

Choir Handbook

Parker Jr. High School, 2011-2012

Mrs. Evenhouse

Parker Choir

Thank you so much for your interest in choir at Parker Junior High School! We are excited to have you be a part of this program. Being in choir will be a very rewarding experience for you and you will learn to sing many different kinds of music. And to make sure that you have a positive and productive experience, there are expectations we have for all choir students. Please read through this information so that you know what to expect from your time in Parker Choir.

At the end of the packet is a commitment contract for both you and your parents/guardians to sign. This needs to be returned to Mrs. Evenhouse by Friday, 23.

Thank you so much for joining Parker Choir – I'm looking forward to singing with you all!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Evenhouse
Parker Choir & General Music
Parker Junior High School
levenhouse@sd161.org



Classroom Expectations

At Parker Junior High School, we have three PBIS Expectations – Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Reliable. Here are some ways that you can put these expectations into practice during your time in Parker Choir.

Be Respectful

- ✓ Stay in your seat during rehearsal. If you do need to get up, raise your hand and wait patiently to be called on.
- ✓ Respect materials by putting music neatly away in the folders. You are responsible for the condition of your folder and music.
- ✓ Keep your hands and feet to yourselves. Pushing, shoving, hitting, kicking, or other hurtful action (even if you say you're "just joking") will *not* be tolerated.
- ✓ If you disagree with a classmate or the director, stay calm and speak kindly. If you don't feel comfortable bringing up a concern in rehearsal, please talk to the director afterwards.

Be Responsible

- ✓ Take care of your instrument. Practice good health and hygiene habits. Take care of your voice by drinking lots of water and never screaming!
- ✓ Use correct singing posture and breathing during choir rehearsals.

Be Reliable

- ✓ Come to rehearsal on time. You are tardy if you are not in your assigned seat when warm-ups begin.
- ✓ The success of our choir depends on students being at all rehearsals and being attentive.
- ✓ Joining a choir means making a commitment to the director and also to all of the other members of the group. Do everything you can to meet this commitment so that the choir can always perform its best.
- ✓ Always work to the best of your ability. It may not always be correct but it should always be a 100%. A strong, solid mistake is better than weak, unsupported singing!

Consequences

All PBIS policies and rules are always in effect! In addition, these may be additional consequences:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ✓ Call home to parents | ✓ Removal from rehearsal |
| ✓ Change in seating position | ✓ Detention after school |
| ✓ Sitting out of rehearsal | ✓ Removal from choir |

Choir, Ensemble & Activity Descriptions

- ✓ *Parker Choir* – This choir is made up of sixth grade students. This choir meets every day during the 6th grade X-Time (2:00-2:27pm) in the LGI.
- ✓ *Falcon Choir* – This choir is made up of seventh and eighth grade students who auditioned in the spring of the previous year. This choir meets every day during the 7th/8th grade X-Time (9:00-9:30am) in the North Gym.
- ✓ *7th & 8th Grade Ensembles* - These groups of 21-24 students are selected by an extra audition of students chosen for the Falcon Choir. They rehearse on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 7:50-8:40am. Seventh graders meet in Room 61 and 8th graders meet in the MUR. Students must participate in Falcon Choir to be in an Ensemble.

Rehearsal Procedures

- ✓ *Folders* – Each person will be assigned a folder to share. Each pair is responsible for his or her folder and making sure it is in the correct spot at the end of rehearsal.
- ✓ *Restroom* – Make every effort to use the bathroom before coming to rehearsal. Every voice counts - its important to be in rehearsal to learn the music and fully participate.
- ✓ *Tardies* – Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every rehearsal. You will be marked tardy if you are not in your seat when rehearsal begins.
- ✓ *Attendance* – Because you are part of an ensemble, you are not only accountable to yourself and the director, but also to your classmates. If you need to attend a help session during X-Time, please let the director know *in advance*.

Permission Slips

- ✓ A few times during the school year, the Parker Choir may take field trips or need to stay after school. Advance notice will always be given in these situations.
- ✓ A signed permission slip must be turned in *no later than the day before the trip or event* if the student is to attend.

Concert Attendance

- ✓ Excused absences from a concert include family emergencies, personal illness, or others that have been approved *in advance* by the director.
- ✓ Unexcused absences from a concert include appointments, commitments made after the calendar was released, detention, or other scheduled activities that can be rescheduled.
- ✓ If you miss a performance you must turn in a signed parent note explaining the absence within that school week.
- ✓ Unexcused absences from a concert may result in being excused from the choir.

Concert Dates

This year's choral concerts will take place in the evenings on:

November 15

February 16

May 10

Concert Dress Policy

- ✓ Parker Choir members must have a blue music department polo shirt. They will be available for purchase by an order form from the director when rehearsals begin in the fall. This shirt is to be worn for concerts, festivals, and choir outings.
- ✓ Along with the blue polos, choir members need to wear black pants, black socks, and black shoes for their choir uniform.

Commitment Contract

I have read and agree to the schedule, expectations, and consequences explained above. I have shown the rules to my parents/guardians and they also agree to these expectations.

We understand that attendance is of the utmost importance. We agree to prompt and consistent rehearsal attendance throughout the year.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

We would like to compile a list of parent/guardian e-mails so that we can efficiently send out information for choir members as well as reminders about upcoming concerts and trips. Please provide an e-mail address for this purpose, if possible. Thanks!

Name _____

E-Mail Address _____

Return this form to Mrs. Evenhouse by Friday, September 23.