

Jewett Middle Academy Magnet School

Choral Department Handbook

2023-2024 School Year

Teacher Vittone, Choral Director

(863)-594-8567

lia.vittone@polk-fl.net

Dear Students and Parents,

I am so excited to welcome you to the Jewett Middle Academy Magnet School Choral Program! This program is designed to aid students in improving musicianship skills and to foster a love and passion for music in hopes of creating lifelong musicians. I am honored that you have chosen to be a part of this program and, as always, am looking forward to having an amazing year.

In order to create this kind of beautiful music, a desire to learn and full participation is of the utmost importance, and is therefore a requirement. I would again like to say that I am so happy to have you be a part of this program, and that if there are any questions in regards to this handbook, I have attached my phone number and email above. **Read this handbook thoroughly.**

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Attendance Policy

1.) Concert attendance is **mandatory**. **These concerts count as your midterms/finals**. However, I do understand that sometimes life gets in the way, so, there are a few exceptions to this:

- Documented illness/hospitalization
- Immediate family emergency
- Death in the family

If a student has to miss a concert for any of these listed reasons, the student will make up these points by listening/watching a recording of the concert with Teacher Vittone and then having a discussion about the pieces performed. The discussion would include things the group can improve on, things the group did well with, and the overall emotion that the performance emits.

2.) Daily Attendance: Because most work for this class is done within the classroom, attendance is required in order to earn daily participation, which does go towards the students overall grade for the course. The exception to this is an excused absence through the school, or once again, any of the reasons listed above.

Materials

All materials required for this course besides a pencil and a black three-ring binder will be provided to you. These materials include assigned music. These materials are required for every class, and failure to bring them will result in a deduction of participation points. It's also important to keep in mind that your assigned music is to be returned when asked, and that the assigned folders are to be returned at the end of the school year. Failure to do this means that **JMAM may need to receive compensation from you for these items if they are not returned when asked.**

Concert Attire

There are two options for concert attire, and I will be basing this off of what you are personally comfortable wearing. The two options are as follows:

- 1.) A nice black shirt, black pants (NOT jeans), and black character shoes, black flats, or black dress shoes. Black socks are also required with this option.
- 2.) A nice black dress (or a black skirt with a black shirt). If you choose this option, assure that the dress/skirt is knee length or longer, and you will be required to wear black tights underneath. Dress sleeves must also be $\frac{3}{4}$ length.

Note: All shoes must be close-toed and heels are not permitted.

Rules And Expectations

- 1.) When the bell rings, students should already be in their seat with their music folder and pencil in hand, ready to rehearse. **An absence of these will result in an automatic 0 for that day's participation grade.**
- 2.) Cell phones are to be left in book bags, and all bookbags are to be placed in the back of the classroom. If someone really needs to reach you, they will call the office. If there is a situation where you will need to be personally contacted (updates on a family member in the hospital, that sort of thing), let Teacher Vittone know before class so that if the student needs to step out for a phone call they are able to do so.
- 3.) If a student has their cell phone out once, that student will receive a verbal warning and be asked to put their phone in their bag. If the student has their phone out again, they will receive a mark on their card. After this, the phone will be confiscated.
- 4.) There is no food or drinks besides closed containers of water allowed on to the risers.
- 5.) Students are expected to treat everyone with respect. **Disrespect of students in any capacity will not be tolerated. Choir is a safe place, therefore I expect all the students to be a safe place and safe people for each other.**

- 6.) Anyone who misses one or more classes the week before a concert might not sing in the concert. Teacher Vittone will make the final determination depending on the circumstances. The day of the concert and the dress rehearsal is required for all students in order to perform. This is vitally important to the quality of our choirs. If it can be avoided, do not arrange any doctor appointments the week of concerts (refer to the dates below).
- 7.) The rehearsal piano may not be played by students.
- 8.) When observing performances, proper audience etiquette will be given.

Consequences

Failure to comply with the rules/expectations listed above will result in a sequential course of action according to the discipline card handed out by JMAM. Teacher Vittone will first give a verbal warning, and if the behavior is not corrected, a card mark. The card mark disciplinary actions are as follows:

- 1.) Warning
- 2.) Phone call
- 3.) Phone Call
- 4.) Behavior interventionist
- 5.) Administrative discipline
- 6.) Lose dress-down day
- 7.) Admin. Discipline-conference
- 8.) Administration ISS/OSS

Grading

- *Rehearsal*

Participation in rehearsals includes attendance, having required materials, score marking checks, and compliance with all rules listed above. Students will receive 5 participation points per day, or 25 points in a full school week. These are easy points to maintain, but they are also easy ones to lose, and you must do more than just participate to receive an A.

- *In Class Assignments/Quizzes*

Students may be quizzed on sight reading skills and music theory based off of the all state sight reading reading levels, all state written exams, MPA (music performance assessment) sight reading, and knowledge for pieces that we are learning. Also included in this would be memorization tests, although these types of tests will not need to be done if students collectively learn music on time and are prepared on their music for rehearsals.

- *Concert Attendance*

Being present and ready to perform at our choir concerts is vital for the overall success of the group. Each individual student is important to the sound and spirits of our choirs, and just by one person not being present, it changes the sound. The concert grading rubric can be found below.

Grading Rubric

<i>Rehearsal</i>	5	4	3	2	1	0
	Student is actively engaged the entire rehearsal, was on time in their seat, and has both their pencil and music	Student has both a pencil and music, but was late to their seat.	Student is disengaged, only has pencil OR music and was late to their seat	Student does not have their materials, and was late to their seat.	Students does not have any materials, but was still actively participating in the rehearsal process the best they could	Student does not have any materials and is not actively participating in rehearsals

<i>Concerts</i>	100-90	89-80	79-70	69-60
	Student was on time and	Student was on	Student was no	Student was more

	in uniform; showed good posture; sang enthusiastically and appropriately for each piece; demonstrated full competence of the music by showing great care to details (tempo markings, dynamics, etc.)	time and in uniform; showed good posture; mostly sang enthusiastically and appropriately; mostly demonstrated competence of the music by acknowledging most of the details (tempo markings, dynamics, etc)	more than 5 minutes late and in uniform; showed adequate posture; sang appropriately; demonstrated some knowledge of the repertoire but was not solid	than 5 minutes late and was missing part of their uniform (i.e wrong socks, or shoes); showed poor posture; was engaged for only parts of the performance; did not show knowledge of the repertoire
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Ensembles

Every ensemble at JMAM is designed to enable students to become a knowledgeable singer, lifetime musician, and will also help students become a more responsible, disciplined, focused, and well-rounded individual. They are also designed to introduce students to new cultures, provide support within school and within their peer groups, and to just overall heighten their educational experience.

- 1.) **Beginning:** This choir is for all students who are joining the JMAM choir program for the first time, regardless of grade.
- 2.) **Intermediate:** This ensemble is for students who are in their second year of JMAM's choirs.
- 3.) **Advanced:** This ensemble is for students who are in their third year of JMAM's choirs.

Calendar

More information on these dates will be announced soon.

FALL:

TIMES TBA

September 12: All-State Written Exam

September 21st: All County Audition

October 10th: All-State Vocal Quality Audition @ Bartow High School

October 19th: All County Choir Rehearsal

October 23rd and 24th: All County Choir

December 14th: WinterFest

Fall Concert: TBA

SPRING:

January 10-13: FMEA Convention and All State @ Tampa Convention Center

February 16/17: Solo & Ensemble @ Harrison School for the Arts

April 12/13: MPA @ Kathleen High School

April 25th: Spring Recital

May 30th: Last Day of School

Spring Concert: TBA

**Please read the entire handbook, complete this page, detach it, and return it to
Teacher Vittone by Friday, August 18th**

I, _____ and my child _____ have received, read, and understand the contents of the Jewett Academy Middle School Choral Handbook. We agree to adhere to all policies, procedures, rules, and fees described therein. These include, but are not limited to: required materials and expenses, the calendar of required events, grading and discipline policy, attendance policy, student responsibilities and expectations, and all performances and contests. I, the student, understand that my failure to abide by this agreement may result in appropriate action including, but not limited to: teacher/student conferences, teacher/parent conferences, grade penalization (as stated in the grading and conduct policy), discipline referrals, restriction from any choir events, and potentially failing the course.

Student Signature & Date:

Parent/Guardian Signature & Date:
