

Joplin Show Choir Handbook and Class Syllabus 2025-2026

Head Director: Monica Brown

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Assistant Director: McCade Gordon

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I. Learning Intentions:

- To advance performance skills through the art of singing and dancing.
- To work collaboratively to create entertaining musical performances.
- To become better musicians through challenging works of music.

Category Weights

Competitions 25%

Concerts 25%

Daily Participation 40%

(which includes evening rehearsals and class rehearsals)

Final 10%

Materials:

3 ring black binder

Pencil

Appropriate rehearsal attire

Appropriate footwear

Costumes when necessary

II. Class time Rehearsals

Class time rehearsals will be held in room A140 unless otherwise notified. Students are to have a pencil and a music binder with them everyday as a part of their class grade. Students are expected to wear clothing that will be appropriate for movement (dancing, sitting on the floor, lifts and so on). Students should keep their jazz shoes at school, or wear sneakers. Flip Flops, wedges, heels, or sandals are unacceptable for dancing.

III. Evening Rehearsals

All evening rehearsals will be held in room A140 unless otherwise notified. These rehearsals are a mandatory part of your grade and placement within the group. **Failure to attend will lower your class grade and could result in removal from some numbers and or the entire show.** Proper footwear is expected for every rehearsal.

If there is a conflict with any rehearsal it must be presented to the directors no later than one day before the rehearsal. Failure to notify the directors could result in actions above.

IV. Rehearsal Expectations

- 1. Be on time for every rehearsal
- 2. Laptops and other mobile devices (including cell phones) are to be put away during rehearsals
- 3. Proper dress is required for every rehearsal
- 4. Talking needs to be at a minimum- we're in rehearsal to make the group stronger, not visit
- 5. Respect is to be shown at every rehearsal towards ALL
- 6. No food or gum at anytime
- 7. You may bring a water bottle with you to rehearsal
- 8. You are required to have your music folder at every rehearsal
- 9. You may not leave the rehearsal area without the permission of the directors
- SIGHT-READING -We will use the solfege system for sight- reading in show choir. Sight reading exercises and assignments will be required and expected. Here are a few sight-reading websites that will help you prepare for this during rehearsals.
 - sightreadingfactory.com
 - <https://practicesightreading.com/>
 - <https://sightreading.training/>
 - <https://solfasinger.com/>

Failure to follow the above rehearsal rules will result in loss of grade points and possible removal from rehearsal, or even removal from the ensemble.

V. Leadership

- Dance Captain(s)

We will have at least one Dance Captain and one Assistant Dance Captain for each group. The directors will decide captains and the group will be notified. Selections will be made during the camp or as soon as school starts..

★ Dance Captain Expectations:

 1. Complete comprehension and retention of choreography
 2. Lead others respectfully
 3. Communicate well with directors
 4. Positive leadership by example
 5. Captains must retain a grade of an A in the class
- Section Leaders

Chosen by the directors based on leadership and musical ability, these students will be responsible for assisting the directors in the rehearsal process. Selections will be made during the weeks of camp or as soon as school starts.

★ Section Leader Expectations:

 1. Musical understanding of individual part
 2. Lead others respectfully
 3. Communicate well with directors
 4. Positive leadership by example
 5. Section Leaders must retain an A in the class

VI. Financial Obligations

Being in the Joplin Show Choir program carries a significant financial obligation. The choir changes attire each year, so it is impossible to carry an on-going budget through the school to purchase costumes for the show choirs.

The fees for participation in JHS Show Choirs during the 2025-2026 school year are \$400. This fee covers costuming, music, travel and other expenses for the show choir.

Payment of the Costume Account:

- ★ Deposits of \$100 are due by May 22, 2025 to secure the student's spot in show choir. The fees are to be paid in full by August 29, 2025. **The financial agreement and payment plan are attached at the end of this handbook.**
- ★ Band fees (if applicable) are \$50 costume fee and \$100 overnight fee, for a total of \$150 due October 1, 2025.

Additional notes:

- ★ The balance of the account may be paid in full at any time.
- ★ Monthly payments may be made (see the payment plan option).
- ★ Fundraisers specifically for costume payments can be available for students who wish to participate.
- ★ It is the responsibility of the student, and the student's parent/guardian, to communicate with the Directors about financial hardships. The Boosters offer scholarships based on need. Please ask for the application or download it from TeamSnap.
- ★ **THIS IS A YEAR LONG CLASS, TWO SEMESTERS. ANY STUDENT WHO JOINS SHOW CHOIR AND DECIDES TO QUIT THE CLASS AND CHOIR AFTER THE SCHOOL YEAR HAS BEGUN WILL STILL BE OBLIGATED TO PAY THE \$400 FEES AND WILL BE SUBJECT TO A FAILING GRADE IN THE CLASS FOR BOTH SEMESTERS.**

VII. Performances & Competitions

Several performances are held throughout the year including, but not limited to: Fall Concert, Winter Concert and Spring Concert. If schedule permits, an elementary tour performed throughout the district during the Christmas season is possible. A middle school recruitment tour in March is also possible. Additional performances occur periodically throughout the school year for different groups and organizations. The directors will attempt to give at least two weeks notice before any additional performances.

Each choir participates in several competitions during the year. Competitions occur on Saturdays. Competition days can be exceptionally long, depending on distance traveled and whether one or both choirs perform and advance to finals. Additional competitions may be added upon the directors' discretion.

Parents, family members and friends who plan to attend choir competitions need to be prepared to pay admission fees of \$10 to \$15 per person, and sometimes for programs.

In accordance with school policy, students who travel with the Joplin choirs do so only in school-provided vehicles. **To promote teamwork, students are expected to travel to competitions on the bus.** Students must return on the school transportation unless it was arranged ahead of time for a parent or guardian to pick them up and take responsibility for the student's return. Prior written consent must be obtained from the High School Administration in order for students to be picked up by anyone other than the parent.

Conflicts are inevitable with students who are involved with multiple activities. Once a student realizes there will be a conflict, the student should notify all teachers involved. It is the director's responsibility to work with students and the other teachers or coaches to reach an acceptable compromise. In some instances the student will need to decide which event they would rather attend.

Excused absence – Granted with adequate advanced notice of an absence for a reasonable reason, including other school activities, or because of an emergency situation.

Unexcused absence – Unsubstantiated medical reasons, non-emergency medical or dental appointments, birthday parties, recreational trips, driver's license examinations and other arranged events, or any other non-school related activities are considered unexcused absences.

****Attendance has become an issue in the past years. We will be vigilant in requiring students to keep up their attendance in all classes and to maintain acceptable attendance in our classes and rehearsals as well. We will be flexible in emergency situations, however, proper documentation may be required. For example, doctor's note.***

Everyone **MUST** Ride the BUS!

Performance points will be lost for unexcused absences.

★ Expectations at Competitions

1. Be respectful of other groups when they are performing.
2. **DO NOT** talk about other groups at the competition.
3. You may not leave a school building without the permission of the directors.
4. You may not have cell-phones out during other schools performances
5. Try to sit in the same general area when watching other groups.
6. Proper dress code will be followed when not in performance attire. We will adhere to the Joplin High School Dress Code Policy. **Show Choir Shirts will be worn at each competition.**
7. No PDA at any time no matter how “in love” you are.
8. Win and lose with grace and dignity- every time.
9. Refrain from posting negative or disrespectful comments on social media - just don't post anything ever!!

★ Traveling rules and guidelines

1. Students are expected to follow the Joplin High School Code of Conduct.
2. Trip participants are expected to show respect for others and their belongings.
3. Parents will be contacted if discipline problems occur.
4. If a discipline problem is severe, the student will be sent home at the expense of the parent.
5. It is important that all instructions are followed at all of our destinations.
6. Students are expected to cooperate and be respectful of chaperones throughout the trip.
7. Participants are expected to be prompt at all meals and departures.
8. Everyone will be responsible for his or her own luggage and personal items.
9. All movies on the bus must meet the director's approval. Movies will be limited to PG or Pg-13 movies approved by the instructor.
10. Students are reminded to be patient and flexible.
11. Students must realize that there will be no tolerance for anyone breaking the drug and alcohol policy.
12. Parents are expected to be prompt when picking up their child. Any student who is still waiting after 20 minutes may lose traveling rights.

Event dates will be located on the website

www.jhsshowchoirs.com and on Parent Square

VIII. CHOIR TOURS

Choir tours to elementary schools and/or middle schools will possibly be taken following the winter concert. A spring tour could also be scheduled to middle schools prior to Show Choir auditions to promote JHS Show Choirs and as a recruitment tool for JHS Choirs. Attendance and eligibility for the winter tour will be based on attendance at the Winter Concert, student grades and school attendance. The spring tour will be by invitation of the teachers.

IX. INTERNET

Remember that the way you represent yourself on the internet is just as important as the way you represent your group on a daily basis. Do not post any remarks towards other groups on social networking sites and always represent JHS choirs to the best of your abilities.

Videos of Performances: Please refrain from posting videos of the show choirs on outside social media pages until after show choir season. Posting on our Facebook page where membership is restricted is fine, however, we would like to keep our shows private to protect the integrity of our students and their hard work as well as to prevent them from committing any copyright infringement.

X. Disciplinary Actions

For every Action there is a consequence. This will be followed in the Choirs as well. Failure to follow the behavior guidelines set will lead to major consequences including: not being able to participate in performances. Different offenses will determine different punishments.

XI. COSTUMES

- ★ Costumes consist of multiple articles of clothing, shoes and accessories. All clothing and shoes will be marked for each student. Costumes should only be worn for performances and competitions.
- ★ After performances, **each student is responsible for gathering all items of their costume together and hanging them up appropriately.** Any items that have to be picked up by the directors or adult chaperones will be gathered up and retained by the directors. Students are responsible for lost items at their expense. This includes earrings, shoes, ties, shirts, etc. Students who do not have certain items may not be allowed to perform.
- ★ Realize that makeup for both ladies and men are exaggerated for performances.
- ★ The directors have the final say on how hair will be worn during Show Choir competitions and outings. Please refrain from any drastic hair changes during show choir season, including unnatural hair coloring.

★ Guidelines for ladies:

1. Strapless or nude/clear strap bra should be dedicated to use with this costume - you will need to even be measured with it on. Such undergarments are not included in the cost of the costume, but are an essential element of how the costume looks and fits.
2. A limited number of pairs of dance tights will be provided for each lady. Should she use up her allotment she will need to provide her own, exactly the same as what we originally provided, at her own cost.
3. If hairpieces are used as part of the costume and a student changes hair color, it is the student's responsibility to purchase a new hairpiece to match their new hair color in order to perform.
4. Performance dance shoes will be provided as part of the costume. Jazz shoes worn at rehearsals are the responsibility of the student if they desire to have them.
5. Makeup guidelines will be announced after the school year begins.

★ Guidelines for men:

1. Men should wear black compression shorts and black socks.
2. Men are also expected to be clean-shaven (no facial hair) for performances, unless otherwise determined by the directors.
3. Men are expected to have a black belt with a simple buckle, no large buckles.
4. Performance dance shoes will be provided as part of the costume. Jazz shoes worn at rehearsals are the responsibility of the student if they desire to have them.
5. Men should keep hair clean and cut in a way that it does not cover their face.

★ Guidelines for both:

1. No visible tattoos.
2. **No visible body jewelry may be worn during a performance** unless it is specifically part of the costume.
3. **No colored nails unless specifically added as part of the costume by the directors.**

In order to perform, students must follow these guidelines and have their entire costume, which includes clothing, shoes, accessories and makeup. Not performing because of an incomplete costume is considered an unexcused absence and will result in loss of points and risk removal from the ensemble.

XII. STUDENT LEADERS

Student leaders for each choir are elected by their fellow classmates after school starts.

President: S/he must possess the ability to take on great responsibilities. This person will assist the directors throughout the year and be able to lead rehearsals when the directors are away. This person also provides leadership and guidance for the other officers.

Vice President: S/he will assist the president and be able to take on the responsibilities of the president if the president is unable to fulfill his/her position.

Historian: One for each choir, s/he will be responsible for compiling a scrapbook for the year and depicting their choir's activities throughout the year. This will include saving newspaper articles, pictures and programs for their respective choir.

XIII. Extra Credit

There may be extra Credit opportunities throughout the year. If you are in need of extra credit please see the directors for opportunities.

XIV. Member Conflicts

Member conflicts should be resolved by the show choir members involved. In the extreme case that the conflict affects the group, the directors will step in to help resolve the issue. If the issue cannot be resolved both members will be suspended until a resolution can be met. If you become the center of drama in the show choir you will be asked to leave. Choir is supposed to be fun and foster a supportive environment!

XV. Group Positioning

Group performing positions are determined by the directors and the choreographer. Requests to change partners or positions by students or parents will not be entertained. We place the performers in key positions and we will make any adjustments that we feel necessary.

XVI. Eligibility (Academic and Attendance)

- **It is the expectation of the teachers that every member of the group maintains passing grades in every class. Students must be enrolled in at least 6 JHS classes including choir, not including transitions. Students are only allowed one failing grade or they can not be allowed to compete. (If only enrolled in 6 classes they cannot be failing any classes.) In addition, students MUST be passing the show choir class in which they are enrolled. Students not passing the show choir course will be benched until the grade is raised or dismissed from the class entirely. The directors will check grades at their discretion and only those with passing grades will be allowed to travel with the group.**
- **It is also the expectation of the teachers that every member of the group maintains good attendance not only in our class time rehearsals and evening rehearsals, but also in your overall school attendance. Frequent unexcused absences from school, missed show choir class times, missed evening rehearsals and frequent tardiness from any of the before could result in being pulled from performances, including solos or special assignments in the show.**
 - **Per school policy, students missing the day of a competition (or in our case the Friday before the Saturday) will result in the student not being allowed to perform. You must be in attendance for one half of the school day to be eligible. Certain circumstances can be considered upon the discretion of the directors.**
 - **Students missing the evening rehearsal scheduled ON the week of a competition could be pulled from performance that Saturday. Certain circumstances can be considered upon the discretion of the directors.**
 - **Frequent absences and tardiness to rehearsals and/or any classes during the show choir season can be considered as an attendance violation and teachers reserve the right to pull a student from performance(s).**

XVII. Communication

Communication is key to any successful program! As per school policy, we will be using Parent Square as our main form of communication this year. . This program allows us to send out dates, announcements and other important information. We will also have our main JHS Show Choir Facebook page where we will post information, but the individual Sound Dimension and Touch of Class facebook pages will be phased out this year. Our website will also be a good place to see what's happening in JHS Show Choirs.

XVIII. Parent Volunteers and Booster Club

Parent involvement is one of the most important factors to the success of a show choir! Throughout the year we will need the help of parents to volunteer for various events.

- Chaperones
Chaperones are needed for the various competitions. Parents are encouraged greatly to chaperone throughout the year. If you would like to be a chaperone please contact the booster club president or vice president. You may be asked to pay for your bus and lodging based on the trip.
- Communication- Students should add their parent/guardian to Parent Square. This will help parents know what is going on and any events they can help volunteer at.

XIX. Show Choir Camp

The Show Choir Camp is a vital part of the learning experience for the whole choir. It not only gives the students a chance to focus on nothing but show choir, it is also an important time for them to develop relationships and bond as a group. **This camp is Mandatory.** Please plan summer vacations and other camps accordingly. Each Choir will have their own camp time/schedule. Students should bring a water bottle and dress appropriately for a lot of movement. This year's camp will run from July 28 through August 2.

XX. "In The Spotlight" Show Choir Invitational

We will be hosting our eleventh annual Show Choir Invitational on Friday night and Saturday, February 6-7, 2025. It is a requirement that each student work at this event on both Friday evening and Saturday. It is an expectation that each student has one parent or guardian volunteer and work a minimum of 2 hours either on Friday evening or Saturday. But of course, working more than the minimum is highly appreciated.

XXI. Lettering in Show Choir

Students will have the opportunity to letter in Show Choir each year. The first year they will receive a letter "J". The years following they will be awarded at pen to place on that letter. The requirements for lettering in JHS Show Choir are listed on the form attached (next page).

- Activities students can participate in to earn points toward lettering are as follows:
 1. District and State Honor Choir (Auditioning and Participating)
 2. Participating in the Spring Musical
 3. Participating in All State Show Choir
 4. Participating in [Missouri Fine Arts Academy](#)
 5. Participating in District and/or State Level Solos and/or Ensembles
 6. Participating in singing at Graduation
 7. Participating and/or performing at Just Desserts
 8. Participating in musical activities outside of the school setting

Paperwork

Paperwork for JHS Show Choirs includes:

- Travel permission form
- MSHSSA Participation Form
- MSHSSA Medical Release Form
- Joplin Schools Code of Conduct Form
- JHS Show Choirs Contract.

All paperwork will be submitted online this next year via Parent Square and Power School. We are going paperless as much as we can in the future. Please keep an eye out for info about this to come to you soon through the Parent Square App.

Lettering in Joplin High School Show Choir

To letter in choir, one must have an A each semester. Additionally, at least 120 points must be earned.

Student Name	School Year
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Points are given in the following areas

ACTIVITY	POINTS	PTS EARNED
Member of Show Choir	50	
Member of Show Choir Band	50	
Member of Chorale	30	
Roadie for Show Choir	30	
All District Honor Choir Audition	15	
All State Honor Choir Audition	15	
All District Honor Choir Participant	25	
All State Honor Choir Participant	50	
Participate in Spring Musical (cast and/or crew)	20	
Participate in Summer Musical (cast and/or crew)	20	
Just Desserts participant	20	
All State Festival Choir Participant	30	
Audition for All State Show Choir	20	
All State Show Choir Participant	30	
All District Solo and Small Ensemble Participant	10	
Exemplary Rating at All District Solos and Small Ensembles	35	
Outstanding Rating at All District Solos and Small Ensembles	25	
All State Solo and Small Ensemble Participant	30	
Exemplary Rating at State Solos and Small Ensembles	50	
Outstanding Rating at State Solos and Small Ensembles	35	
Musical Performance outside of school (documented)	10	
Other, approved by director	TBD	

Total Earned _____

Calendar Of Events

All Calendar items are subject to change.

Notification of changes will be publicized as soon as possible.

July 28-Aug 1, 2025	Touch of Class Show Choir Camp
Aug 4-8, 2025	Sound Dimension Show Choir Camp
TBD	Men Of Note Show Choir Camp
Sept 6, 2025	District Honor Choir Auditions @ Carthage HS
October 11, 2025	DHC Rehearsal @ Carthage HS, 6-9pm TBD
October 18, 2025	DHC Rehearsal @ Carthage HS, 2-5pm TBD
October 23, 2025	Fall Choral Concert @ JHS, 7pm
October 25, 2025	DHC Day (Rehearsals @ 8am, Concert @ 4pm)
Nov 1, 2025	Neosho Clinic @ Neosho HS (all day)
Nov 8, 2025	Pettit Posse Clinic @ JHS (all day)
Nov 22, 2025	Just Desserts @ 1pm and 6pm in the Black Box
Dec 11, 2025	Winter Choral Concert @ JHS, 7pm
Jan 10, 2026	Show Choir Sweaty Saturday (@ JHS)
Jan 15, 2026	Show Choir Preview Show @ JHS, 7pm (FREE)
Jan 17, 2026	Blue Valley Competition @ BVHS (all day)
Jan 24, 2026	Mt.Vernon Mid-Winter Classic@ MVHS (All Day)
Jan 28-30, 2026	All-State Choir @ Tan-Tar-a
Feb 6-7, 2026	Joplin "In The Spotlight" Competition @ JHS (All Day)
Feb 14, 2026	Jenks Competition @ Jenks HS (All Day)
Feb 28, 2026	Platte County Competition @ PCHS (all day)
Mar 7, 2026	Webb City Show Choir Comp @ WCHS (All Day)
TBD	District Solo & Ensemble @ WCHS (Saturday)
Mar 12, 2026	Show Choir Post Show @ JHS, 7pm (FREE)
TBD	Large Group Choir Contest @ WCHS
Apr 16, 2026	Spring Choral Concert @ JHS, 7pm
TBD	State Solo & Ensemble @ MU (Wed & Thur)
May 7, 2026	Senior Spotlight Concert @ JHS, 7pm
May 17, 2026	Graduation

JHS Show Choir Financial Responsibility

Accepting the invitation to be a part of Joplin High School Show Choirs means that you understand that there is a financial obligation of \$400 (singers) or \$150 (band/crew) per year for participation in show choir. Below you will find five different payment options for paying these fees.

The fee helps to buy costuming, accessories, props, scenery, transportation and competitive fees for the show choir season. There will be fundraisers specifically designed to help students raise money toward their fees. If you require financial assistance beyond the plan below, please let us know.

Also, we are very flexible and will work with you in any way we can. If one of these payment plans does not work for you, please feel free to visit with us about a plan that works for you better.

OPTION ONE PAID IN FULL _____ <i>Student Name</i> ____ \$400 singers _____ DATE ____ \$150 band/crew member fee _____ DATE _____ <i>Signature</i>	OPTION TWO PAYMENT PLAN #1 _____ <i>Student Name</i> ____ \$100 deposit on May 24, 2024 ____ \$75 payment on June 1, 2024 ____ \$75 payment on July 1, 2024 ____ \$75 payment on August 1, 2024 ____ \$75 payment on August 23, 2024 _____ <i>Signature</i>
OPTION THREE PAYMENT PLAN #1 _____ <i>Student Name</i> ____ \$100 deposit on May 24, 2024 ____ \$100 payment on June 1, 2024 ____ \$100 payment on July 1, 2024 ____ \$100 payment on August 1, 2024 _____ <i>Signature</i>	OPTION FOUR Financial Aid Application <i>Please send request for application to monicareynolds@joplinschools.org</i>

Cash is acceptable. Checks should be made out to JHS Choirs. All cash and check payments will be given a receipt. Please make sure to obtain this receipt for your records.

Payments can also be made via online link with a \$3 service charge fee. Please add \$3 to each transaction.

<https://joplinschools.revtrak.net/joplin-high-school/jhs-fees-and-fines/#/v/jhs-show-choir-vocal-music>

JHS SHOW CHOIR FEES FUNDRAISER

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Student Name:				1	2	3
Amount:				\$1 Total \$1	\$2 Total \$3	\$3 Total \$6
4 \$4 Total \$10	5 \$5 Total \$15	6 \$6 Total \$21	7 \$7 Total \$28	8 \$8 Total \$36	9 \$9 Total \$45	10 \$10 Total \$55
11 \$11 Total \$66	12 \$12 Total \$78	13 \$13 Total \$91	14 \$14 Total \$105	15 \$15 Total \$120	16 \$16 Total \$136	17 \$17 Total \$153
18 \$18 Total \$171	19 \$19 Total \$190	20 \$20 Total \$210	21 \$21 Total \$231	22 \$22 Total \$253	23 \$23 Total \$276	24 \$24 Total \$300
25 \$25 Total \$325	26 \$26 Total \$351	27 \$27 Total \$378	28 \$28 Total \$406	29 \$29 Total \$435	30 \$30 Total \$465	31 \$31 Total \$496

Seek out sponsors to sponsor one or more days on the May calendar. What ever day they sponsor that is the amount they donate to you to go toward your show choir fees of \$400. (Example: Sponsor May 15, they donate \$15.) Have them sign their name on the day they sponsor and collect their money. You only need the first 28 days sponsored in order to pay all of your fees for the 2025-2026 school year. Days 29-31 will go toward our general fund and activities account to help cover other expenses outside of what student fees cover. Good luck!

Payments made over the summer can be submitted by mail to:
Joplin Show Choirs, JHS, 2104 Indiana Ave, Joplin, MO 64804.