

American Fork Jr. High Choirs

Audition Choir Handbook 2019-2020

Men's Choir
Women's Choir
AF Singers

Congratulations on becoming a member of one of the audition choirs at American Fork Jr. High! Men’s Choir, Women’s Choir, and AF Singers are the auditioned performing choirs in the AFJH Choir Program. These choirs give students who have demonstrated dedication, hard work ethic, and good citizenship a chance to further their skills as choral and vocal musicians.

Choral Class Expectations

Class Expectations

- You can expect to **work hard**
- You can expect to **sing and move a lot**
- You can expect to **have fun**

Rehearsal Skills / Class Rules

- Listen for and follow instructions
- Participate fully
- Communicate effectively

Class Materials

- Please bring at least 2 pencils to class every day

Academic Grade Breakdown - Standards Based Grading

The goal of choir is to help all students reach mastery in musicianship and choral singing. As a component of this goal, grades in choir reflect the student’s mastery of certain standards. My intent is to inform students and parents of where the student stands in his or her learning. Below are a few things that will be helpful to know.

Grading will reflect learning

The student’s overall grade will be based on how well they know and are able to do a few major standards in choir. They will be graded in each standard (or area) with a 0-4 grade. These grades communicate the following:

- 0 - Missing - No evidence of learning (not present, not trying, or the assignment is not completed)
- 1 - Beginning - I have demonstrated minimal understanding
- 2 - Approaching - I have demonstrated some understanding
- 3 - Proficient - I have demonstrated an acceptable understanding
- 4 - Advanced - I have demonstrated a comprehensive understanding

Students can always demonstrate learning to improve their grade in choir

I believe in learning and I believe that students should be given the help and support they need to learn. I will do everything that I can within the time, support, and funding that I have as a choir teacher, to help your student learn. I also believe that students should try their best. A lack of effort in the first place will create more work in the long term. This means that if they are willing to work, lower grades can always be raised once they learn the concepts (even after term ends), and I will do all I can to support them in reaching the level or grade that they want to reach.

Students will be graded on their knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- Rehearsal Knowledge and Skills
- Performance Knowledge and Skills
- Vocal Skills
- Music Literacy Knowledge and Skills
- Sight Singing Knowledge and Skills

There are a few Essential Standards that all students will be expected to learn

Essential standards are learning standards that are the most important concepts in the class. These standards are critical to student success in the subject and in student progress to the next level. They will be assessed in the “Essentials” category on Skyward. If a student is not succeeding in learning the essential standards, I will do all I can to help them. If a student has a 0 in an essential standard, they will have at least two CaveTimes to come make it up before their overall grade is set to a “Fix It” (F), which will cause them to receive a white slip (requiring them to come in during CaveTime). As soon as they have demonstrated the learning for that essential standard, their grade will return to passing, and should be higher than it was before it dropped.

A few things to note:

1. Each time a student is assessed on a standard, that score will replace the last score for that standard. This way, in most cases, if a student doesn’t do well on a standard at first, they just need to study or practice, and prepare for the next assessment in that standard. However, students may demonstrate learning as soon as they are ready by coming in during CaveTime or before or after school.
2. Because we are required to give an overall grade for each class, this grade will be an average of the grades in each of the standards, correlating with letter grades in the following way: 0=F, 1=D, 2=C, 3=B, and 4=A. Because letter grades mean so many things to so many different people, this is not a perfect transfer, but the best that can be done in the constraints we have.
3. The grade scale will reflect this as is indicated in the grade scale to the right.
4. If a student is on track to receive a lower grade at the end of the term, I will reflect that lower grade in their overall grade so that students and parents can be notified and work in the present to improve the grade. This will prevent a surprise at the end of the term and extra work later.

If you have any questions please email me at mthornton@alpinedistrict.org.

Academic Grading Scale

90-100%	A
85-89.99%	A-
80-84.99%	B+
70-79.99%	B
65-69.99%	B-
60-64.99%	C+
50-59.99%	C
45-49.99%	C-
40-44.99%	D+
30-39.99%	D
25-29.99%	D-
0-24.99%	Fix

Concert Attendance Policy and Concert Dates

Being in an audition choir is a commitment to attend all performances. Part of being responsible is letting the director know of any conflicts as soon as possible. The following policies apply to all students in Men's Choir, Women's Choir, and AF Singers.

Concert absences should be excused within the first few weeks of school or the first few weeks of notification of a concert or performance date. All concert dates should be compared with the family calendar. Please email me about any conflicts ASAP. **With the exception of family or health related emergencies, any concert absence excused later than 1 month before a concert, will be given partial credit, and a responsibility assignment (beyond the normal make-up assignment) will need to be done to earn full credit.** Missing a concert may result in an incomplete grade in choir for the term. Once a concert is excused it will need to be made up. Concerts can be made up by (1) singing concert music memorized to the director, (2) doing a personal meaning assignment and (3) doing an extra concert report. Please see the "Concert Policies" page on the choir website, afjchoirs.weebly.com or paste the following into your web browser: <http://afjchoirs.weebly.com/concert-infomake-up.html> for more information.

The Audition Choirs have the opportunity to do additional performances outside of school. Students are expected to have good academic grades to attend additional performances. It is important to remember that the choirs represent American Fork Junior High. Students are expected to demonstrate exceptional behavior and consideration.

Concert dates are listed for each choir at the back of this packet of information. Other performances and rehearsals may be added throughout the year. You will be notified of any schedule changes or additions in writing.

Choir Uniforms

If you purchase a new uniform you can pay Mrs. Cleveland in the financial office, or online, once the clothing has been ordered. If you pay by check it should be made out to American Fork Jr. High. **If there are financial or other concerns please contact Mr. Thornton. We will work to find a solution so that your student will be able to participate in choir.**

FORMAL CONCERT UNIFORM – LADIES

AF Singers and Women's Choir make a collective order for dresses each year. The cost will be approximately in the same price range (around \$65) and will be the same style as last year. **Students that have already purchased the former dress DO NOT need to purchase a new one, UNLESS they have grown so that the hem does not touch the floor and can't be adjusted to touch the floor, or the dress no longer fits.** Those who do not have dresses, or who's dresses no longer fit, may buy a new dress from the school or may buy a used dress from a former choir member. **More information will be coming on the dresses in the next few weeks.**

Used dresses (approximately \$25-\$45 depending on dress quality and seller) will be available for purchase within the first few weeks of school. Current students will be trying on dresses or being measured for dresses soon, during their choir class. Mothers that are willing to volunteer to help in the measuring would be much appreciated. Please email Susan Baugh at sbaugh@alpinedistrict.org. Once girls know their dress size, if they wish to buy a used dress, they will be given a list with the names and phone numbers of girls selling a dress of that size. Because of district financial policy, Mr. Thornton cannot be involved in the actual exchange of money or used dresses. You must arrange to purchase a used dress on your own. You will have 1 week to purchase a used dress. If a used dress is not in your possession by that time, you may order a new one through the school.

Ladies must wear **closed toe black dress shoes and black nylons.** All dresses need to be hemmed so the hem of the dress **touches the floor when wearing your concert dress shoes.** If your black dress tie has been lost you can order a new tie at the beginning of the year for \$5. Please talk to Mrs. Baugh for more details.

FORMAL CONCERT UNIFORM – MEN (AF SINGERS ONLY)

The formal concert uniform used by AF Singers will be the same as last year. Prices will be *approximately* the same as last year (around \$30 black vest, around \$20 Banded Collar Tux Shirt and a bow tie around \$5). All men must wear **black dress pants, black dress shoes and black dress socks.** You may buy a new uniform through the school or on your own, or you may buy a used uniform from a former choir student.

Students will be trying on uniforms and being measured during their choir class. Once students know their sizes, they will be given a list of available used clothing. The process will be the same as described for the women's uniforms.

FORMAL CONCERT UNIFORM - MEN'S CHOIR

Students in Men's Choir will wear **black dress pants, black dress shoes and black dress socks, white long-sleeved dress shirts** (all to be purchased on your own) and a matching tie. The tie will be chosen at a later date and will cost around \$15.

MORE INFO, INCLUDING PICTURES

For more info on uniforms, including pictures and details, please visit <http://afjchoirs.weebly.com/uniforms.html>

Contact Information, School Website and Parent Help

We have an AFJH Choir website (afjhchoirs.weebly.com) that will include a choir calendar, copies of the disclosure documents and assignments, concert and make-up policies and other information. The website can be located next to my information on the faculty page of the school website (<http://afjh.alpineschools.org>). The information will be updated throughout the year. The website will include a list of apps and websites that we will be using this year.

If you need to contact me, the best way to do so is through email. My email address is mthornton@alpinedistrict.org. If you have any questions, and are not able to find the answer on the choir website, please contact me and I will try to help you the best I can.

Please make sure that your contact email is updated on Skyward. I will be sending home monthly concert and other reminders through Skyward. Those who have their accurate email information in Skyward will receive them. We will also be organizing a **Parent Help Group** this year. Through the email system I will send out a request for parent helpers. If you are available please respond to the email. We really appreciate your help!

Classroom Grading Procedures

Because of large class sizes, at times we will be having students grade each other's work. This will be a supervised activity and will allow for students to receive immediate feedback on their assignments. Students who feel that they have been unfairly graded can discuss their concerns with Mr. Thornton. **By signing this disclosure document you agree to allow your student to be part of this process OR you agree to contact me and let me know that you do not want your student to participate in peer grading.**

Supporting the Choir Program

A choral program of this size and quality does not grow without the support of outside sources. We have an outstanding district and administration that is very supportive of our choral program, and we also have the wonderful support of parents and the community. There are many ways you can get involved and any help you can give would be appreciated.

1. **Volunteer your time** – If you are available to help as a chaperone or volunteer, we would love your help. Please email Susan Baugh (sbaugh@gmail.com) if you are willing to help.
2. **Make a tax-deductible donation through the Alpine Foundation** – The Alpine Foundation is an organization that allows families and corporations to make tax-deductible donations to specific classrooms and programs in the Alpine School District. If you or anyone you know is able to help the choirs purchase supplies, please send a contribution to the following address:

**Alpine School District Foundation
575 N. 1100 E.
American Fork, UT 84003.**

Please make checks payable to the **Alpine Foundation** with a note designating the contribution be given to the **AFJH Choir Program**. We would appreciate any assistance you can give.

Please see the calendar on the next page for concert dates...

KEEP THIS PAGE – PLEASE MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR
CONTACT ME ASAP IF YOU HAVE ANY CONFLICTS

AFJH Choir Concert Calendar - Can also be found at afjhchoirs.weebly.com
 (DATES/LOCATIONS/TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

***Call time for all evening performances is 45 minutes before the concert starts unless otherwise marked**
 (e.g.: If the concert is at 7:00 pm, students should be there at 6:15 p.m.)

Morning Dress Rehearsals (7:30 am) will be a few days before each concert, if needed. Those dates will be announced in class and emailed home as needed.

(Memorization, Dynamics and Phrasing, Vowels, Tech and Performance Rehearsals will be during class, on the **last five rehearsals before concerts. These rehearsals are very important to the success of our group and will be a significant part of the grade.**)

Wednesday and Thursday, Oct 9 & 10 (Not a public performance - Dress rehearsal practice performance - Students wear concert uniforms)	In-Class Dress Rehearsal	AFJH Auditorium	During Class
Thursday, November 7	Fall Festival (AF Singers only)	Cedar Valley High School	9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Thursday, December 5	Holiday Concerts Men’s and Women’s Choirs AF Singers	AFJH Auditorium	7:00 pm (6:15 pm)* 8:15 pm (7:30 pm)*
Friday, December 6	Winter Performance, Salt Lake City (AF Singers only)	TBA	11:00 am - 5:00 pm
December TBA	Winter Performance, University Mall (Women’s and Men’s Choirs)	University Mall	9:30 am – 1:30 pm
Friday and Saturday, January 24 & 25	UMEA Honor Choir (Twelve Selected 9th grade students only)	TBA	TBA
Saturday, February 15	Grand Concert Day Camp (AF Singers only)	AFJH Theater	9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Tuesday, February 25	Grand Concert Dress Rehearsal (AF Singers only)	AFJH Auditorium	6:00 – 10:00 pm
Thursday, February 27 & Friday, February 28	Grand Concert (AF Singers only)	AFJH Auditorium	7:00 pm (6:15 pm)*
Tuesday, March 17	Advanced District Festival (AF Singers only)	AFJH, and TBA	9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Wednesday, March 18	Intermediate District Festival (Women’s and Men’s Choirs)	AFJH, and TBA	9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Thursday, April 30	Annual Benefit Concert Men’s and Women’s Choirs AF Singers	AFJH Auditorium	7:00 pm (6:15 pm)* 8:15 pm (7:30 pm)*
April or May TBA	State Jr. High Choral Festival	TBA	TBA

***Call time for all evening performances is 45 minutes before the concert starts unless otherwise marked**
 (e.g.: If the concert is at 7:00 pm, students should be there at 6:15 p.m.)

Keep this page and compare the dates on the back with your calendar



Sign and detach the following page and return it next class period!

After reading this disclosure document, please fill out this form; sign the bottom along with your parent and return it to school by **next class period**.

Dear Choir Parents,

Thank you for your support of your student and your support of choral education at AFJH. After reading this disclosure document and recording the performances on your calendar, please **keep the rest of this packet to refer to** and have your student **return this page next class period for full points**. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at mthornton@alpinedistrict.org.

Matt Thornton
AFJH Choir Director

PLEASE FILL OUT ALL INFORMATION FOR FULL POINTS

Student: I have read the AFJH Audition Choir Handbook. I have recorded Concert and Performance dates and compared them with my calendar. I understand what I can expect from Mr. Thornton and what he will be expecting from me in terms of behavior, attitude, academics and attendance. I agree to abide by the policies outlined in this disclosure document.

Student Name (Please Print)

Class Period

Student Signature

Date

Parent: I have read and reviewed the AFJH Audition Choir Handbook with my student. I have recorded Concert and Performance dates and compared them with my calendar. I know what I can expect from Mr. Thornton and what he will be expecting from my student in terms of behavior, attitude, and academics. **My student will be at the concerts listed above and will be allowed to participate in peer grading OR I will email Mr. Thornton about any conflicts or concerns ASAP. My student has my permission and my support to accompany the choirs for the festivals and field trips and to come to any early morning practices or dress rehearsals.**

Parent Name (Please Print)

Parent Signature

Date

Phone Number

Preferred Email

Are you able to help out with the choir program this year? Y N
(i.e. Chaperone, Usher, Uniforms, Accompany, Publicity, Vocal Coach, etc.)

PLEASE FILL OUT ALL INFORMATION FOR FULL POINTS

PLEASE DO NOT FILL THIS BUBBLE SHEET OUT YET...YOU WILL FILL IT OUT IN CLASS

1.	A	B	C	D	E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	A	B	C	D	E	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3.	A	B	C	D	E	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
4.	A	B	C	D	E	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
5.	A	B	C	D	E	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
6.	A	B	C	D	E	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
7.	A	B	C	D	E	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
8.	A	B	C	D	E	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
9.	A	B	C	D	E	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
10.	A	B	C	D	E	9	9	9	9	9	9	9