

2007 — 2008

Yerington Choir  
Handbook

This handbook belongs to \_\_\_\_\_

It is my belief that the Yerington choirs are the best organizations that you could belong to. Every member is critical to the success of the choir. I welcome everyone with all ranges of ability. It is my duty to teach and help each choir to be the best they can be. Your duty is to give 100% effort every time we are together. All personal problems and “attitudes” are to be left at the door! With your effort and determination we can make music... not excuses!

C.E. Jeka, Music Director

Adopted 8/2007

General Saving Clause

The director and/or the administration reserve the right to change all or part of this handbook at any time. It is not the intent of the director to violate any Lyon County School District Policy or any individual's rights by this handbook.

## **Grading Policy**

Performance tests and a possible Final Exam will affect semester grades. Rhythm and sight reading tests will be given. You will be graded accordingly.

Final Exam (Given at Director Discretion)

A 90 - 100  
B 80 – 89  
C 70 – 79  
D 60 – 69\  
F 0 - 59

“Final” results (score will affect your grade in the following manner)

Scores 90-100 = 1 semester grade higher; 70-89 = no grade change; 60-69 = 1 grade lower; 0-59 = 2 grades lower.

Participation in YHS sports and other school related extra-curricular activities.... will not lower your grade! However, the following is expected:

- A. Notification a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the event.
- B. Choir rehearsal takes precedent over sports practice. (see the director)
- C. Choir performance takes precedent over sports practice.

## **Other pertinent information...**

- All rehearsals & performances are mandatory!
- All performances are important. However, some performances are extremely important! Including: Concerts, festivals, contests and parades! You must complete an alternative assignment if you to be excused for credit. Unexcused absences from major performances will most likely result in failing for the semester.
- Failure to have your music in class will lower your grade.
- “Attitude” problems (talking, not paying attention, etc...) will lower your conduct grade... then it will lower you semester grade!
- Not being properly attired for a performance (filthy shoes, improper attire or colors) will lower your conduct grade... Then it will lower your semester grade.
- Auditioning for Honor Choir, All-State, and performing in Solo & Ensemble festivals will have a positive impact on your grade.
- Please remember... we are a choir! You and Each person are important! Your attendance is very important! Sometimes things happen where it is impossible to be at two places at once. Please try to be considerate of all the hard work you and the rest of the choir have put in and how your absence would affect the choir!

Work schedules can be changed... therefore working will be considered an **unexcused absence!**

- Situations that arise throughout the year will be dealt with fairly on an individual basis.
- A good “rule of thumb” is not to spring something on the director at the last minute, **NO SURPRISES!** You will be informed of all rehearsals and performances as soon as they are known. I want to be informed of all possible absences as soon as you know about them...**NO SURPRISES!** (Please refer to bullet item #2 above) I have been teaching music for 11 years and have not bitten anyone, YET! Talk to me about any problems or situations before they become **BIG** problems.
- Grading will also be done by the stipulations of your signed acknowledgement.

#### Vocal Ensemble

- Open by audition only to all students YHS choir and any non choir members wishing to audition. Director makes final decision as to who may be in this group.
- In order to be placed in Vocal Ensemble you must audition. Auditions are held the last two weeks of school and the first week of school. Spots are not reserved. Students who are presently in Vocal Ensemble must re-audition if they are to participate next year. Also. There is no guarantee that a singer will make the group the following year! The director solely determines the make-up of the group. This class is an ELECTIVE and therefore **the director may choose not to include any student for any reason!**

#### Choir Performances

We practice in order to perform! The following is a breakdown of our performances: **(ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY).**

#### Choir Performances

Winter concert

Spring Concert

Choir festivals

Other choir performances at the director’s discretion such as caroling.

#### Transportation... Must be by LCSD vehicle

1. Exceptions may be made by the principal and director in very rare and special circumstances.
2. **ONLY** the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may pick-up choir members from an event if:
  - A. The choir member previously gives the director a written note form the parent/ legal guardian.
  - B. The parent/legal guardian gets in touch with the choir director immediately after the performance. The parent/legal guardian must then complete an official release form.
  - C. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

## Trips

Part of the fun of being a part of the choir is taking trips.

1. When the choir is taking a trip, the proper forms must be given to the director a minimum of **two days before the trip! NO SLIP....NO TRIP!** (Usually, bus seating will be determined by order of slips received!)
2. Be aware of eligibility for trips according to participation in required performances throughout the year.
3. You will be representing yourself, our school and community. Be the best you can be. A trip is a privilege, not a right!
4. **All school and music department rules apply on all school sanctioned trips!**

## Classroom Expectations

Our rehearsal time is valuable, therefore:

1. You must be in your seat, ready to warm-up immediately after the tardy bell. No exceptions!
2. Talking will not be tolerated.
3. Practice CD's, music copies, etc.. will be available before or after class (or rehearsal)... **not during!**
4. Hall passes will not be issued. No one leaves without their personal agenda. (Extreme emergencies will be considered)
5. Excuses will not be tolerated for: not singing, not rehearsing, etc. Written notes only and only if presented **before** class begins.
6. All school rules apply at all times.
7. NO GUM in class or at anytime you are singing with me or the group.
8. No food or drink other than "PLAIN" water permitted in the music room. Your grade will be lowered and the food or drink disposed of immediately.
9. Cell phones will be taken on sight and not returned until after school. The second time you and the phone go to the office.
10. **At no time will facial jewelry on or in the mouth be allowed in the choir class or performances. Lip rings, tongue studs and other mouth jewelry must be removed before entering the room. Being late because you need to remove them is not acceptable.**
11. Chairs and stands will be placed on their respective racks after each class unless otherwise advised.
12. Students will have a pencil at all times. This will be checked and graded.

## Music Folders

- Each student will be assigned a folder number and will be required to maintain that folder in good order at all times. Spot inspections will occur for a conduct grade.

- Students will write their folder number in pencil in the top left of each piece of music and each handout.

### **Leadership team**

8/2007

New this year, a leadership team will be selected by the director to assist in library management and attendance.

### **Uniforms**

#### **Concert**

Until our choir robes are finalized and funded, concert dress will be:

**White dress shirt, black pants or shirt and black dress shoes. No exceptions!**

You have nearly four months before our first winter concert so no excuses for not having the proper attire will be accepted. If cost is an issue, Mr. Jeka is to be notified upon return of the signed page at the end of this handbook so a cost effective solution may be found in due time.

**No uniform...you will not perform, no performance.... no passing grade!**

When our new school choir uniforms arrive, a handbook amendment and use contract will be distributed to each student before any uniforms will be issued.

### **Honors Programs**

#### **Honor choir**

1. Selected by a taped audition made in late October/ early November.
2. Held during school time (usually January/February) therefore one must maintain YIS YHS eligibility requirements.
3. You must be a member of the choir in good standing (“B” or above, few or no absences/tardies. No “N”s or “U”s.)
4. All fees are paid by the Yerington choirs music budget... but must be reimbursed if the student is accepted but does not attend or is removed for discipline reasons.

#### **Allstate Choir**

1. See Honor Choir requirements
2. Must have performed in the Honor Choir concert to be eligible to perform in the Allstate choir.
3. The LCSD Music budget provides money for fees, transportation and lodging. (Food costs are not provided)
4. All fees must be reimbursed if the student is accepted but does not attend (including auditions) or is removed for discipline reasons. Also, the NMEA will prohibit you from participating in the future should you not attend after being selected.

### **Solo & Ensemble Festivals (NZNMEA & State)**

1. All fees are paid by the Yerington choirs music budget... but must be reimbursed if the student is accepted but does not attend or is removed for discipline reasons.
2. The student must have received a superior rating ( I+, I, I-) in the NZNMEA festival in order to be eligible to participate at the Allstate Festival Zone Festival. The Director will have the *final authority* in determining whether the student or group shall participate at the Allstate festival.
3. The performer(s) MUST provide their own accompanist. (\$20 – 60 is standard)

**Please note the eligibility contract! All dates will be made known as soon as they are available!**

### **Fund Raising**

This is an essential activity if we are to procure equipment and fund trips not paid for by the school district. Activities will be announced throughout the year. It is the responsibility of everyone to “DO THEIR SHARE”!

**Section Leader**... Each choir section will have a section leader who will be responsible for the distribution and collection of music and shall depend on the results of a singing test (this test shall be graded in the manner of the singing final).

1. Chromatic Scale ascending descending
2. Intervals Major triad, minor triad, P4, P5, Tritone, Octave
3. Audition piece
4. Sight reading (may be included)
5. The audition will be recorded in the choir room. Someone will be in the room to assist you and operate the recording equipment. ONCE AGAIN... you will be graded for your efforts.

**Return to the director by**

**Friday August 31, 2007**

**Parent/Legal Guardian and Student Acknowledgement**

I have read this handbook and understand its contents. I understand that by following the guidelines and rules set forth in this handbook and by applying effort and making every attempt at improvement that I have every ability to earn an “A” in choir. I understand that should I fail to follow any or all of the guidelines set forth in the handbook I risk losing my chance at earning an “A” in choir. I also understand that should I have any questions not answered by this handbook that I will immediately contact the director for clarification and not assume I know the answer. I understand that this is not a legal binding contract but merely a list of guidelines for proper conduct and procedure in choir.

Circle which class you are enrolled in:

**Choir**

**Vocal Ensemble**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

List Sports/Activities involved in:

