

Southside High School Choir

Singer's Packet

Keith Reeves

Director

kreeves@fortsmithschools.org



SHS Choir

Great Music. Better People.

August 17, 2021

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to a new year at Southside High School. I am so glad you have chosen to be a part of our program. Our goal is to provide a loving community atmosphere, enhance student musicianship and music literacy, and to provide opportunities for personal growth. Together we will create unforgettable experiences that will last a lifetime.

This handbook will cover as many details about the program as possible. As Choir parents, you are very important to our success. I hope to build a strategic partnership with all of you so that we can provide the best experience possible for the students.

Unfortunately we are unsure what this semester will look like, but we have been told to go ahead and prepare for in person events. The district will make a decision soon on whether or not we will be able to have live performances and travel this year. The Arkansas Choral Directors Association will decide by September 1st on whether or not we will hold our region and state clinics and tryouts live as well. I have attached a calendar with all known dates.

As a graduate of the Southside High School's class of 2003, I have witnessed firsthand the impact that such a program can have in the lives of the students and parents. I look forward to building on the foundation that has been established. SHS Choirs have an incredible tradition of superior performances, unique musical experiences, and community involvement. My goal as director of this remarkable program is to continue that commitment of excellence and growth. Thank you for your interest and support of the Southside Choir Program.

Sincerely,
Keith Reeves
Choir Director
Southside High School

SHS Performing Choirs

9th Grade Treble Choir: 2nd period

Varsity Singers: 3rd period

Mixed Chorus: 4th period

Chamber Choir: 5th period

9th Grade Tenor/Bass Choir: 6th period

**Some out-of-class rehearsals may be required to adequately prepare for performances.*

Objectives:

1. Create memorable classroom and musical experiences that motivate students.
2. Emphasize the development of singing and music literacy skills.
3. Provide a safe place for students to enhance their social skills.
4. Work with other educators in the building to ensure student success in all areas.

Attendance Policies:

Class Attendance

Unlike individual activities such as an academic class, it is impossible to make up activities that occur in a choir rehearsal. Therefore, unexcused or excessive absences will have a negative impact on the student's grade.

Excused Absences

If there is a death in the immediate family, if the student is ill and misses the day of the performance and/or the day following the performance, or if the director approves the student's participation in another required school activity, the absence will be excused.

Unexcused Absences

An unexcused absence from any performance will result in the student's grade being lowered significantly for the grading period in which the absence occurs. A second unexcused absence during the semester may result in dismissal of the student from the choir. No credit will be given if the student is dismissed.

School Events

In the event that there is an unavoidable conflict with a **school** event involving students from the choir, it is the **student's** responsibility to let both sponsors/teachers know this well in advance so that every effort can be made to work out the conflict. This pertains only to other school-sponsored activities, NOT outside clubs, events, etc. It is impossible to schedule around everything. Please keep choir dates posted on your calendar so that we can avoid last-minute confusion and conflicts.

Testing

Throughout the school year, there are several dates set aside for ACT and SAT tests. Please check the choir calendar when planning for those dates. Since there are numerous test dates for each of those tests, choir students are expected to schedule their testing appointments so that they do not conflict with required choir events.

Additional Rehearsals/Activities

Students will be given adequate notice of all additional rehearsals and activities outside of the regular class period. These rehearsals and activities are course requirements and are vital to the success of the choral program. Every effort will be made to minimize the amount of time required outside the regular class time. Unexcused absences from these activities will be treated in the same manner as an unexcused absence from class. Students should prioritize planned extra rehearsals over their personal work schedule as long as more than two weeks' notice is given.

*Rehearsals 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.*

Concert Attendance

Concerts are the ultimate evaluation of many weeks of preparation and class work. Choir members are expected to be present for the entire time of each required concert. An unexcused absence from a concert will result in the lowering of the student's grade. Absences and tardies on concert day will be excused for cases falling under the **Excused Absence** policy. **Prior notification** of any conflict with a required concert or rehearsal is required. Students are responsible for keeping up with the dates and times of scheduled activities.

Trips

Good behavior is expected of all choir members at all times. Choir members are not to smoke, vape, drink, or commit any other violations of the student handbook at any time they 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 accordance with district administrative guidelines. *Students are expected to use transportation arranged by the director 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** if they have provided a **written request prior** to the event.

During a normal year we typically take a performance and/or competition trip in addition to the required performances listed on the school 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.

Rehearsal Etiquette

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

- A **positive attitude** towards directors and fellow choir members is vital.
- Good **concentration** on the *present* has to take precedence over *past* classes or experiences as well as *future* classes or experiences.
- A **pencil in hand** is required. Please mark your music diligently. This allows you to be a responsible choir member by keeping up with the progress of the music.

- **Talking** during rehearsals should only occur when we are not singing and the director is not providing feedback to the Choir. It can be distracting to you and those around you, and can prevent progress.
- If you are ill, please let me know *before rehearsal begins*. If you are well enough to be at school, you must participate in rehearsal. Even if you cannot sing, you must follow along in your music, learning as much as possible.
- **Proper singing alignment** is of vital importance! Just as a car that is out of alignment cannot operate at peak efficiency, a singer who isn't sitting or standing with proper alignment cannot perform efficiently. Proper alignment is necessary for good singing. Poor alignment obstructs the breathing and singing process and indicates laziness or inattentiveness. Proper singing alignment is taken into consideration when grading the students.
- **Cell Phones** should be stored completely out of sight during rehearsals unless given special permission by the director. The only items you should bring onto the risers are your music folder, a pencil, and bottled water.

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

Audience members are encouraged to follow some well-established standards for formal concert behavior.

- Refrain from talking during the performance.
- Remain seated for the entire concert if at all possible. If it is absolutely necessary to do so, move only between songs, and exit at the nearest door.
- Wait to re-enter the auditorium until the performing group is finished.
- Applause is the only appropriate form of expressing appreciation. A good rule of thumb is to wait until the conductor lowers his or her hands to indicate the completion of the selection or work.
- Please eliminate disruptions by turning off cell phones, and exciting if you have small children who are crying or speaking loudly.
- Students are required to stay until the end of the concert and are expected to observe all performing groups. This provides students and parents with an opportunity to view the program in its entirety and often helps build a community of comradery and support within the students. It also gives insight on the progression of Choir and helps parents and students make informed decisions about future participation in Choir throughout the students' high school experience.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Grades will be determined by the following:

Class contribution

- Daily Participation/Preparation/Cooperation
- Daily Attendance
- Written Tests

- Aural Tests
- Singing Tests
- Required Extra Rehearsals
- Folder/Pencil Checks

Performances

- Concert Attendance
- Evaluation

CLASSROOM RULES

1. Be in your assigned place with folder and pencil when the tardy bell rings.
2. Keep hands, feet, books, and other objects to yourself.
3. No gum, food, candy, or drinks other than bottled water.
4. Cell phones may only be used in case of emergency or with director's approval.
5. Be kind.
6. Be respectful.
7. Do your best.

Use of Fine Arts Facilities & Equipment

Care of Choir Room

We are fortunate to have a very nice facility. We need to make the care and maintenance of our choir room, its auxiliary rooms, and our auditorium a daily priority. Remember, there will be no food or drink in the room, with the exception of water.

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.

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. Groups of students are encouraged to rehearse All-Region and All-State music in the choir room with the sound equipment.

Pianos

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 personal belongings on these instruments. *Students may not play the piano without permission from the director.*

Choir Office

If the office door is closed, please knock and wait for an invitation to enter. If you do not receive a reply, it is most likely that I am in a conference, phone call, etc. If the door is open you are welcome to enter.

Phone

The number for the Southside High School Choir room is 479-646-6808. You must Dial 9 to get an outside line before dialing your number. If the phone is not in use, and it does not hinder work being done by the choir director or other music staff, you may use it *with the director's 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.

Section Leaders

(Chosen by the director; one per section in each choir)

1. Maintains a current telephone and address list of all people in his/her section both at home and at school.
2. Acts as the telephone coordinator in case of a need to reach a section of the choir at home.
3. Responsible for keeping up with and reporting to the director all absences in class as well as absences from extra rehearsals, concerts, etc.
4. Assists in leading rehearsals in the event the director is absent.
5. Is prepared to lead their section on any piece of music.

The director may change section leaders at any time.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms will be rented from the choir for the school year but must be returned at the end of the year. The rental fee is included in the students' \$100 choir fee.

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 during the fall semester and must be returned at the end of the year.

Because of a rule that requires All-Region Choir members to wear their school performing uniforms at the All-Region Concert, uniforms MUST be ordered right away. Please make sure to pay your choir fees immediately.

Mixed Chorus, Varsity Singers, 9th Grade Treble, and Chamber Choir:

Members of these groups will wear Tuxes or Dresses.

Dresses must be properly hemmed if needed. Please **do not cut off** the extra dress length. Dresses are rented and will be used by someone else in the future. **(Dresses should be hemmed 1" from the floor, while wearing black flats)**

Tuxedos will include a tux jacket, tux shirt, tux pants, bowtie, cummerbund, and required buttons. . Students will be responsible for purchasing **BLACK DRESS SHOES, BLACK SOCKS, and a PLAIN WHITE** under shirt.

9th Grade Tenor/Bass Choir: Rainwater Clothing will provide our uniforms which will consist of a long sleeved black button up dress shirt, black dress pants, and a tie. Students must wear the school rented uniform to ensure that all singers are wearing the exact shade and style of shirts, ties, and pants. Students will be responsible for purchasing BLACK DRESS SHOES and BLACK SOCKS.

PLEASE NOTE! Rented uniforms **MUST** be returned to the choir at the end of the school year. As soon as our last “formal” performance is complete, students must have uniforms cleaned, and then returned to the choir room. Students who do not return their uniforms will be added to the school’s delinquent list and will be charged accordingly. FSPS policy prevents students from receiving report cards until unpaid fees have been taken care of. Uniform maintenance and replacement costs the choir a great deal of money if not returned.

ALL CHOIR STUDENTS must purchase a Choir t-shirt. The t-shirt fee is included in the students’ choir fees. These shirts will be worn on special occasions and activities. They will also be worn for the Spring Concert in May.

GENERAL: The idea of a uniform is that we appear as a unified group to those who see us. Therefore, additions such as *large jewelry will not be allowed*. Ladies may wear small studs in their ears, but no dangling earrings, necklaces, or bracelets. When we are at a performance, students are expected to be in full uniform from the time they arrive until the time they have completed their performance. We take pride in our organization, and in our appearance.

CLEANING: Students receive uniforms in new, or very good, condition. All are expected to keep their uniforms in good condition. If properly cared for, the tuxes will likely not have to be dry cleaned until the end of the year. *However, the tux shirts should be washed and ironed after each performance!*

CHOIR FEES

All choir students are expected to raise/pay a fee of \$100.00. This includes the following items:

- Choir T-Shirt
- Choir Folder
- Music
- Choir Uniform Rental
- All-Region Tryout Fee
- CPA Participation Fee
- Other needed equipment and supplies

This can easily be accomplished through fundraisers. Students will be asked to sell choir ads, mums, Madrigal Dinner tickets, and cookie dough or another equivalent fundraiser.

FUNDRAISING

Students are expected to participate in the fundraising efforts we undertake throughout the year. None of us love fundraising, but it is a necessity. We will make every effort to keep fundraising to a minimum, but in order to do so, we must have maximum involvement in each one. The first fundraiser will be *selling ads* to individuals and/or businesses. Those supporters will be recognized in our programs at each concert/performance. The selling of mums and ***Madrigal Dinner Feaste*** tickets, are our other major fundraisers we do each year. Each student is expected to help in some capacity with this huge endeavor. Other fundraisers will be provided as needed.

**Payments of any kind are to be placed in a securely closed envelope. Please write your name, the name of your choir, how much \$ is in the envelope, and what it's for, and then give directly to Mr. Reeves, OR place in blue basket on the table in choir room.

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 23 minutes in length, and 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.

LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE

Students in the Southside High School Choir are expected to give the time and effort necessary for top quality performance. Sectionals or night rehearsals will be scheduled only if the choir needs the time to achieve or protect the high level of excellence expected by the director, administration, parents, community, and students.

YES, I WANT TO HELP!!!

Please complete and return this form as soon as possible.

Parent Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Parent e-mail _____

Please check which are appropriate for your circumstances.

I am available:

_____ Mornings _____ Afternoons

_____ Evenings _____ Weekends

_____ Measure students for tuxes/dresses during the school day

_____ Chaperone/Assist with City Choral Festival

_____ Chaperone/Assist with 9th Grade All-Region Auditions – Oct. 9th

_____ Chaperone/Assist with 10th-12th Grade All-Region Auditions – Oct. 16th

_____ Help with Madrigal Dinners (Dec. 9th, 10th, and 11th)

_____ Chaperone Region Choir Performance Assessment on March 10th or 11th

_____ Chaperone State Choral Festival – April 7th

_____ Chaperone Solo/Ensemble – April 9th

Madrigal Dinner Donations:

Name _____

The success of our Madrigal Dinner Feaste depends greatly on the generous donation of time, effort, and money from our local businesses and families. Some needed donations are:

_____ 12" red or white taper candles (**Unscented**)

_____ red or white 3 x 6 pillar candles (**Unscented**)

_____ artificial fruit (plain or beaded)

_____ clear tree lights

_____ green garland

_____ Christmas trees with bases (live and artificial)

_____ iron, pewter, silver, or brass candleholders, mugs/steins, etc.

Assistance with:

_____ Set decoration

_____ Food preparation

_____ Food service (directing student servers, bringing ice, etc.)

_____ Costume design

_____ Building Sets

_____ Clean-up

MANY needs will arise with this event, and we simply need as many hands as possible, helping as needed. Specific needs will be determined as we get closer to the event. You might want to wait to purchase items until then. The exception is candles – **we ALWAYS need more candles** 😊

PARENT/STUDENT CONTRACT OF AGREEMENT: (To be signed and returned immediately. Students MUST return a contract of agreement in order to participate in choir.)

We have read the SHS Choir Handbook and agree to uphold the guidelines, rules, and traditions explained in its contents.

We understand that all performances indicated are required and that additional performances may be added.

We understand that students must be in attendance for the entire performance in order to receive full credit.

We understand that uniforms are to be kept clean, neat, and to be worn as outlined in the handbook.

We understand that the students are responsible for paying the \$100 Choir Fee or fundraising to cover it.

We understand that the director is to be informed of any unusual circumstances that may prohibit the student from performing in class or in concerts (illness, family emergency, excessive absences, etc.). It is the parents' responsibility to contact the director, either in writing, via e-mail, or by phone. (Contact information is on the cover of this handbook.)

We understand that being a member of the Southside Choir is a privilege and that students are expected to represent Southside High School with dignity, pride, and respect.

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____

Name of Student _____

Birthday _____

Street Address _____

City _____ Zip Code: _____

Parent/guardian phone (home and/or cell): _____

Student (home or cell) _____

Parent Email _____

Student Email _____

Name of choir(s) in which you are enrolled _____

Grade 9 10 11 12 T-shirt Size XS S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL

Southside High School Choir
Parental Permission Form

We, the undersigned, do hereby give permission for our son/daughter,

_____ , to accompany the Southside
High School Choir on various school-related trips throughout the year.

We also agree that our son/daughter will abide by all of the rules as established by the director and school administrators for these trips.

Signed:

(Parent or Guardian)

(Date)

Southside High School Choir Medical Consent Form

In case of accident or illness _____ (name of student) has my/our permission to receive emergency care of treatment if deemed necessary.

Signature of parent/guardian

Home telephone number _____

Work telephone number _____

Health Insurance Company _____

ID# _____ Account # _____

Benefit Code # (or other relevant #) _____

Date of last tetanus shot _____

Allergies _____

Family Doctor _____

Address and Phone Number _____

List any medications that the student will be taking with him/her on the trip:

Other important information: _____

Remind

Please sign up to receive reminders/messages via text message or email. Follow instructions below and your phone number and/or email address will be added to a group message system. This is a way for Mr. Reeves to send important reminders to students and parents.

9th Grade Treble Choir (2nd period)

Text @mavschoir2 to 81010

Varsity Singers (3rd period)

Text @mavschoir3 to 81010

For Mixed Chorus (4th period)

Text @mavschoir4 to 81010

For Chamber Choir (5th period)

Text @mavschoir5 to 81010

For 9th Grade Tenor/Bass Choir (6th period)

Text @mavschoir6 to 81010

*This service is available to students and parents/guardians.