

The Southside High School Choirs Singer's Handbook

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SOUTHSIDE CHOIR

FORT SMITH, AR

SHS Choirs 2023-2024

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Please join the Band App

Stay up-to-date on the latest Choir News!

Use the QR Codes below to sign up for the appropriate groups!

Choir Council



5th Period - Mixed Chorus



2nd Period - 9th Treble



6th Period - Chamber Choir



4th Period - Sophomore Singers



7th Period - 9th Tenor/Bass



SHS CHOIR - IMPORTANT DATES

2023-2024

Highlighted events are required performances and absences must be handled ahead of time (refer to pages 10-11). Absences will only be excused for school-associated conflicts and family and medical emergencies (with provided documentation).

<u>Grades:</u>	<u>Date(s):</u>	<u>Event:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
All Choirs	September 4th, 2023	Begin Fundraiser with Sharum's	
Parents/Guardians	TBD first week of September	Chaperone Meeting	SHS Choir Room
10th - 12th	TBD September 2023	Uniform Fittings	SHS Choir Area
9th	September 28, 2023	City Choral Festival 7th-9th Grades	First United Methodist, Fort Smith
All Choirs	October 2nd, 2023	Choir Fees Due	
All Choirs	October 1-15, 2023	Mums available for pick up at Sharum's	Sharum's Garden Center
9th	October 7th, 2023	Jr. High All-Region Auditions	Dover Middle School
10th - 12th	October 10th, 2023	City Choral Festival 10th-12th Grades	First United Methodist, Fort Smith
10th - 12th	October 14th, 2023	Sr. High All-Region Auditions	Morrilton High School
All Choirs	October 16th, 2023	Final money from Mums fundraiser due	
9th - 12th (Only students placed)	November 4th, 2023	Region 4 All-Region Choir Clinic	The Center for the Arts Russellville, AR
All Choirs	November 28th, 2023 November 30th, 2023	Seasonal Celebration Rehearsals	TBD
All Choirs	December 1st, 2023 December 2nd, 2023	Seasonal Celebration Performances	TBD
Chamber Choir	TBD in December	Caroling	
10th - 12th (Only those eligible)	December 4th - 2023 (Weekly, until auditions)	All-State Sectionals Begin	SHS Choir Area
10th - 12th (Only those eligible)	February 2nd, 2024	AR All-State Choir Auditions	First Baptist Church, Dover, AR

10th - 12th (Only students placed)	(Depart February 16th, 2024) February 15th - 17th, 2024	AR All-State Choir Clinic & Conference	Hot Springs, AR
All Choirs	March 4th, 2024	FSPS Pre-Assessment Concert	TBD
9th - 12th (Only solos & small groups)	March 10th, 2024	Region 4 Solo & Ensemble	
All Choirs	March 11th, 2024 OR March 13th, 2024	Region 4 CPA	Conway High School
Choirs who qualify	April 18th, 2024 OR April 19th, 2024	AR State Choral Festival	University of Central Arkansas
9th - 12th (Only solos & small groups)	April 20th, 2024	AR State Solo & Ensemble	Snow Fine Arts Building University of Central Arkansas
9th - 12th (9th - 11th for placement) (Seniors for exam)	April 22nd - 26th, 2024	Chamber Choir Auditions for 2024-2025	SHS Choir Room
All Choirs	April/May TBD	Spring Field Trips	TBD
9th - 11th (By application)	May 2024	Officer Interviews For 2024-2025	SHS Choir Room
All Choirs	May 6th, 2024	Southside Choirs Spring Concert	TBD

CLASS SCHEDULE - ENSEMBLES

- 1st Period: - (Planning)
- 2nd Period: - 9th Grade Treble Choir
- 3rd Period: - (Advisory/Sectionals)
- 4th Period: - Sophomore Singers
- 5th Period (C): - Mixed Chorus
 - C Lunch
- 6th Period: - Chamber Choir
- 7th Period: - 9th Grade Tenor/Bass Choir
- 8th Period: - (Travel to Ramsey/Chaffin)

MAVERICK MISSION

To ensure high levels of academic & personal growth for all students.

CHOIR OBJECTIVES

1. To provide students with:
 - a. A safe and responsive social environment
 - b. A rigorous and rewarding musical experience
 - c. Memories for a lifetime and a life-long love of learning
2. For students to obtain:
 - a. A thorough understanding of the singing instrument - the Voice
 - b. Highly-effective and independent music literacy
 - c. Confident and expressive vocal independence
3. To create a culture that benefits the student, their ensemble, the choir program, and the Southside community
4. To work alongside instructors in all areas to support student success

CLASSROOM RULES

1. Be kind to yourself and to others.
2. Follow all instructions and give your best effort!
3. Be in place with your binder and pencil when the bell rings.
4. Water only. No food, gum (severe choking hazard), candy, or other drinks are allowed in the Choir Room.
5. No mobile devices including, but not limited to phones, smartwatches, wired or wireless earbuds (see school handbook).
6. Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself.
7. Swearing, harassing, and bullying behaviors are not tolerated.
8. Leaving for the bathroom will only be allowed at permitted times - not during the first or last fifteen minutes of class (see school handbook).

LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE

The Southside Choirs seek to maintain their long-standing traditions of excellence. **Practicing outside of class and attending sectionals and additional rehearsals is expected.** Any student struggling with material or concepts from rehearsal should seek additional support and attend the sectional rehearsals offered during the FLEX/RTI/Advisory time during 3rd period. Out of respect for our students' many obligations, after school sectionals or night rehearsals will be scheduled only if the choir needs additional time to achieve the high level of excellence expected by the director, administration, parents, community, and students - attendance of such rehearsals will be expected.

REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

The single most important factor in the overall success of any choir is the work it accomplishes during its rehearsals.

- **“Good Class”:**
 - When the director, teachers and administrators, visitors, or other students are speaking to the group, the following behaviors are expected:
 - Eye contact
 - No cross-talk
 - Active listening
 - Appropriate questions
 - Showing Good Class helps the speaker feel heard, valued, and engaged.
 - Showing Good Class helps the listener retain more information.
- **Positive Attitude:**
 - The most important factor for success is **desire**. A student must want to learn in order to learn. They must want to work in order to create success.
 - Director and Choir should strive to show each other grace for mistakes as well as encourage each other to do the best they possibly can.
- **Posture and Focus:**
 - Unless directed otherwise, the choirs will be expected to stand when singing.
 - Proper posture for singing will be reviewed in class, and students will be expected to maintain proper posture and breath management throughout each class period.
 - Showing the Director “Good Class” as described above helps maintain an efficient rehearsal. Eye contact and engagement show students are listening and ready to move forward at all times.
 - Cell phones and other devices should not be used during rehearsal, except at the Director’s instruction. [Please see the Student Handbook for policies regarding the restrictions and confiscation of personal devices.](#)
- **Materials and Preparation:**
 - Each day students are expected to be in their place when class begins with the following materials:
 - Pencil & note-taking materials (notepad or paper)
 - Choir folder & Music
 - Optional Water Bottle (water only)
 - After review in class, students will be expected to prepare their music with the following information:
 - Measure numbers
 - Solfege - when indicated
 - Other musical elements as instructed
 - Grades may be taken from time-to-time over these elements of preparation.
- **Illness During Rehearsal**
 - Please notify the Director of any illness **at the beginning of rehearsal**.
 - If you are well enough to stay at school, **please expect to remain engaged in rehearsal**.
 - If vocal rest is needed, please discuss with the Director at the beginning of rehearsal. Speaking is more harsh than singing - **please speak as little as possible when vocal rest is needed**.
 - If respiratory symptoms (coughing, sneezing, runny nose, etc.) are being exhibited by a student, they will be requested to apply a mask and socially distance.
 - It is very likely that respiratory illnesses have always found it easy to spread in large groups that have high respiratory functions such as Choir, Band, and Athletic activities. We should use this knowledge to better serve the health of our community.

REHEARSAL BEHAVIOR GOALS

INDIVIDUAL GOAL:

The primary goal of this plan is that the individual student grows to proudly take ownership of their contribution to our music-making and the choices they made that make that contribution possible. While consequences are part of this discipline plan, it is my hope that students repeatedly and very intentionally reflect on how their choices affect our classroom culture and the quality of our rehearsal time.

GROUP GOAL:

The secondary goal of this plan is that our choirs will learn to firmly and kindly guide their own behavior during rehearsals, knowing that great singing and great music are just on the other side of fun and focused rehearsals. The reward of strong choice-making in rehearsal is musical growth and beautiful music. Students can and should help their classmates avoid the system's consequences by kindly redirecting each other to make choices that improve our rehearsals, not take away from them.

WHY HAVE "STRIKES?"

When students make strong choices toward our rehearsal goals it helps build a strong and supportive culture of excellence in our program. "Strikes" give students an opportunity to reflect on the decisions that run against expectations for good rehearsal. It is assumed that students who regularly disrupt rehearsals need additional support and guidance in their growth toward attaining stronger choice-making skills. Students who regularly choose to follow good rehearsal habits and respectful social practices will likely never receive a "strike."

PROCEDURES:

- Verbal Warning:
 - At the first "strike" each day, the class will be given a verbal reminder to make strong choices that lead to having great rehearsals.
 - After the day's verbal warning, strikes will then be given.
- Round 1:
 - Strike 1 - The student should reflect on what choice or behavior violated rehearsal procedures
 - Strike 2 - The student should reflect on how these choices keep the team from its goals
 - Strike 3/Out:
 - When a student strikes out, they must sit out for 45 minutes and write Reflection Paper #1. When this is complete, the student may rejoin the rehearsal.
 - An email is sent and a phone call is made to parents/guardians
- Round 2:
 - Strike 4 - The student should reflect on why choices continue to be made that disrupt the team
 - Strike 5/Out:
 - If a student strikes out again, they must sit out for 45 minutes and write Reflection Paper #2. When this is complete, the student may rejoin the rehearsal.
 - An email is sent and a phone call is made to parents/guardians
- Round 3:
 - Strike 6/Out:
 - If a student strikes out yet again, they must sit out for 45 minutes and write Reflection Paper #3. The student must explain why they wish to remain in the Choir Program.

- A discipline report will be filed with the school
 - A meeting will be requested with the student, their family, and an administrator
- 3 Outs? What Happens Now?
 - Exit Conference:
 - If a student moves through all three rounds of the strike system, a discussion will be had regarding the student’s desire to remain in the choir program.
 - In the case the student wishes to leave the choir program, the Director will assist in communicating these needs to the administration and the counselors so a solution can be found.
 - Starting Over:
 - In the case the student wishes to remain in the program, additional behavioral support will be sought to help the student overcome the challenges they face during rehearsal.
 - If a student moves through all three rounds of the strike system, and it is determined that the student is fit to remain in the program, the system resets.

Strong Choices for Good Rehearsals	Strike-Worthy Choices
Encourages others, builds others up - Keeps conversations and discussions polite and respectful	Intentional unkindness , disrespectful to others
Listens to instruction from the director and listens to other students during discussions	Carries on conversations while someone else is speaking to the group
Sings when it is time to sing	Carries on conversations instead of singing
Chooses to focus on rehearsal	Engages in any behaviors that disrupt rehearsal time (at the director’s discretion)
Ready , in place on the risers by the bell	Not ready, not in place on time (Tardies will only be given when not in the room on time, strikes will be given when not in place on time - per Southside policy)
Prepared , has music, binder, pencil	Unprepared , is missing required music, binder, pencil
Respects others , their space, and their property	Light rough-housing , doesn’t keep hands to self , messes with others’ belongings, throws objects in the room
Brings only water on the risers in a sealed bottle	Brings food, any drinks besides water on the risers
Turns off or puts away mobile devices	Leaves earbuds in, checks phone during rehearsal, using a smartwatch to communicate during class, and allows technology to distract from class

*** In accordance with the Southside handbook, some behaviors are more extreme than those mentioned above, and will be handled according to handbook policy. **Defiance, insubordination, harassment, and bullying and other behaviors addressed as such in the handbook will immediately be passed on to the administration.**

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Absences from class:

Absences during the school day will follow official school attendance policies. Please see page 12 of the 2022–2023 Student Handbook for detailed information about student absences.

- **Unexcused Absences from Class:**
 - Due to the nature of choral rehearsals, activities, assignments, and assessments that occurred during an unexcused absence cannot be made up.
 - Unexcused absences will often have a negative impact on a student's grade.
- **Excused Absences from Class:**
 - If a student has an excused absence, an alternate assignment may be given.
 - Assignments missed due to excused absences that cannot be made up will not hurt the student's grade.
 - However, it is in a student's best interest to complete all assignments to strengthen their grade.

Absences from all events and practices outside of class:

- **Southside Concert Attendance:**
 - Choir members are expected to check in and be in place at the given time.
 - Choir members are expected to stay in their assigned seating for the duration of the entire concert.
 - Tardiness or unexcused absences will lower a student's grade.
 - Excused absences require prior notification, or fall to the director's discretion in case of emergencies.
- ***Absences from performances, dress rehearsals, sectionals, and other required commitments must follow the guidelines from the FSPS Athletics & Activities Handbook. Schedule conflicts for NON-school activities are not excused. Absence due to illness should be accompanied by a doctor's note. School related conflicts are decided based on the highest importance listed below:***
 1. State championship/All-State clinics
 2. State playoffs/All-State auditions
 3. Conference or state qualifier contest/All-Region audition/assessments and clinics
 4. Non-conference/AAA Benefit game or scrimmage
 5. School performance or concert
 6. Required practices & dress rehearsals and tryouts or tryout practices
 7. Regular practice or team meetings
- **Excused absences from performances, etc. require documentation and communication with the director. They may include:**
 - Death in a student's immediate family
 - Student illness
 - Other important, required school activities or official school business that cannot be rescheduled
- **Unexcused absences include:**
 - Any absence without documentation and communication from parents/guardians that passes director approval

- Excessive, approved absences will result in a director-student conference and communication with parents/guardians regarding commitment to the choir program.
- An unexcused absence from a performance will result in the student's grade being lowered significantly for the grading period. A second unexcused absence from a performance during the semester may result in dismissal of the student from the choir. No credit will be given if the student is dismissed.
- **What to do for School-Sponsored Conflicts:**
 - When a student has an **unavoidable conflict** with another school-sponsored event or activity, it is the student's responsibility to communicate with the director, as well as the sponsor for the conflicting activity.
 - Check the calendar for both activities and communicate the conflict as early as possible so that the conflict may be resolved if possible.
 - This flexibility does not apply to outside clubs or activities not associated with the school.
- **What to do about College-Prep Testing:**
 - ACT and SAT testing offers a wide range of dates on the calendar. Check the choir calendar before scheduling your exams.
 - Please make every effort to avoid these types of conflicts, as it is possible to do so.
- **What to do about student jobs and outside activities:**
 - Being able to have a job during school can be very important. Be the best employee you can, so that you are in good standing.
 - It is good practice that within the first 2 weeks of each semester, students should make a list of choir dates on the calendar and provide that list to their employer, coaches, and outside activity sponsors.
 - Likewise, any time dates are added after the beginning of the semester, students should pass those on to their other commitments at the earliest convenience.
 - Please communicate regularly with the director if you need any help balancing work and school.
- **What to do about Sectionals, Dress Rehearsals, Tech Rehearsals, and other events:**
 - Any required Choir event, activity or rehearsal outside of class time will be posted in advance on a calendar in the choir room, on the choir website, and communicated to choir families via email and the Band app.
 - As much notice as possible will be given since these are required and crucial to the success of the program.
 - Time outside of class is not scheduled lightly. Every effort will be made to minimize the time needed outside of class.
 - Unexcused absences from these required activities will be treated in the same manner as an unexcused absence from class.

All Rehearsals, during class and after school, held during the week prior to any performance are vital, and it is imperative that everyone be in attendance. If possible, PLEASE do not schedule outside appointments during this time.

TRAVELING WITH THE CHOIR

- **CONDUCT:**

- Choir students should be known for their good behavior. No matter where we go, outstanding behavior is expected of all choir members at all times.
- Just as Choir students are expected to be supportive and encouraging toward other Southside Choir students, our students should also show that same respect and courtesy to any groups or organizations we come in contact with. Any comments on other schools or groups should be positive and uplifting.
- Choir members are not to smoke, vape, drink, or commit any other violations of the student handbook at any time they are traveling with or are associated with the choir.
- Possession and/or use of alcoholic beverages, weapons, or controlled substances when associated with the choir will be handled in strict accordance with district administrative guidelines.
- *Students are expected to use transportation arranged by the district on choir trips to and from the destination.* Students may not get in a vehicle with anyone other than their parents for any reason while on a choir trip. Students may ride home with their **parents/guardians only**, if they have provided a **written request prior** to the event, and if they physically sign out the student with the appropriate chaperone. Any exceptions must be approved in advance by the administration.
- Any transportation exceptions must be submitted to the Director well in advance, and those exceptions must be approved by the Principal.

- **NON-REQUIRED TRAVEL**

- At the Director's discretion, additional travel opportunities for performance or competition may be scheduled in addition to the dates already listed on the Choir Calendar.
- The cost for these extra trips is paid for by the students who choose to attend. Therefore, they are not required.
- However, students are encouraged to attend, as we are most successful when all of our students participate.
- Students are encouraged to work outside of Choir to earn the money they need for fees associated with Choir. While we want to keep the cost to students and their families to a minimum, it is inevitable that we will have participation fees. **PLEASE NOTE: Monies turned in/earned for trips are spent on trip housing, transportation, and other costs as quickly as they are collected. Therefore, they are non-refundable.**

GRADING PROCEDURES

Grades will be determined by the following:

- **50% - Daily Engagement (“Participation” in Schoology)**
 - Examples of daily engagement include, but are not limited to:
 - In place, prepared with materials when class begins
 - Remains focused and engaged; follows instructions
 - Demonstrates intentional effort in activities and content
 - Attempts to build upon feedback given during rehearsal
 - Observably applies concepts learned, strives for improvements in the following areas:
 - Vocal Development
 - Posture, Breath, Phonation, Articulation, Resonance
 - Music Literacy
 - Sight-Singing, Ear-Training, Dictation Exercises
 - Vocal Independence
 - Can apply learned skills in progressively complex music
- **20% - Written/Digital Assignments (“Classwork” in Schoology)**
 - Grade checks on notes
 - Grade checks on sheet music preparation assignments (measure numbers, solfege, etc.)
 - Any written exercise, diagram, or project with a written or digital submission
- **30% - Performances and Required Events (“Tests” in Schoology)**
 - Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - All-Region Auditions
 - Southside Choir Concerts
 - The Southside Seasonal Celebration
 - Choral Performance Assessment (CPA)
 - Alternate assignments may be offered in the case of school-business or parent permission conflicts
 - ***Note: Unexcused absences from required performances and events will not only lower a student’s grade, but may have a serious impact on the student’s progression within the Choir Program.

FEES & FUNDRAISING

FEES:

Choir Activity Fees prior to the 2023-2024 school year were \$100 per student.

Choir Activity Fees for the 2023-2024 school year have been lowered to:

- \$50.00 - 9th Grade (lower rate to assist in purchasing Concert Black attire for performances)
- \$75.00 - 10th - 12th Grades (includes uniform maintenance)

If we are able to have a successful financial year, the fees will be further reduced each year until they are eventually eliminated. Choir students should be able to participate in our activities without the barrier of burdensome fees if at all possible.

Choir fees for the 2023-2024 school year are due by October 2nd, 2023. Please contact the director with any questions or concerns.

All choir students are expected to raise/pay the activity fees mentioned above. This includes the following items:

- Choir T-Shirt
- Choir Folder
- Supplemental Sheet Music
- Choir Uniform Rental (Cleanings and Maintenance)
- Other needed equipment and supplies

*****Please make checks out to "Southside Choir." Bring fees, cash or check, securely enclosed in an envelope. On the envelope, please write the student's name, which Choir they are in, and "Choir Fees."**

Please contact the Director if you have any questions or concerns about the Choir Fees.

FUNDRAISING:

Students are expected to participate in the fundraising efforts we undertake throughout the year. In order to keep fundraising to a minimum, we must have maximum involvement in each one.

Scheduled Choir Fundraisers:

- Concert Program Advertisements
 - Advertisement space in the concert program will be sold to individuals or businesses.
 - These supporters will be recognized in our programs and announced from the stage in our concerts.
- Sharum's Garden Center - Selling Mums
 - Students will sell numbered coupons to be redeemed for mums at Sharum's.
 - Supporters will redeem their coupon for potted mums in the specified time during the month of October.
- Ticket Sales for the Seasonal Celebration
 - Once ticket sales open, students and families will sell tickets for the December production.

*****Please make checks out to "Southside Choir." Bring fundraising monies securely enclosed in an envelope. Please write the student's name, the name of the choir they are in, and a clear description of what the monies are for.**

UNIFORMS

T-SHIRT:

All Choir students will be provided a program T-Shirt. Cost of the shirt is already included in the students' choir fees. These shirts will be worn for some performances, on special occasions, and for some activities. They will also be worn for the Spring Concert in May. If a student loses their shirt, a replacement must be purchased at cost.

JEWELRY AND ACCESSORIES:

Jewelry that draws attention away from the group to an individual student is not allowed. Students may wear small studs, but no dangling earrings, necklaces, or bracelets.

9th GRADE CONCERT ATTIRE:

Singers in the 9th Grade ensembles are required to purchase their own "Concert Black" attire. This allows the program to greatly reduce the activity fees for 9th Grade. It also allows students to dress in clothing combinations that might be more comfortable for each student.

Please click this link for a picture with many examples of acceptable Concert Black attire:

https://deercreekmusic.com/uploads/3/4/5/9/34597527/concert-black-examples-group_orig.jpg

Along with any dresses or skirts, please wear black hose or leggings. All students should purchase appropriate closed-toe dress shoes, flats, etc. with black socks. A belt should be worn when appropriate.

***** Any 9th grade student who places in the All-Region Choirs must have purchased their concert attire before the clinic on Saturday, November 4th, 2023.**

10th -12th GRADE FORMALWEAR:

At the beginning of the school year, parent helpers, professional tailors, and/or the director will take the students' measurements and order uniforms. Uniforms will be issued from the Choir program during the fall semester and must be returned at the end of the year.

- Sophomore Singers
 - Tie-Back dress
 - Black Pant/Shirt Tuxedo separates with Maverick Blue bowtie
- Mixed Chorus & Chamber Choir
 - Alixandra velvet top dress
 - Traditional tuxedo, bowtie, cummerbund, studs and cufflinks

Dresses & Skirts: Students must purchase and wear black hose or leggings, along with closed-toe shoes.

Tuxedos: Students must purchase and wear black dress shoes, black socks, and a plain white undershirt.

UNIFORM RETURNS:

As soon as our last "formal" performance is complete, uniforms should be returned to Uniform Storage. If a uniform is not returned, the cost of the uniform will be submitted to the registrar as a delinquent fee. **FSPS policy prevents students from receiving report cards until unpaid fees have been paid.** Uniform maintenance and replacement costs the choir a great deal of money if not returned.

UNIFORM CARE:

Uniforms are clean when distributed and are in good condition. While some wear and tear is expected, uniforms should be returned in good condition. Uniforms are sent off for cleaning at the end of the school year so they begin the year clean.

CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS:

- 9th Grade Concert Black
 - Please follow whatever cleaning instructions come with your clothing
- 10-12 Grade Tuxes and Dresses:
 - White tuxedo shirts should be washed and ironed between performances
 - All other garments should be taken to the cleaners if they need laundered between performances.
- ALL UNIFORMS WILL BE LAUNDERED BY THE CHOIR PROGRAM AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

USE OF FINE ARTS FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

THE CHOIR ROOM:

Keeping our space clean is a team effort. Please turn in binders that were left out to the director or to the librarians. Please pick up pencils, water bottles, etc. and place them in the appropriate places around the room.

As stated in the classroom rules, no food, gum, candy, or any drinks but water are allowed in the Choir Room.

AUXILIARY ROOMS:

There are four practice rooms, a music library, an office, and a choir ensemble room within our choir facilities. Please do not enter any of these rooms without permission. Treat them all with care and respect, and help keep our spaces clean.

STAGE/AUDITORIUM:

Students are not permitted on the stage or in the auditorium unless they are accompanied by the director or another school employee.

SOUND EQUIPMENT:

Sound equipment can only be used with permission from the director and may only be used for rehearsal purposes. Inquire with the director for use of equipment during sectionals or other rehearsals.

PIANOS:

Students may not play department pianos without permission from the director.

We have a very expensive grand piano in the choir room and another on the stage. In addition, we have pianos in each practice room and one in the Choir Ensemble Room. Never set your drinks or personal belongings on these instruments.

CHOIR OFFICE:

If the office door is closed, please knock. If I am available, I will answer. If the director is in the office and the door is open you are welcome to enter. **No students are allowed in the office without permission.**

BULLETIN BOARDS/MARKER BOARDS:

These boards are used to share information about upcoming events and educational information. Do not write or make marks on any materials posted on these boards.

AUDITIONED ENSEMBLES

THE CHAMBER CHOIR:

The Southside High School Chamber Choir is currently the program's only auditioned ensemble. The scope and aim of the ensemble's coursework is aimed toward a college-preparatory experience where students will engage with a broader range of repertoire, music theory, and advanced reading exercises.

The program-wide goal of the Chamber Choir is to bolster and supplement music literacy and artistic development across all ensembles. **To be in the Chamber Choir is to take up part of the responsibility of supporting, tutoring, and guiding the music development of the program.**

CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

It is expected that all Choir students not only build and support a positive culture within their ensembles, but within the larger program as well. Chamber Choir members should not only aspire to excel musically, but also to demonstrate leadership and exceptional character. In order to have a healthy ensemble culture, all students in the Chamber Choir should be able to work well together, and should be capable of encouraging all members of the ensemble.

When auditioning or re-auditioning: If a student has a continuous and long-standing disciplinary record, or recent and severe infractions, the student will be asked to discuss how these issues may affect the culture of the Chamber Choir. If a student is "given a chance," to be placed or keep their place within the ensemble, **choosing to continue those past behaviors will result in their removal from the ensemble.**

If an auditioning singer or a current Chamber member engages in any behaviors that work against building a safe, positive environment - including but not limited to bullying, harassment, or other interpersonal attacks - in-person or online - **those behaviors will either result 1) in forfeiting an incoming or returning student's opportunity to be placed within the ensemble, or 2) in a current member being removed from the ensemble.**

If we want a positive experience and a positive environment, we must all put kindness and positivity into our work.

THE AUDITION PROCESS:

- The audition materials and packet will be handed out early in the Spring semester of each year.
 - **Prerequisite Materials:**
 - Any materials required with the audition packet must be turned in by the due date given in the packet or else the audition will not be accepted.
 - These materials may include, but are not limited to:
 - Letters of Recommendation
 - Responses to Writing Prompts
 - **Elements of the Audition:**
 - The audition will cover the following areas:
 - **Tonicization** - creating and maintaining a sense of the root of the key
 - **Scales and Arpeggios** - maintaining and demonstrating the full feeling of the key's steps

- **Vocal Range** - (not scored) - the director must consider vocal ranges that cover any gaps in the range of the ensemble.
- **Audiation & Solfege Recognition** - the singer will tonicize and then demonstrate their ability to audiate a passage that is signed to them in solfege, then sing it out loud.
- **Prepared Selection** - A piece will be selected by the director, and an excerpt for preparation will be released with the audition packet early in the Spring semester. The student's performance will be scored based on the same rubric that is used by ArkCDA Region and State level vocal assessments.
- **Sight-Singing** - students will be given an exercise to study for a short period (60-90 seconds), which they will then read (60-90 seconds). At this point, the director will work with the students to make corrections (60-90 seconds). Scoring will be based on measure-by-measure accuracy, as well as the student's openness to instruction under the pressure of the exercise.
- **Aural Memory/Aural Analysis** - note patterns will be played to the student from the piano. Students must identify, using solfege, what the tones were played.
- **Entry Requirements:**
 - Beginning with auditions in Spring 2024, **students must score 80% or above on the entirety of the audition process to be admitted, or re-admitted, to the ensemble.**
 - In the case that a voice-part is short on singers, the director reserves the right to admit students beneath the 80% cutoff, in score order starting with the next highest score.
 - All students must complete a new audition again each year.

THE CHOIR COUNCIL

MISSION & PURPOSE:

The Choir Council is the student leadership of the Choir program that is responsible for developing and maintaining a strong, positive culture among Choir students year-to-year. The council provides an opportunity for many students to help manage the many needs of the program.

As the program changes and grows, council positions may change and adapt as well. Positions for the 2023-2024 school year are:

- President
- Program Assistant
- Ensemble Representatives
- Social Media & Photography Chair
- Historian & Digital Collections Manager
- Program Librarian & Ensemble Librarians
- Uniform Coordinator & Uniform Support
- Support Team Leaders and Volunteers
- Section Leaders

CHOIR COUNCIL APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS:

Each Spring, in late April and May, officer applications will be due. There is a questionnaire, recommendation signatures or letters, and an interview.

Students may apply for as many positions as they choose. Much as in a job interview, the director will place candidates in positions best suited to the skills and motivations they have already demonstrated.

If a student is assigned to a position and neglects to fulfill the responsibilities of that position, a “performance review” will be had, to give the student an opportunity to refocus their efforts. If a second “performance review” is needed, the student will be relieved of their responsibilities and another candidate placed in the position.

SUMMER CHOIR CAMP

The Arkansas Choral Connection (ACC) Choir Camp is held each summer during July. We highly recommend that our students attend this camp. The camp offers excellent instruction by top choral directors in the state. Summer camp information and applications are provided to interested students each spring. For more information on this camp, go to www.accchoircamp.org OR Arkansas Choral Connection on Facebook/Instagram. There will also be information on the SHS Choir webpage. (A payment plan for camp is available.)

PRIVATE VOICE INSTRUCTION

The Choral Department of Southside High School will again offer individual, private lessons to those students desiring supplemental help/training during the school year. These lessons will be scheduled once a week during choir class, lunch periods, study halls, and before/after school. Lessons will be taught by approved vocal instructors. This provides students a great opportunity for musical growth without another appointment outside of the school day. We highly recommend any opportunity for private voice lessons and certainly encourage students to study with quality teachers. Further information will be provided to interested students during the beginning days of school.