

SCMS 2024-2025

Chorus Syllabus

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COURSE OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop fundamental skills in chorus. These include but are not limited to individual vocal development, singing alone and with others to learn teamwork skills, sight singing, music theory, reading and notating music, everyday life skills, listening to and evaluating performances, and making historical connections.

REQUIRED MATERIALS/FEES (both to be kept in folder slot in class, under assigned number)

Black chorus folder with provided music
PENCIL! (1st one will be provided)

Students are asked to pay a fee of \$26.00. The fee will cover the teal SCMS Music t-shirt and Spring Concert shirt that students will keep (\$20), along with two meals aligned with performance throughout the year (\$6).

The course fee is significantly lower this year (7th year in a row!) due to a non-recurring allocation of funds given to us by Superintendent Rocky Hanna! We are very thankful for his performing arts-gearred focus in Leon County Schools. The money Mr. Hanna has given to Performing Arts programs in the district will cover sheet music, MPA fees, busses, etc.

All forms and activity fee should be completed and turned in to Mrs. Curry as soon as possible. Cash or checks made to SCMS. Special payment arrangements are available for those with financial concern. Please contact Mrs. Curry with any questions or concerns.

APPS USED FOR THE CLASSROOM

The following apps will be utilized as reminders on a regular basis to enhance the communication process and help remind you of important dates & events throughout the school year: Remind 101 ... class codes listed on Canvas.

PERFORMANCES

There will be two to three scheduled evening school concerts *as well as* one for choirs chosen to participate in MPA Choral Festival. Concerts are in lieu of a big exam and a culmination/showcase of what the students have worked on all quarter or semester! Attendance and participation at these performances is **MANDATORY**, and will only be excused in the case of an emergency, with written notification to the director at least **1 month in advance** of the concert. Parent communication and written notification is required if a student must miss a performance. Unexcused Absences from a performance **may not be made up**. Dates are listed on the Canvas front page and a calendar is sent home the first week!

Other performances, including Lincoln HS concerts, Nursing Home & Capitol performance, 5th grade recruitment with the band, caroling, Tenor-Bass Day, and Treble Day will be special opportunities for specific classes. Students should see Mrs. Curry for more details.

All Swift Creek Middle School choruses perform actively! It is extremely important that students be on their absolute best behavior in public. All school rules apply at performances. The following must also take place:

- * There is no talking at a concert.
- * While in the audience, be quiet and listen to the group that is performing. Be respectful.

Remember, as a chorus member, you are representing yourself, your school, and your community. SCMS chorus members are leaders and set good examples for others!

UNIFORMS

The chorus uniform is an SCMS Teal Music t-shirt (comes with the chorus fee), black pants, black flat shoes, and black socks (if visible), along with a grey SC Chorus polo that will be borrowed from the school (more details TBA). Shoes must be completely black. Additionally, a second shirt (included in the fee) will be given for the Spring Concert in April! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mrs. Curry. Optional: a different SCMS Chorus shirt/hoodie design will be offered this year and can be paid for with the chorus fee.

CLASSROOM/REHEARSAL RULES AND PROCEDURES

In addition to the Leon County Schools Code of Conduct and ALL school rules, there are specific music classroom expectations for participation in all music classes.

All students need to adhere to the following rules:

1. Be respectful of others. Students need to make good choices in their everyday behavior in class. Students are expected to be supportive of each other and work together as a team.
2. Raise your hand before speaking and remain seated. Student questions and comments are a vital part of the class, but cannot be heard if everyone speaks at once. Raise your hand and wait until your name is called before speaking. Student socializing needs to take place outside of rehearsal. **Students need to remain seated and ask for permission to get out of their chair for any reason.**
3. Be respectful of the classroom. Students need to make sure that their personal belongings are placed in back of the room and at the end of each class they have picked up all belongings before leaving.
4. No food is allowed in the chorus room. Students may have a bottle of water in class, but may not bring any type of food, gum, candy, or drinks into the chorus room.
5. Cell phones are not allowed as per school rules. The “phone jail” will be used if needed and turned in to the front office.
6. Be on time and prepared for class. Students will enter the chorus room quietly and be ready with their folder, music, and pencil.

Students will enter the chorus room quietly and will need to set their belongings down in back or the sides of the room, grab necessary materials for class and find their assigned seat. Any student that is not seated or moving to their seat will be marked tardy soon after the bell. Students will be able to ask questions after announcements and should follow directions and remain on task during class. Students will be dismissed by Mrs. Curry and will have time to pack up their belongings and return to their seats before the bell rings.

7. Students will be given one verbal warning during class. After the first offense, the student will be sent to a different seat and given a final chance to fix their behavior before a phone call home.

The following consequences are in effect if a student does not follow directions:

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|--------------------------|--|
| 1 st Offense: | Verbal W arning |
| 2 nd Offense: | O ther: Parent Contact (phone and/or email and logged in FOCUS) |
| 3 rd Offense: | L unch Detention |
| 4 th Offense: | F ront office; possible Discipline Referral |

*** Students will not receive a warning for the following:

1. Disrespect
2. Eating, Drinking, or Chewing gum in the chorus room without special permission
3. Leaving folders and materials out in the chorus room
4. Not bringing all materials to class

IMMEDIATE ACTION WILL TAKE PLACE FOR SERIOUS OFFENSES SUCH AS FIGHTING

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

Daily Participation – 60%

Daily grade – 10 points per day (listed in FOCUS as weekly; 5 day weeks are 50 points, 4 day are 40 and so on)
Students will get a total of 10 daily performance points for being in class with their needed supplies and actively participating. Students receive all 10 points for completing the following: materials (folders with pencil) out and ready, in assigned seat, singing, correct posture, no gum, following directions, participation/engagement, etc.

Written Quizzes – 50 points

Students will take a pre- and post-test at beginning and end of the school year, as well as have quizzes on music theory concepts taught throughout.

Other – 25-50 points

Students will receive paperwork throughout the school year, some of which will be required to turn in. Additionally, they will learn Solfege hand signs and have a test during the 1st quarter.

Concerts / Assessments– 40%

Concert and MPA Performances – 100-200 points; other smaller informal performances – 25-50 points
Attendance and participation at concerts is **MANDATORY** and will only be excused in the case of an emergency with written notification to the director. Parent communication and written notification well in advance (minimum of 1 month from performance date) is required if a student must miss a performance. **The student will earn their concert grade through punctuality, participation, behavior, and wearing the entire concert uniform designated for their respective ensemble. Every member of the SCMS Choirs is a vital part to their group and the success of the chorus as a whole. We practice together in class daily so we can be successful TOGETHER at the 2-3 evening concerts in the whole school year.**

Sight Singing Tests – 50 points

Students will have the opportunity to sight sing along or with one other person an assigned sight singing melody, at least once per grading period.

Grading Scale (Grades are rounded to the nearest whole number)

A= 100-90 B= 89-80 C= 79-70 D= 69-60 F= 59 and below

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT POLICY

Students are expected to receive a “C” or better on tests, assessments, and projects.

- Students are given an opportunity to redo/revise assessments where their score is below 70%.
- Teachers have discretion on all opportunities.
- Students will receive an “Academic Opportunity for Improvement Form,” choose two methods/actions on the form to complete, and return the signed form to teacher.
- Students are allowed one “redo” per test, assessment, or project.
- Students will receive the higher of the two scores, but the final grade cannot exceed a 70%.



2024 – 2025 Nondiscrimination Statement

“The Leon County School District does not discriminate against any person on the basis of sex (including transgender status, gender nonconforming, and gender identity), marital status, sexual orientation, race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, age, color, pregnancy, disability, military status, or genetic information.”