

Eagle Valley Middle School

Choir Handbook



Dear Eagle Valley Middle School Choir Students and Parents:

August 15, 2022

Welcome to the Eagle Valley Middle School Choir program. My name is Jon Brill and I am the Choir Director here at EVMS. I am a Native Nevadan, born and raised in Reno NV. I graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with a Bachelor Degree in Music Education in 1999, and in 2017, I earned a Master of Music Degree in Music Composition from the University of Nevada, Reno. This is my 24th year as a middle School Choir Director and my 22nd year here at EVMS. I am excited and looking forward to a successful and rewarding year for the students and the program. This letter is provided to make your orientation to the choir a quick and easy task and it contains information to familiarize you with the policies, regulations, and obligations.

Please read the information with your child. Please complete the and sign the Expectations contract and the attached form on page two. Please have your child return it to school. Keep this information as reference to the school year.

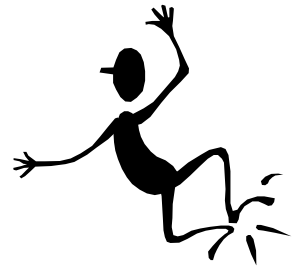
If you love to sing, enjoy performing and like having a great time, you have selected the right class. A membership in choir will be the means of developing some very close friendships. During this class you will sing, explore rhythm and tone, perform, and create various forms of music. The choir will perform a wide range of events, school concerts, and the Northern Nevada Choir festival. Performances are important. It shows the final product of hours, days, and weeks of hard work and practice. Attendance is **MANDATORY!!!!** A test grade will be given for each performance. If there is an emergency that prevents you from attending a performance, please call or write a short note explaining the reason for not attending. If there are any other important reasons for missing a performance, I must be notified at least one day in advance with a note or phone call explaining why the student is unable to attend.

To keep the choir looking at its best this year, the choir will be wearing a uniformed shirt at all performances. The EVMS choir shirt will be red with an eagle logo embroidered in the shirt. The cost of the shirt will range from \$15.00 to \$17.00.

Finally, I pledge to you that I will do everything I can in making this program an organization to be proud of. I look forward to a successful year for all of us. I appreciate your time and support and look forward to meeting you soon. Please feel free to call me if you have any comments, concerns, or questions.

Sincerely,

Jon Brill
Director of Choir/ Bands
Eagle Valley Middle School
283-2600 ex 2621





GRADING PROCEDURE



The grading policies and procedures for the year involve, classroom participation, participating in daily activities, test, points earned for practice, and attendance at performances.

Classroom Participation:

Classroom participation involves getting to class on time, prepared with music, folder, a pencil, positive behavior, and is polite to both peers and teachers. All points are earned on a daily basis and the following are guidelines for earning participation points.

Points are earned:

1. **PERFORMANCE: +100 Points**
2. **Weekly Performance quizzes**
3. **Daily Participation:**
 - a. **On time with folder, pencil, and music: = 20 points.**
 - b. **Late with folder, pencil, and music: = 15 points.**
 - c. **No folder, pencil, and music but performs: = 10 points.**
 - d. **Unprepared and refuses to sing and participate in the daily activities: = 0 Points.**
3. **Auditions:**
 - a. **Solo Audition: = +5 points.**
 - b. **Solo at Concert: = +10 points.**
 - c. **Solo and Ensemble Participation: = +50 points.**
 - d. **Honor Choir Audition: = +10 points.**
 - e. **Honor Choir Participant: = +50 points.**
 - f. **Lessons: +10 points.**
 - g. **Attendance at other musical functions: = +10 points.**



Points are Lost:

1. **Unexcused absence from a performance: = -100 points.**
2. **Unexcused tardy: = -5 points.**
3. **Eating food, candy, or drinking liquids besides water: = -10 points.**
4. **Poor music/folder care: = -30 points and replacement cost of folder/music.**
5. **Talking during a rehearsal: = -2 to -12 points.**
6. **Uncooperative behavior: = -5 to -15 points as well as a call to parents or office referral.**
7. **Lack of participation: = -10 points.**
8. **Improper dress at a Performance: = -5 to -25 points.**

Attendance at Performances:

Performances are important. It is the final product of hours, days, and weeks of hard work and practice. Each performance is worth 100 points. **ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY!** A performance missed without a legitimate excuse will result in a deduction of 100 points from your grade. A student with a legitimate excuse will be allowed to make up the 100 points by completing a designated assignment that will be due within one week after the performance. I will supply a calendar of dates as soon as possible. Performances include concerts, festivals, and other functions that a performing ensemble is required to attend. If you are going to

miss a performance, please notify me. If it is not an emergency, I must be informed with a legitimate reason for missing a performance at least one day in advance. If it is a family emergency, please call me as soon as possible and let me know.

Concert Dress:

Concert attire is important. A great sounding choir not only sounds good, but also looks good. The concert attire will include black pants, jeans or slacks/skirts (for the girls), black shoes sneakers, dark socks, and their **EVMS choir shirt**. These items are to be worn at all concerts and festivals. If any student needs financial help with any of these items, please contact me. No student will be left out because of financial reasons. If you have any suggestions, please contact me and let me know.

EVMS Choir Shirt:

The cost of the performance shirt will range from \$16.00 to \$17.00 depending on the size of shirt. All shirts are adult sizes. If your child is a returning member, then they will not be required to purchase a shirt unless it is damaged or no longer fits them.

Informational Letters:

Informational letters are sent to parents reminding them of band events at least two weeks in advance. Each letter will ask for a parent response and signature. Each student, based on the prompt return of the parental response, will earn points.

Grading Scale:

100% - 90% = A

89% - 80% = B

79% - 70% = C

69% - 60% = D

59% - 0% = F

EXTRA POINTS:

Extra points may be earned if: you take private lessons, observe a concert (you must bring a program), if you write a one page paper about your favorite music or music group, additional performances, etc.....

IF I WORK HARD AND DO WELL, WHAT CAN I EARN?????

MUSIC STUDENT OF THE YEAR!

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE AWARDS!

HONOR CHOIR AWARDS!

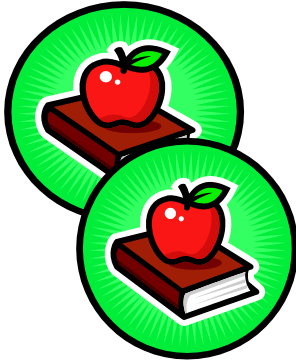
SOLO AWARDS!

POSITIVE AND COOPERATIVE STUDENT AWARDS!

AND MUCH MORE!

WORK HARD AS A TEAM PLAYER; WE ALL MUST WORK TOGETHER AS A TEAM IN ORDER TO BE THE BEST!!!!!!!!!!





Classroom Policies

We all have a reason to be here and that reason is obvious, we all enjoy singing. How we sound as a group has a lot to do with how we work together. If we all follow the classroom policies listed below every day of the school year, the result will be a choral group that will truly make wonderful and beautiful music.

1. Each Student will enter the room quietly, retrieve music folders and sit in their assigned seats prior to when the tardy bell rings. Coming to class unprepared will result in a loss of daily points.
2. A tardy is walking in to the class after the tardy bell rings. A pass from the office or another teacher will excuse that tardy. Excessive tardiness may result in detentions as well as deductions of daily points.
3. Water is the only liquid permitted in the classroom. **No** food, soda, candy and especially **GUM** is allowed.
4. Using the restroom or drinking fountain other than designated break times requires a pass. Abuse of the pass will result in a deduction of points and suspension of all passes.
5. Each Student is responsible for his/her music and folder. Music that is stolen, lost, or misplaced is the responsibility of the student. Music that is left out on the students chair at the end of the rehearsal will result in a deduction of daily points. Students who lose their music are responsible for replacing it.
6. Backpacks, book-bags, notebooks, books, purses, makeup and items that are non-related to the course are not allowed by your seat. You may store your items in the instrument locker room, however; **Lockers will not be checked out to choir students.**



Mr. Brills Expectations for Choir!

In order to have a successful music program at Eagle Valley Middle School, it is important that a list of guidelines is met in order to achieve our goals. The guidelines are mandatory for all students to follow. It is important to me that you have an opportunity to learn and that I have the opportunity to teach. This list was created to let everyone know exactly what is expected in order for a balance between the students learning and the ability for me to teach has been established as well as the consequences that will occur if a specific guideline is not met.

#1. Preparation:

In order to participate, the following materials must be brought to class.

- A.) Sinning Voice.**
- B.) Book.**
- C.) Music.**
- D.) Pencil.**
- E.) Be on time with and ready to sing.**

#2. Respect:

Respect for the music instruments, equipment, fellow students and your teachers.

- A.) Raise your hand before speaking (please don't interrupt).**
- B.) Talking or playing out of turn is a disruption to the class and will not be tolerated.**
- C.) Respect your instrument by not allowing others to play or experiment with it.**
- D.) Care for your instrument and music that is provided.**
- E.) Instruments will be stored in a safe place before and after class.**

#3. 100% Effort:

Work Hard and do your Best!

- A.) Practice your music.**
- B.) Have a commitment to make the group sound at its best.**
- C.) Play with good tone and proper posture.**
- D.) Don't waste our time by being disruptive.**
- E.) The most important thing is to have fun and enjoyable time.**

The EVMS Progressive Discipline plan will be applied for students who choose not to follow the list of expectations.

EAGLE VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES & EXPECTATIONS

STEP ONE: VERBAL WARNING

STEP TWO: First Documented Offense

- A. Discussion of inappropriate behavior
- B. IC Documentation of inappropriate behavior
- C. Possible consequence (teacher discretion)
- D. Possible parent contact (teacher discretion)

STEP THREE: Second Documented Offense

- A. Discussion of inappropriate behavior
- B. IC Documentation of inappropriate behavior
- C. Parent contact (required of teacher)
- D. Consequence given by teacher

STEP FOUR: Third Documented Offense

- A. Discussion of inappropriate behavior
- B. IC Documentation of inappropriate behavior
- C. Parent contact (required of teacher)
- D. Referral to office

STEP FIVE: Fourth Documented Offense

- A. Teacher/Student conference
- B. IC Documentation of inappropriate behavior
- C. Parent contact (required of teacher)
- D. Referral to office

By signing, you, the student indicates that you understand what is expected of you and the consequences involved if you choose to ignore them. A list of expectations will be posted in the room for reference

Student Name Printed

Parent Name Printed

Student Signature

Parent Signature

____--____-- 2022
Date

Class Period

*******Please Return This Portion No Later Than August 26th *******

I have read the enclosed information and will help my child in completing a successful year in the Eagle Valley Middle School Choir Program. I understand the policies and attending performances and actively participating in class my child will achieve success in choir.

Student's Name_____ **Class period:**_____

Parents Name_____

Parents Signature_____

Please Circle the shirt size that will fit your child. Student will be wearing their shirts for all EVMS music events. Please make sure you choose a size that best fits your child.

S M L XL XXL XXXL

The cost of the EVMS Choir shirt will range from \$16.00- \$17.00 depending on your child's shirt size. Your child will receive a balance once all shirts have been ordered.

Please use the rest of this form to address any comments, questions, or concerns.