**Seven Oak**

**Middle School**

2016-2017

Choir Handbook



**Welcome!**

This handbook has been created and meant to provide students and families with resources for the entire school year. This handbook has information regarding the purpose, procedures, expectations and activities of the choir program. **All members and parents should read the entire handbook carefully to avoid any conflicts with the policies stated. Please take note of attendance and grading policies, daily procedures, concert dress, and important dates.**

As a member of the Seven Oak music program, you represent the sight and sound of our school. The music program is striving for the highest standards of excellence. It is our responsibility as a team to build upon our success and maintain these high standards for years to come. It is your responsibility as an individual to give you absolute best effort at all times to ensure the continuation of the quality experience at this school. We are extremely fortunate to have parents, administrators, teachers, board members and a community committed and dedicated to a quality band program.

**Philosophy**

Through a public K-12 education, students will synthesize broad experiences and knowledge in order to create their own perceptions of cultures, societies, and the variety of roles within each. Students will have an opportunity to construct their own identities and self-purpose through education, thus making them independent thinkers. All students will have diverse opportunities to develop inquisitive minds in order to become lifelong learners and find success after completing their schooling.

Through music education, students will learn about different cultures and broaden their perceptions of society and the world in which they live. In music, students will discover their own identity, purpose, and develop unique ways of expression and communication. Through music, students will experience multiple opportunities to prosper, developing lifelong knowledge and skills that they continue to use outside of school.

**Contact information**

Sarah Perkins- Director of Band and Choir

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<http://msperkins7oakmusic.weebly.com>

**Performing Groups**

SEVEN OAK CHOIR: This class is open to anyone who wishes to participate. Students in this class will learn healthy singing techniques, note reading and writing, and various singing styles. Performances may include but are not limited to school assemblies, and three evening concerts.

**MATERIALS**

Binder with all music and worksheets or assignments

**OPTIONAL MATERIALS**:

Seven Oak Music Program uses SmartMusic, music assessment software that encourages students to practice and provides instant feedback. Seven Oak has a SmartMusic lab for your student’s use, but is also available for home use if you wish to purchase a home subscription.

Music stands are recommended, but not required. They are to be used at home to practice with.

Metronome/tuners are very valuable to help all students and develop technique. Students are strongly encouraged purchase and use a metronome and tuner (they also make free apps that work really well!)

**Classroom participation and general policies**

Please remember that being a part of any musical organization is a team effort and requires rules to obtain musical goals. In addition to these rules, they also help foster excellent rehearsal habits and outstanding workplace habits for the future.

**Rules and Guidelines**

-No food, gum or soda will be allowed in the band room! Water is fine.

-Loud rowdy behavior such as running and horseplay is strictly prohibited in the band room.

-Students are expected to enter the music room in an orderly manner. All backpacks, binders and materials not related to this class must be put away in their locker or placed in an approved area, designated by the director.

-Students must be seated and set up with their own music, pencil, and planner, within 2 minutes of the bell ringing. At this time, roll will be taken, and those who are unprepared will be marked tardy.

-Students may not touch or play property that does not belong to them, even with the permission of the other student.

-Students are to bring all of their individual music and books to class every day.

-Students should have a pencil in their music folder at all times.

-Being allowed in the band room is a privilege, and it is not available to non-music members. Please do not bring your non-music friends into the band room. But do encourage them to join!

-DO NOT TOUCH PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT.

-Students may not touch or use the piano, A/V equipment, or whiteboard unless instructed to do so by the director.

-Cell phone use is prohibited unless you are using a music related app that has been approved by your director.

-The student will demonstrate good citizenship, be courteous, and will respect teachers, guests, and other students and their property.

-Be respectful, be prepared, be your best, make beautiful music.

Remember showing up without adequate supplies and music will be considered unprepared for the class or concert.

**Grading policy**

A student’s grade in choir is a reflection of musical achievement, technical skill, participation in musical activities, and effort both within class and at home. The grade is made up of four different factors: Rehearsal Participation, choir journal, singing and written tests, and performances.

**Rehearsal Participation (15%)**

Each week students will receive a rehearsal grade based on the following:

1. You are prepared; you have your choir binder, music, pencil, book, and you have practiced your music.

2. You participate in class appropriately meaning you work as a team to create music. You are respectful, and courteous of everyone in the ensemble.

3. You are in class and in your seat 2 minutes after the bell rings.

4. You complete all assignments and or quizzes given in class.

**Choir Binder(15%)**

Every day you will be doing an activity using materials either in your binder, or given to you by the teacher. These activities are to help you grow as a musician. We will work on music theory, sight singing, listening and singing skills through these activities. Participation in these are crucial for a developing singer.

Assignments and quizzes will be a formative assessment to track students’ progress throughout on different musical concepts throughout the semester. There will also be in class assignments to assess various musical aspects such as theory, scales, and compositions.

If you forget your choir binder, it will result in a deduction from your participation grade for each occurrence.

**Singing and Written Tests (20%)**

Tests are given in order to chart student's’ musical progress in a variety of ways. There will be playing, written, and verbal (counting rhythms) tests given throughout each semester in order to test student’s demonstration of proficiency of the various musical concepts we are studying.

Playing tests will consist of students playing music on their respective instruments (or clapping and counting rhythms) for grades. Written tests will consist of note naming, note placement, and fingering comprehension.

**Performance Points (50%)**

Concerts constitute up to 50% of student’s grades. Students will be graded on how well they are able to play their concert music, and how they act as members of the audience. Absences from concerts will severely impact the student’s grade as well as impact the rest of the group’s performance. If a student misses a concert there will be various ways to make up the missing points if it is an excused absence and I receive proper notice.

**CONCERT DATES**

December 13, 2016- 7:00 pm, Old Gym. This is our first concert of the year!

January 12-15- OPTIONAL-All State Middle School festival- Eugene OR.

April-?- ABC house fundraiser- Albany OR.

April 8th, 2017 - OPTIONAL - Middle School Solo & Ensemble Festival - Memorial Middle School, Albany, OR.

May 23, 2017- 7:00pm Spring Concert- Our last concert of they year. This will be held in the Old Gym

June 2/3- Strawberry Parade- Time TBA

Event times and dates are subject to change.

**Concert Absences**

Concerts constitute up to 50% of your grade and they are one of the most fun and rewarding experiences you will have in band. Performances at the Middle School are a culmination of what is learned in class, just like taking a test at the end of a unit in math or science.

**Unexcused Absences:**

You will be considered unexcused for a concert if I do not have at least **one** week notice.

Excuses such as “I had to baby-sit,” “I could not find a ride,” “I lost my shirt,” “I forgot,” will result in an unexcused absence.

It will count as an unexcused absence if you do not stay for the duration of the concert. Remember, it is important that we support each other! Please plan ahead to stay for the entire concert.

I am here to help sort out these issues, so please come to me early if anything comes up. Points lost due to an unexcused absence cannot be fully made up. This loss in points will cause a significant reduction in a student’s grade. If a student wishes, they can make up %50 of the lost points, please see Ms. Perkins for details.

**Excused Absences:**

Excused absences occur when there is an illness, death in the immediate family, or emergency situation. In those cases, please contact me by phone or email prior to the concert.

In the event of an excused absence, points will be made through a makeup assignment that will be assigned. It is the responsibility to see Ms. Perkins for makeup work. Work must be turned in one week after the assignment is given. Please look over the concert dates now for any possible conflicts. Should there be any conflicts, please let Ms. Perkins know well in advance.

**CONCERT DRESS**

❏ Black or White shirt or blouse.

❏ Long black or white pants or knee-length black dress/skirt (No yoga pants)

❏ Black or white socks or tights

❏ Black or white SHOES (no sneakers, open-toed shoes or heels)

❏ Minimal Makeup

❏ Minimal jewelry

❏ No perfume/cologne

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NOT PERMITTED AS CONCERT DRESS: t-shirts, shorts, short skirts/dresses, capri pants, sweat/athletic pants, cargo pants, leather, suede, sneakers, boots (unless covered by pants), flip-flops, sandals, excessive make-up, perfume/cologne, or excessive jewelry.

IF YOUR ARE NOT SURE WHAT TO WEAR - ASK!

Concert clothes can be purchased quite inexpensively. Please do not wait until the day before the concert to find clothes for your uniform. If you have any difficulties finding what you need to wear for the concerts, PLEASE do not hesitate to ask for help.

**CONCERT ETIQUETTE**

We will have lessons in proper concert behavior and etiquette. It is up to you to behave correctly when you are on and off the stage. Please remember that you lead the entire audience by your example. If you behave inappropriately at a concert, points will be deducted from your concert performance.

**Weapons/drugs/alcohol**

All students are to follow school rules and regulations on weapons drugs and alcohol. Students may not possess any weapons drugs or alcohol during a band function on campus or off campus. This includes but not limited to band festivals, and any band trip. Also, students are prohibited from purchasing weapons drugs or alcohol at any band trip. Anyone caught with weapons drugs or alcohol during any band trip / function will be subject to disciplinary action according to the Seven Oak Student Handbook.

**Cell phones**

Students are prohibited from having cell phones for calling, texting, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media programs during class according to the Seven Oak Student Handbook. This means that during school or during after school rehearsal or performances, students are not permitted to use cell phones.

**Music room**

The appearance of our room reflects the Seven Oak middle school music program this includes the rehearsal hall, all rooms, storage areas, practice rooms, director's office, and the hallways that connect these. Please help keep it nice and clean. Pick up any trash, music, stands, or anything else that has fallen over and try not to change the arrangement of the chairs. Gum is not allowed in the room at any time. All of the equipment in the music room is very expensive. Do not touch any percussion instrument, electrical equipment, or any instrument that is not your own. Please refrain from running in the music room. Students are not allowed to come into the music room and borrow what they might need without approval from the director.

**Choir Parents**

Parents are a big part of what makes a program run. I would gladly accept the help of parents with various tasks. This includes help with concerts, creating programs, chaperoning, fundraising ideas and more. Please contact Ms. Perkins for more information.

**Seven Oak Band Agreement 2016-2017**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Please read and sign the statements below. Students must return this agreement to class by Friday, September 9th to receive credit.

STUDENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read the contents of the 2016-2017 Seven Oak Middle School Choir Handbook. I have also taken the time to make note of all current performance times as listed on the Seven Oak Music Department Calendar. I understand that if there are any conflicts, I will do my best to provide Ms. Perkins with a note at least 1 week in advance. I commit to participating in and representing the Seven Oak Music Department in a positive manner, and following the expectations to the best of my ability.

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*student signature* *date*

PARENT/GUARDIAN

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read the contents of the 2016-2017 Seven Oak Middle School Choir Handbook. I have also taken the time to make note of all current performance times as listed on the Seven Oak Music Department Calendar. I understand that if there are any conflicts, I will do my best to provide Ms. Perkins with a note at least 1 week in advance. I commit to encouraging my student to participate in and represent the Seven Oak Music Department in a positive manner, and understand the expectations my student is responsible for.

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*Parent/guardian signature date*