**Ms. Cayla Morton, Director**

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**Handbook**

**2017-2018**

**Welcome to the South Central Calhoun High School Choral Program!**

Please take the time to review this handbook with your family! You are responsible for the information found in this handbook.

This information can also be found at:

<http://titanchoirs.weebly.com>

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***“The arts, it has been said, cannot change the world, but they may change human beings who might change the world.”***

***-Maxine Greene***

**SOUTH CENTRAL CALHOUN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR GOALS**

1. Develop a life-long love of music
2. Experience music as an essential part of history and culture
3. Develop a community where members treat each other with respect and kindness
4. Learn to read and understand the language of musical notation
5. Develop rehearsal skills, responsibilities, and discipline
6. Develop performance confidence, poise, etiquette, and instinct
7. Sing expressively. Sing from the heart. Sing for life.

**GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

1. Be on time
2. Have all materials (pencil, folder, music, water bottle)
3. No food, candy, drink, gum, EXCEPT water in a closed container
4. Bathroom trips should take place during passing time
5. Cell Phones, Tablets, etc. – Responsible and Respectful use only
6. If you’re sick and can’t sing – ask director for “Silent but Present” form.

**BASICS FOR REHEARSALS (AND LIFE)**

1. LISTEN to the music, to each other, to the director.
2. COMMUNICATE respectfully, efficiently, effectively.
3. BE KIND. WORK HARD. WORK HARD AT BEING KIND.
4. BE POSITIVE. Exude positive energy, always.
5. EXPLORE. Be open to new things. Be open to different things. Be open to TRYING.
6. CELEBRATE SUCCESS.
7. BE EXPRESSIVE. Be willing to *feel*. Be willing to *emote.* Be willing to *express.*

**SCC HS TITAN CHOIR 2017-2018 CALENDAR**

**Bold events are required for ALL Titan Choir Members**

|  |
| --- |
|  **AUGUST**  |
| Thursday 24thTuesday 29th | All Day7:30am | First Day of School!!!First Titanium Rehearsal (Weekly, T/Th) | SCCChoir Room |
|  **SEPTEMBER**  |
| Thursday 7thFriday 8th | 6:00pm7:00pm | Soloist - Volleyball AnthemLady Patriots - Football Anthem | LC GymFootball Field |
| Monday 11th-16th | All Week | Homecoming | SCC |
| Friday 15th Thursday 28th Friday 29th | 7:00pm6:00pm7:00pm | Lady Patriots – Football AnthemSoloist – Volleyball AnthemLady Patriots – Football Anthem | Football FieldLC GymFootball Field |
|  **OCTOBER**  |
| Tuesday 3rd | 4:30pm | Soloist – XC Anthem | LC Country Club |
| Friday 20th | 7:00pm | Lady Patriots – Football Anthem | Football Field |
| Saturday 21st | All Day | Iowa All-State Choir Auditions | Storm Lake HS |
| **Monday 23rd** | **7:30pm** | **Fall Music Theater Concert** | **HS Auditorium** |
|  **NOVEMBER**  |
| Thurs-Sat 16-18thTuesday, 28th | All Day6:00pm | Iowa All-State Rehearsals and ConcertMixed Patriots – Basketball Anthem | Iowa State Univ.RC Gym |
|  **DECEMBER**  |
| Tuesday 5th Thursday 7th**Thursday 14th** Friday 15th Tuesday 19th Tuesday 19th | 6:00pm6:00pm**7:30pm**6:00pm6:00pm6:00pm | Mixed Patriots – Basketball AnthemSoloist – Wrestling Anthem**Winter Concert – Choir/Band**Mixed Patriots – Basketball AnthemMixed Patriots – Basketball AnthemSoloist – Wrestling Anthem | RC GymRC Gym**HS Auditorium**LC GymLC GymRC Gym |
|  **JANUARY**  |
| Friday 12th Tuesday 16th Tuesday 23rd Friday 26th Tuesday 30th  | 6:00pm6:00pm6:00pm6:00pm6:00pm | Mixed Patriots – Basketball AnthemMixed Patriots – Basketball AnthemSoloist – Wrestling AnthemMixed Patriots – Basketball AnthemMixed Patriots – Basketball Anthem | RC GymRC GymRC GymLC GymRC Gym |
|  **FEBRUARY**  |
| Tuesday 6th | 6:00pm | Mixed Patriots – Basketball Anthem | RC Gym |
|  **MARCH**  |
| **Thursday 1st** Friday 9th Monday 26th Tuesday 27th  | **7:30pm**7:30pm4:30pm6:00pm | **HS Mid-Winter Vocal Concert**HS Coffeehouse ConcertSoloist – Track AnthemPre-Contest Recital | **HS Auditorium**LC Community CenterLC TrackHS Band/Choir Rooms |
|  **APRIL**  |
| Tuesday 3rd Saturday 7th Friday 27th  | 4:30pmAll Day4:30pm | Soloist – Track AnthemSmall Group ContestSoloist – Track Anthem | LC TrackTBALC Track |
|  **MAY**  |
| Thursday 3rd **Saturday 5th**  | 4:30pm**All Day** | Soloist – Track Anthem**Large Group Music Contest** | LC Track**TBA** |
| **Tuesday 8th** | **7:30pm** | **HS - Fine Arts Night** | **HS Gym** |
| **Sunday 20th** | **1:30pm** | **Graduation** | **HS Gym** |

**MUSIC AND SUPPLIES**

1. Each choir member will be assigned a folder, pencil, and music for class. Each individual is responsible for the folder and its contents. Failure to return folder or music or return in unacceptable condition will result in a charge.
2. Only music related markings should appear on music in **erasable pencil**, no doodles please!
3. You may always take your folder and music home during the school year, but must have it at school each day for rehearsals.
4. There are many instruments and electronics in the choir room, these must be used responsibly and respectfully and with permission granted from the director. Please do not use instruments as tables!

**CONCERT ATTENDANCE**

*Attendance at every concert listed on the Choir Calendar is a requirement for this course.*

It is a high honor to perform, and your choir counts on *you* for your musical, physical, and moral support at concerts and rehearsals. Concert attendance is **required** of all members of choir at SCC. Concerts are the culmination of weeks of preparation, development, and teamwork. They are a unique opportunity to share your work with peers, family, and the entire community and can be memorable, remarkable, and transforming experiences.

An unexcused absence at a concert will result a significant lowering of your letter grade. If you do not plan to attend the concerts, you should not be in this course.

If an unavoidable conflict arises, you should notify Ms. Morton **in writing** as soon as you know (at least 3 weeks prior to the concert, preferably at the beginning of the semester). Concert absences must be followed up with **written** parental contact to Ms. Morton. Work does not constitute an excused absence from concerts. Clear your work schedule *now* while there is plenty of time and notify your employer of concert dates *now* to avoid miscommunication later.

If you need transportation to or from a concert, please let the director know! We want you (and need you!) to be there, and will find a way to help!

The choir appreciates your taking this responsibility seriously as a member of the SCC Choir Program!

 **REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE**

An UNEXCUSED absence from rehearsal will result in a grade reduction.

Because each singer is a component of the entire choir’s success, attendance at all rehearsals is expected. UNEXCUSED absences will not be tolerated. Unlike many other classes, the work missed in a choir rehearsal cannot be made-up as a musical experience cannot be replicated. Therefore, when a student misses a rehearsal and the absence is UNEXCUSED, the student will not receive points for that day’s work (20pts/rehearsal).

**CO-CURRICULAR VOCAL ENSEMBLES**

Students enrolled in choir at SCC may also choose to audition for one of several co-curricular vocal ensembles. These include Titanium (a cappella), Lady Patriots, and Mixed Patriots. As these ensembles are built on skills developed in curricular choir, students who are interested in participating are asked to be enrolled in curricular choir as well. Auditions for these ensembles will generally take place in the spring prior to the following school year.

 **ALL-STATE CHOIR**

The Iowa HS Music Association offers a performance opportunity through the All-State Choir. Individual singers attend a pre-All-State camp in August to prepare for auditions that take place in October. Those chosen to participate in the All-State Choir based on that audition sing at the All-State Music Festival in November. In preparing for auditions and participating in the All-State Choir individual singers improve singing and become musical leaders for the Titan Choirs. Students interested in auditioning will work with Ms. Morton to prepare for auditions and must be willing to practice outside of regular choir rehearsal time. Details will be communicated at the end of each school year, and further details about the auditions will be communicated at the start of the school year and during the summer.

**SMALL GROUP CONTEST**

Small Group Contest will take place on Saturday, April 7, 2017. This is an excellent performance opportunity through the Iowa HS Music Association for all students enrolled in the choir program. Participation in this event is optional, but recommended. The preparation process for contest improves individual singing, and as individual singers become stronger, so does the whole choir. Details will be discussed and communicated at the beginning of Second Semester.

**LARGE GROUP CONTEST**

Large Group Contest will take place on Saturday, May 5, 2017. This is a **required** event for all members enrolled in the choir program. At this event the choir will perform selections from our spring concert for a judge who will score our performance. This is an excellent performance opportunity through the Iowa HS Music Association that allows us to strive for excellence, share our work beyond our home community, and hear other ensembles from around the state of Iowa. Details will be discussed and communicated at the beginning of Second Semester.

**CONCERT ATTIRE**

At the beginning of the school year, each singer will be assigned a choir robe which will be stored at the school to wear for concerts. It is the STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY to keep robes in professional shape during concerts. Students will be responsible for lost or damaged attire. If there is an issue with your robe when it is assigned to you it is your responsibility to let Ms. Morton know so that you are not charged after the final concert of the year.

**Students are responsible for the following regarding concert attire**:

1. Black shoes with closed toe and heel (no sandals, flip-flops, athletic wear). Shoes should be flat (no heels) if possible. Black tights or socks should also be worn.
2. Black pants, tights, long skirts or long dresses must be worn to cover any leg that shows at the hem of the robe.
3. Accessories should be limited to small items that do not distract from the ensemble.
4. Hair should be out of your face/eyes.
5. Be considerate of your audience and choir peers by limiting perfumes/colognes and remember that you should sing, act, and smell like a professional at performances. ☺

If acquiring any part of the concert attire is an issue for you or your family please discuss with Ms. Morton and she will be happy to help!

**CONCERT “TICKETS”**

Though there are no formal tickets for Titan Choir Concerts, a donation of $1 or more is encouraged at the door to the Fine Arts Booster Club. These donations allow for strong Fine Arts Programs across the district and help us provide payment for our accompanists, keep our uniforms clean, and ensure we have great instruments and technology available for our students. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

 **GRADING**

Grading in choir may be different than in many of your other classes.

Grading is based largely on your attitude, preparedness, participation, cooperation, and desire to learn, as these things are vital in supporting your personal musical growth and the growth of the entire choir.

This page will help you understand how you earn your grade in choir.

**Rehearsal Points – 50% of grade**

20 Points Possible each day, 100 Points each full week of rehearsals

 **5 points** – Be Present: physically, mentally, and on time

 **5 points** – Be Prepared: have all materials needed to be successful

 **10 points** – Be a Positive Presence: follow the Basics for Rehearsals (and Life)

 Points will be deducted for each negative “incident.”

1. Listen.
2. Communicate.
3. Be kind. Work hard. Work hard at being kind.
4. Be Positive.
5. Explore.
6. Celebrate Success.
7. Be Expressive.

**Variable Points**– Concert Attendance

 **Individual Student Growth** **– 50% of grade**

Variable points as assigned for each assessment

 Includes but not limited to –

- Concert Reflections, Thoughtful Assignment Completion

- Submitted Recordings

- Effort toward progress in musical literacy for in-class assignments and lessons

- Effort toward progress in vocal technique for in-class assignments and lessons

**If you ever have questions about your grade in choir, *PLEASE* *ASK!***

**If you want to be successful in choir, you will be successful in choir, but you must choose to want it!**

**WHY CHOIR??**

Many of you don’t have to ask this question, you just *know* the answer.

Others may need some convincing of music’s power. I could *tell* you about the power of music all day, but you will not understand until you *feel* it.

Celebrations bring students, teachers, administrators, and communities together. *Singing* celebrations bring communities together, strengthen listening, charge the brain, increase learning potential, stimulate the desire to learn, and form strong interpersonal bonds.

Singing together is a way that we can all remember that it is okay to be amazing.

Singing together opens our eyes and our hearts to cultures other than our own.

Singing together is a way to learn about our *selves*. To explore who we are, and who we can become. To transform ourselves and mold our hearts to be compassionate, bold, expressive, collaborative members of our community and of our world.

Singing together develops more than a musician, it develops a *spirit*. It takes what we already have inside us and helps us express our spirits on the outside. Music, and singing, is a part of every human being. It’s a part of life. It’s a part of being *human*. The power of singing shows itself in many different ways (sometimes laughter, sometimes tears, sometimes silliness, fear, joy) – but it is *real,* and it is *powerful*.

So why *shouldn’t* you sing?



***“Music is something terribly special… it does not have to pass through the censor of the brain before it can reach the heart. An F# does not have to be considered in the mind… it is a direct hit… and therefore, all the more powerful.”***

***-Leonard Bernstein***