

Choir 2009-2010
Mr. Mack (smack@gusd.net)

Welcome to choir! I am very excited about this school year, and eagerly anticipate working and making music together. Below is an outlines of what to expect in this class. Please read this carefully, sign, and return the last page to me by **Friday, September 4**. This your first assignment and it is worth points! If you ever have any questions, I am usually available before school and at snack. Email me any time at smack@gusd.net.

Goals

1. **Sing!** - This is a performance-based class and we will sing on a daily basis. You will be asked to sing alone and in small groups, and should be prepared to do so. Do your best and have a good time!
2. **Listen!** - We will listen almost as much as we sing. Listen to the teacher for instructions and feedback. Listen to each other for balance, blend, and tuning. Listen to music and discuss/write about your reactions. Listen to the opinions and thoughts of your classmates.
3. **Think!** - We will study many kinds of music from various cultures and times. What do you think of it? **WHY?** We will learn about music theory. How does the music fit together?

Expectations

1. **Take good care of yourself** - Your body is your instrument. Eat good food, get lots of sleep, and drink plenty of water. These things are essential to good singing.
2. **Take good care of your music** - Each student will bring in a paper folder in which to keep his or her music. This folder will stay in the classroom. Keep your music and a pencil in this folder and take care of it. You will pay to replace any music that you damage. Do not take your folder out of the choir room.
3. **Participate in all concerts, classes, special rehearsals, and festivals** - You are expected to sing in all of these events. See below for details.

Mack's Four Rules of Behavior

1. **Participate constructively.**
2. **Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself.**
3. **Remain quiet unless given permission to speak (or sing, of course).**
4. **Remain seated unless given permission to stand (or vice versa).**

Grading

1. Grades are based on the following scale: 60% participation, 40% written work.
2. Each student begins the quarter with 50 participation points. Breaking rules or misbehaving will result in the loss of the point for that day, as well as any disciplinary action that may be assigned. If you cannot sing due to illness, I will allow you one free day. After one day, you will lose participation points.
3. There will be some written work in class that will be graded in class. Any work not completed in class is homework. Work missed due to an excused absence should be made up within one week of the absence. There will be one project per semester plus one concert review (details will follow). I will accept late projects until one week after the due date for up to half credit. A late grade is always better than a zero!

Discipline

1. A list of class rules is found above. Students will be given one warning for most infractions. Serious or repeated infractions will result in snack detention or class time out. Continued infractions will result in parent phone calls, office referrals, and suspension from class. Behavioral incidents will have a major impact on citizenship grades. Do not test me.

Fundraiser

1. Our annual choir fundraiser will take place between October 12 and October 23. Details will follow. We may also have several "restaurant night" fundraisers throughout the year.

Concerts

1. **Required Attire (if you do not have the right clothes, you may not sing and your grade will fall)**
 1. White, long-sleeved, collared, button-down shirt or blouse.
 2. Black pants or a skirt that is knee-length or longer-- no jeans
 3. Black shoes and socks (or black stockings for the ladies)
2. For assemblies and festivals, all students will be required to purchase a choir t-shirt. Cost and details will follow.
3. **Concert Attendance** - Attendance at all concerts, special rehearsals, and festivals is mandatory. You will not pass choir if you miss these events. If there is an emergency, please contact me as soon as possible. Email is still the best way (smack@gusd.net). In case of illness, please provide a doctor's note. If you are not sick enough to see a doctor, you are well enough to perform!
4. **Concert and Festival Schedule**
 1. All Choirs
 1. Veteran's Day Assembly, Tuesday, November 10)
 2. Winter Concert Assembly, Wednesday, November 6
 3. Winter Concert- Wednesday, December 16 at 6 pm (call time: 5:15)
 4. Spring Concert- Wednesday, March 31 at 6 pm (call time: 5:15)
 5. Pop Concert- Wednesday, May 26 at 6 pm (call time: 5:15)
 2. Tentative! 6th and 7th grade choirs
 1. Choral Magic Festival- Saturday, November 21
 3. Open House- Thursday, March 11 at 6 pm- a select group of singers will perform
 4. 8th grade choir
 1. Forum Music Festival and Knott's Berry Farm Field Trip- April (exact date to be announced)
 5. A select group of singers will perform at 8th grade graduation- June 17 at 5:30 (call time: 5:00)

At the end of the year, the entire music department (band and orchestra as well as all the choirs) takes a trip to Disneyland on a Saturday in early June. This is optional but strongly encouraged. The cost is approximately \$70 and scholarships are available for those who cannot afford to pay. This trip is limited to current Wilson Choir Students only.

I have read and understand all of the above information regarding choir. I will do my best to meet all expectation.

student name

student signature

student email

As a parent, I am aware of the expectations for my child while in choir and will assist him/her in meeting these expectations.

parent name

parent signature

parent email