**2023-2024 PSMS CHORUS**

**Information Packet/ Handbook**

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

The PSMS choral program is designed to create a sincere love of music through the appreciation and participation of a successful musical experience. Within chorus, students will be challenged through learning and performing a variety of repertoire. Through the experiences of musical expression and interpretation of these works, students will develop a higher sense of self-worth, discipline, musicianship, and pride. Equal to other classes at this school, the choices students make in regards to participation, behavior, attendance, and commitment have a direct impact on other members of the chorus and the final grade in chorus. As a result, careful attention to the policies that embrace these issues is most important. Students are always encouraged to put forth their best effort in every part of the process.

**COMMITMENT**

Each student makes up an important part of the group. Because all of these parts are so intertwined in ensemble music making, your commitment reflects your responsibility to the group. Commitment includes but is not limited to the following:

* Timely arrival
* Concentration on the music and the director’s instructions
* Mature behavior during rehearsal
* A positive and helpful attitude toward other students
* Attendance to all rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and performances

Just as you will be held accountable for any disruptions, you will also benefit greatly from active participation in choir.

**PERFORMANCES**

All students are expected to attend and perform in all concerts both in and outside of school. You will be notified well in advance of performances and any mandatory after-school or extra rehearsals so arrangements with schedules and/or transportation can be made. Daily classroom rules apply to concerts and after-school rehearsals. There will be one required dress rehearsal for our Winter Concert. There are several dress rehearsals for The Little Mermaid. Please see the Performing Arts Calendar for details. All choir students are NOT required to have a role in The Little Mermaid; however, all choir students will learn music for The Little Mermaid and sing on our ‘soundtrack’ for their final Spring Performance.

**DAILY PROCEDURES**

Be respectful and attentive during rehearsals and class time. Be responsible for and expect to assume the consequences for your actions. Follow all rules and student code of conduct. Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music, and school life. No food or drink in the classroom or auditorium other than bottled water. Gum and candy are also prohibited. No use of cell phones in the chorus room without teacher permission.

**DAILY PARTICIPATION (aka THE RULES**)

Be in your assigned seat with your music binder and pencil by the time rehearsal begins. Stand and sit with the group whenever instructed during the rehearsal. Actively take part in vocal exercises to the best of your ability. Active participation includes listening, learning, rehearsing, and eventually mastering proper group vocal/instrumental techniques through music, not talking with your friends or neighbors. You will not leave the room during rehearsals, except in the event of an emergency, as your participation is critical to your classmates and time is precious. Talking during rehearsal is not permitted. Give your complete attention to the director/ teacher.

You should recognize the importance of every element of the rehearsal. Your complete attention should be given to the director and his/her instructions. If you are sick and cannot sing or play, please bring or email a note from home; however, this does not mean you have a free period. You are still expected to participate in whatever ways you can including, reading through your music and making appropriate markings given from the director. For students who have a hard time following the rules, the appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken. If the student still chooses not to follow the rules set forth, referrals will be written. Major repeated discipline issues may result in a student being removed from the program.

**DISCIPLINE**

It is expected that each student realizes his/her responsibility to the group and engage in self-discipline. If a student should choose to be uncooperative, disrespectful, and/or disruptive, the student will face the following consequences:  student/teacher conference, parental contact and detention, probation from participating in activities, consequence as assigned by administrators.

Students will be expected to obey to the following **classroom rules**: Follow all student handbook rules. Follow directions the first time they are given. Display appropriate behavior and language at all times. No gum, food, or drink (other than water) in the choir room and auditorium. Be in place with appropriate materials when class begins. Respect the teacher by not talking without permission. Show respect for all property including music. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.

Students who follow the above classroom rules can expect the following rewards:

Verbal and Nonverbal Praise, Free Time, Positive phone calls, e-mails, etc, Tangible Individual and/or Collective Rewards and Inclusion in special planned activities.

**PERFORMANCE RESPONSIBILITIES**

Along with the rules, you have several responsibilities for a performance:

You must be in your appropriate place for warm-ups by the call time you are given. You should have all music memorized unless you are told otherwise. You must be dressed in the appropriate concert attire.  Attendance at dress rehearsals and concerts is mandatory. Any student more than 15 minutes late to warm-ups before a concert without an appropriate excuse such as wreck, illness, family emergency, etc., will not be permitted to sing. Dates will be announced well in advance of rehearsal and performance times. It is the responsibility of each student to inform parents of all rehearsals and performances.

**CONCERT ATTIRE**

For all performances, students will be required to wear their chorus T-shirts with blue jeans. Students should wear jeans without holes. No specific shoes are required.

**ABSENCES GUIDELINES**

* If a student has an unexcused absent from school on the day of a concert, he/ she cannot perform in the concert that night without permission from administration and Ms. Francis.
* Only absences due to illness, an extreme emergency, family emergency, or a conflict with another school activity will be considered an excused absence. For these absences, students will be excused from the makeup assignment discussed below.
* Because students will be informed of performance dates well in advance, unexcused absence from the dress rehearsal will result in the possibility of student’s not being permitted to participate in that performance.
* Any student that cannot attend a performance due to transportation must contact Ms. Francis at least 2-weeks prior to the concert so that transportation arrangements may be made.
* Students who receive ISS and are absent to class due to ISS are in danger of losing their privilege of performing on the chorus concert. It will be up to administration as to whether or not the student is allowed to perform.
* Students with an excused absence for a performance and/or festival will be exempt from the performance grade. Excused absences include family emergency (decided upon by Ms. Francis), school conflict, etc.

**GRADES:**

(All of the follow categories are weighed equally)

Performances: Students are required to attend and participate in all concerts for this class. Students will receive a 100 on the performance aspect of the class by doing all things discussed under the “performance responsibilities” section of this document. In order for a student to receive an A for a concert and/or festival and be excused from an alternative grade option, he or she must be present at the following: all Dress Rehearsals, Festivals, and Performances. Any student wanting to participate in a day festival MUST be able to perform with the choir at the performance that follows. Please see the section above titled “Absence Guidelines” for instructions to make up a missed performance or festival.

Daily Procedures: See above under “Daily Procedures” and “Daily Participation” for requirements to receive a 100 in this area. Worksheets are included in Daily Procedures.

Tests: Written tests, vocal tests/ checks, and rhythmic tests will be given several times throughout the semester.

**EXTRA PRACTICE:**

Once every semester, students may have an individual voice check. Students will practice all vocal parts for chorus repertoire during chorus class; however, outside rehearsal may be required. Sheet Music and Recordings of all voice parts will be available through the Prescott Chorus google drive, which will be shared with each student through their school email.

This handbook has been prepared to give you information regarding the structure and expectations of Chorus. I hope that this will answer any questions you may have concerning the class. It is the responsibility of each student to become familiar with the policies stated in this handbook. If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to email me at afrancis@pcsstn.com.

Thank you,

Ms. Francis