

Joplin
Show Choir
Handbook
and Class Syllabus
2023-2024

Head Director: Monica Brown

monicabrown@joplinschools.org

Assistant Director: McCade Gordon

mccadegordon@joplinschools.org

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. You must be present at the camp to be considered.

★ 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. You must be present at that camp to be considered.

★ 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 2022-2023 school year are: \$300 costuming fee per student; \$100 overnight fee per student; for a total of \$400. This is a small expense in comparison to many schools in our southwest district.

Payment of the Costume Account:

- ★ Deposits of \$100 are due by May 26, 2023 to secure the student's spot in show choir. The fees are to be paid in full by September 1, 2023. **The financial agreement and payment plan are attached at the end of this handbook.**
- ★ Band fees are \$50 costume fee and \$100 overnight fee, for a total of \$150 due September 1, 2023.

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.**

VII. Performances & Competitions

Several performances are held throughout the year including, but not limited to: Fall Concert, Winter Concert and Spring Concert. An elementary tour performed throughout the district during the Christmas season is usual as well. 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 \$7 to \$10 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 – 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.

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 TeamSnap**

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 major consequences including: not being able to participate in performances. Different offences will get 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 to match their slacks.
 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

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.) The directors will check grades prior to each performance and/or competition, and only those with passing grades will be allowed to travel with the group.

XVII. Communication

Communication is key to any successful program! This year we will have a program called TeamSnap. This program allows us to send out dates, announcements and any fees the students may have. There will also be a facebook page for each choir that allow you to follow what is happening this year.

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 team snap. 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.

XX. “In The Spotlight” Show Choir Invitational

We will be hosting our fourth annual Show Choir Invitational on Friday night and Saturday, February 3-4, 2023. 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 3 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 musical activities outside of the school setting

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.

Sept 9, 2023	District Honor Choir Auditions @ Carthage HS
October 16, 2023	DHC Rehearsal @ Carthage HS, 2-5pm TBD
October 22, 2023	DHC Rehearsal @ Carthage HS, 6-9pm TBD
October 24, 2023	Fall Choral Concert @ JHS, 7pm
October 28, 2023	DHC Day (Rehearsals @ 8am, Concert @ 4pm)
Nov 11, 2023	Just Desserts @ 1pm and 6pm in the Black Box
Nov 11, 2023	Stars Over Seneca Show Choir(All Day)
Dec 12, 2023	Winter Choral Concert @ JHS, 7pm
Jan 13, 2024	Show Choir Sweaty Saturday (@ JHS)
Jan 18, 2024	Show Choir Preview Show @ JHS, 7pm (FREE)
Jan 20, 2024	Mt.Vernon Mid-Winter Classic@ MVHS (All Day)
Jan 24-27, 2024	All-State Choir @ Tan-Tar-a
Feb 2-3, 2024	Joplin "In The Spotlight" Competition @ JHS (All Day)
Feb 10, 2024	Neosho Competition @ Neosho HS (All Day)
Feb 17, 2024	Nevada Competition @ Nevada HS (All Day)
Mar 2, 2024	Webb City Competition @ WCHS (All Day)
Mar 9, 2024	District Solo & Ensemble @ WC (Saturday)
Mar 14, 2024	Show Choir Post Show @ JHS, 7pm (FREE)
Mar 22-24, 2024	(Weekend Trip) TBA
Apr ?, 2024	Large Group Choir Contest @ WCHS
Apr 23, 2024	Spring Choral Concert @ JHS, 7pm
April 24-25, 2024	State Solo & Ensemble @ MU (Wed & Thur)
May 7, 2024	Senior Spotlight Concert @ JHS, 7pm
May 19, 2024	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.

<p>OPTION ONE</p> <p>PAID IN FULL _____ <i>Student Name</i></p> <p>___\$400 singers _____ DATE</p> <p>___\$150 band/crew member fee _____ DATE</p> <p>_____</p> <p><i>Signature</i></p>	<p>OPTION TWO (Singers Only)</p> <p>PAYMENT PLAN #1 _____ <i>Student Name</i></p> <p>___\$100 deposit on May 8, 2023</p> <p>___\$75 payment on June 1, 2023</p> <p>___\$75 payment on July 1, 2023</p> <p>___\$75 payment on August 1, 2023</p> <p>___\$75 payment on September 1, 2023</p> <p>_____</p> <p><i>Signature</i></p>
<p>OPTION THREE (Band/Crew Members Only)</p> <p>PAYMENT PLAN #2 _____ <i>Student Name</i></p> <p>___\$50 deposit on May 8, 2023</p> <p>___\$50 payment on Aug. 1, 2023</p> <p>___\$50 deposit on Sept. 1, 2023</p> <p>_____</p> <p><i>Signature</i></p>	<p>OPTION THREE</p> <p>Financial Aid Application</p> <p><i>Please send request for application to monicareynolds@joplinschools.org</i></p>

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

Or online at the link provided.

**JOPLIN VOCAL MUSIC
STUDENT TRAVEL PERMISSION FORM
2023-2024**

As legal guardian of _____
(student name)

I hereby give permission for this student to travel with the Joplin High School Vocal Music Program to any scheduled performances or functions throughout the 2023-2024 school year.

Print Student Name _____

Print Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Parent/Guardian contact phone # _____

Emergency contact Name _____

Emergency contact phone # _____

SHOW CHOIR CONTRACT 2023 - 2024
Joplin High School ~ Joplin, MO

I / We, in contract with the Joplin High School Show Choirs and teachers Ms. Monica Reynolds and Mr. Zachary Loving, agrees to abide by the guidelines, rules, and regulations set forth in the Joplin High School Show Choir Handbook of which I / We have received a copy.

I / We fully understand and agree to abide by the guidelines and regulations contained in the JHS Show Choirs Handbook and Constitution which includes but is not limited to the following:

- a) Members must abide by the rules stated in the JHS Student Handbook and Code of Conduct and must display courteous and appropriate behavior at all times. Members who choose to continue to disrupt class or who choose to not abide by the rules and regulations of the chorus handbook or of the school handbook (i.e., consistently missing rehearsals or performances; disrespectful or rude behavior; public display of affection; smoking; use of alcoholic beverages or drugs; violations of dress code; disciplinary placement in ISS or OSS; and/or other items contained in the JHS Student Handbook) will be dismissed from show choir at the end of the semester and will not be allowed to re-enroll in the course.
- b) Members must maintain passing grades and have good attendance, to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities. Further, students must be eligible according to BOE policy requirements on eligibility before they can participate in any extra-curricular activity or event.
- c) In addition, in order to participate in auditions, competitions or other performances, members must have been present for rehearsals and must have learned the music / routine as specified and to the satisfaction of the director.
- d) Members must attend all rehearsals and performances designated by the director and / or choreographer, including those before, during, or after school hours.
- e) Members who elect to drop out or who are dismissed will relinquish all privileges of performing, or receiving any honors or recognition accrued before, during, or after termination of membership and will not be allowed to re-enroll in show choir. In addition, students who elect to drop out mid-semester and/or mid-year could possibly receive a failing grade for the class and will not be reimbursed any fees.
- f) Members must return their *Contract* and have it signed by their parent or legal guardian before they will be allowed to travel with the show choir.
- g) Members are 100% responsible for all parts of the uniforms, costumes, music, folders, props, and textbooks issued to them. Members will pay for damages or loss to any items belonging to the school or chorus that have been issued to them.
- h) Show Choir students will pay a non-refundable \$400.00 show choir fee by Sept. 1, 2023.
- i) Students must ride the school bus to and from an event if a bus is provided. Following an event, students may be released to ride home with their parents if the parents so indicated on the permission form, and if the parent personally notifies the director and signs the Sign-Out Sheet before leaving the event. According to BOE policy, if not riding the bus home, a student may only ride with his/her parent.
- j) Students must be on time for all rehearsals, performances, and bus trips. Parents must be on time to pick up students from rehearsals or when returning from out-of-town trips. If a parent is significantly late picking up his/her child, the student will not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular events or travel with the choir in the future.
- k) For chaperones, priority will be given to Show Boosters members who regularly attend the monthly meetings.

By signing this contract, I / We state that I / We fully understand and will fully comply with all guidelines, rules, and regulations of the JHS Show Choirs as set forth in the Show Choir Handbook.

SIGNED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 202____.

Student's Signature

Parent's / Legal Guardian's Signature