevant to singing skills, music theory and history.

Concert/Festival Attendance: 30% of total grade

Note to students and parents: Due to the nature of choir this section of grading can sometimes seem confusing, especially to students new to the choir experience. Because of this I have tried to be as thorough in my explanation. If you find you still have questions or concerns regarding concert or festival grading please contact me directly at 897-1439.

Each choir is scheduled to perform in the public and in some type of educational arena in which the culmination of several week's work will not only be put on display, but also evaluated. It is therefore expected that each singer attend every function that is scheduled for his or her specific group. For this reason a student who attends a concert or festival and follows all of the expectations and etiquette rules will receive **100 points** for that performance which is equivalent to an A. Students failing to attend a concert or festival will receive **0 points**, or the equivalent of an F. It is important to understand that when any student misses a performance it only serves to downgrade the entire group's overall performance ability and will not allow the **true ability** of the choir to flourish.

How does missing a concert or festival affect my grade?

An **unexcused** absence from any performance will result in an F for that performance and a 30% reduction in your quarter or semester grade. Below are some sample excuses that are not acceptable for missing a performance. They include but are not limited to:

- No one in my family would give me a ride to the concert.
- I had to baby sit at the last minute.
- I did not have the proper concert clothes.
- American Idol was on and I just couldn't miss it.
- I didn't learn my music anyway.
- I'm on Academic Probation and can't perform anyway. (See guidelines below)
- My dog ate the shoes I was going to wear and I didn't want to wear my black tennis shoes because that was only pair close to what I could wear, but because Mr. Mynderup stated in the concert outfit rules that black tennis shoes were unacceptable I didn't want to take the chance of getting a lower grade, and that's why I didn't come to the concert.

If you miss a scheduled concert or festival to attend a KHS or non-KHS sponsored event the following guidelines must be followed in order to maintain your grade in choir.

- Clear the absence **in advance** with Mr. Mynderup by submitting a written note or a phone call from your parent/guardian no less than two weeks in advance of the concert date. **Important** – No student regardless of age may clear his or her own absence.

You must also make up the concert by

- Submitting a 2-½ -page, doubled spaced music report before or on the date of the concert or festival. If the concert is scheduled on a Saturday or Sunday your paper is due the Friday before either of these days. Reports submitted after the concert or festival date will not be accepted unless a prior agreement has been made with Mr. Mynderup.

Students who are on Academic Probation (AP) during the scheduled performance time cannot perform with the choir. In the event you are on AP you are still required to attend the concert and fill out a Concert Report packet. It is the student's responsibility to get the packet from Mr. Mynderup in advance of the concert. All Concert Report packets are due at the conclusion of the concert and must be turned in that night to either Mr. Mynderup or Mrs. Copp. For festivals, students on AP must see Mr. Mynderup for a special make-up assignment, which will substitute for not performing at festival.

It is the responsibility of the student on AP to notify Mr. Mynderup that they need a report topic in enough time to complete it before the concert or festival date.

Family Emergency Situations are sometimes unavoidable which is why they are deemed emergencies. My policy is to work with all emergency situations to the best of my ability in collaboration with the parents and students. In the event of a family emergency such as illness or a sudden death in the family parents of the student must.

- Contact Mr. Mynderup as soon as possible either by phone at 897-1439 or by written note or email to clear the absence.
- ***Important*** – No student regardless of age may clear his or her own absence.
- Submit a 2 ½ -page, double spaced music report no later than the date mutually agreed upon by the student, parent and Mr. Mynderup.

Concert and Festival Etiquette

The demonstration of proper **Concert and Festival Etiquette** is expected of each singer. A student represents not only himself or herself, but also the choir and community of Kingsburg at all times on and off the risers. It is expected that all choir students will conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the reputation of the KHS Choir program at all concerts and festivals. A few examples of proper conduct include but are not limited to:

- Listening to and following directions
- Proper concert attire
- Absolutely no talking and fidgeting while on stage or risers
- Proper behavior as an audience participant.

Students failing to properly demonstrate proper etiquette can expect a loss of points for that performance. These can include but are not limited to:

- Students arriving late for the scheduled performance warm-up - 20 points
- Students failing to listen to and follow directions - 15 points
- Students not dressed properly - 15 points
- Distractive behavior while on stage - 20 points

