

# American Fork Jr. High Choirs

## Junior Chorale

### 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 Habits (basic habits that we will learn and practice as a class)
- 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 "Essential Standards" and "Related Standards" categories 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 was set to "Fix It".

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, 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](mailto: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

Performances are the final celebration of learning in choir. Performances are also final demonstrations and final exams of learning. Because of this, attendance is *required*. Student grades for performances will be based on attendance (including being on time), concert attire and demonstrating performance and audience etiquette. Students who do not attend performances may receive a "Fix It" (F) grade in choir. In order to pass, the concert will need to be made up. Please mark the dates below on your calendar.

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, [afjhchoirs.weebly.com](http://afjhchoirs.weebly.com) or paste the following into your web browser: <http://afjhchoirs.weebly.com/concert-infomake-up.html> for more information.

(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.** Students who do not attend may be required to make up the points by completing a sizable assignment.)

**In-Class Dress Rehearsal    Thurs and Fri, Mar 5th and 6th    During your student's class period**  
(Not a public performance - Dress rehearsal for students to wear concert attire and practice singing on stage)

**Benefit Concert**

**Thursday, April 30th**

**Call Time @ 4:30 p.m.**

**Concert begins @ 6:00 p.m.**

Your concert performance grade will be based on your attendance at both concerts, being in concert attire, demonstrating impeccable concert and audience etiquette and self-evaluation of effort in the concert. We do not require purchased uniforms for the beginning choirs, but please follow the concert attire guidelines below:

**FOR MORE INFO, INCLUDING PICTURES AND DETAILS, please visit <http://afjhchoirs.weebly.com/uniforms.html>**

**MEN:**    White dress shirt (buttoned with a collar)  
            Tie  
            Dress pants (khaki, navy, black or brown)  
            Dress shoes (no sneakers)  
            Dress socks

**WOMEN:**    Dress OR skirt and blouse  
                 (knee length or below, must have  
                 sleeves that cover the shoulder)  
                 Nylons  
                 Dress shoes

\*All clothing should be in good condition, clean and ironed. **If there are financial concerns please email me ASAP at [mthornton@alpinedistrict.org](mailto:mthornton@alpinedistrict.org).** Students will need to wear these clothing to the Dress-Rehearsal and Concert.

## Contact Information, School Website and Parent Help

We have an AFJH Choir website ([afjhchoirs.weebly.org](http://afjhchoirs.weebly.org)) that will include 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](mailto: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.**

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](mailto:mthornton@alpinedistrict.org).

Matt Thornton  
AFJH Choir Director

**PLEASE FILL OUT ALL INFORMATION FOR FULL POINTS**

**Student:** I have read the Jr. Chorale Disclosure Document. I have **recorded the 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, and academics. 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 Jr. Chorale Disclosure Document with my student. I have **recorded the 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.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred Email

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