

2009-2010 Grades 5-8 Choir Handbook

Dear Parent, Guardian, and Student,

Welcome to Our Savior Lutheran School's performance choir; please read the Choral Handbook together. Reading these procedures, grading system, and policies reduces misunderstandings, helps clarify, and promotes your student's success.

Instructor

Mr. John Hagen

School office: 808- 488-0000

e-mail: jhagen@osls-hawaii.org

Class Description

Grade 5-8 students may choose to take the Middle School Choir course. The 45-minute class meets 3 times per week. The students receive a vocal part (alto or soprano) to sing and will learn about melody, harmony, rhythm, timbre, texture, form, and expressive devices as they relate to the music being sung. Textual understanding, application of the music to the text, and vocal/choral technique will be emphasized as well.

Students will learn musical terms and meanings as they apply to each piece, that is, of "pianissimo", "piano", "mezzo piano", "mezzo forte", "forte", fortissimo", "fortissimo", "crescendo", "decrescendo", etc.

We will work on diction (making the words that they sing understandable) and phrasing (when to breathe and when not to breathe).

The music will be learned using various teaching techniques, sight, sound, reading, and imitating demonstrations.

Vocal warm ups, which helps ensure vocal quality and endurance, are always done first in rehearsals.

Choir will train the student to become a better musician, to learn good vocal technique foundations, and develop poise when performing. Students do NOT have to have musical talent to be successful in this class!

Required Supplies:

Students must bring a #2 pencil (no pens) and their choral folder and their sheet music scores to all rehearsals.

Textbooks:

Every student will be provided with a purchased score for each choral piece. Students are responsible for their own music. Absolutely ALL music scores need to be returned upon instructor's request. Lost or damaged scores must be paid for by the students: Cost of the piece plus shipping and handling.

Homework Policy:

Students who work on the choral literature individually will find their skills improving rapidly. They need to practice outside class. To receive practice accompaniment music, students may submit to the Instructor a CD-RW with their name, class, and piece desired clearly printed on the outside of the CD-RW case.

Required Testing

Every student will be tested on an ongoing basis within the rehearsal time. The following aspects will be graded: Tone quality, breath management, dynamics, pitch, rhythm, diction, and lyrics and vocal part memorization.

Discipline

The foundation of any superior team is superior discipline. All singers must engage in self-discipline, respect others, and understand his or her responsibility to the group as a whole. If a singer chooses to be uncooperative or disruptive, please view the disciplinary action taken by referring to the School Handbook under "Discipline".

Students will follow these rehearsal room guidelines:

- Have only required rehearsal material at seat.
- Obtain folder and immediately go to assigned seat.
- No food, drink, gum, or candy allowed in rehearsal area.
- Actively participate in productive rehearsal.

Students are expected to follow these rules while performing in Concert or Church Service:

- Arrive in time to be seated and ready to rehearse at the desired start time.
- No unnecessary talking or movement.
- Students are not allowed to leave any of these functions until they are finished.

Students are expected to follow these rules while participating in a field trip:

- Students must follow directions given by the director or the chaperones at all times.
- No student will leave with persons of another group, family members, and/or friends while on a trip without prior written arrangements between the director and student's parent/guardian.
- Students will quickly and pleasantly cooperate with any reasonable chaperone request while on a field trip.
- Students are always to behave in a manner which brings honor to themselves, the School, and Our Savior.

Performances

By August 20, students will receive a tentative schedule indicating the year's performances. There will be 6-8 Church performances, the Lutheran Schools, Christmas, and Spring Band & Choir Concerts, possibly the graduation program, and possibly a few performances outside the school during the holiday season.

Attendance at all performances is required. Failure to do so will affect student's grade. Each performance is counted as a test, without a chance for a "make up". Illness or a serious emergency in the family, wherein the Director receives prior warning, are the only legitimate excuses for missing.

Grading System

Each student will be graded according to participation in class, presence at all performances, discipline, and general musicianship (how you sing your music).

Honor Choir

Honor choir is a selected ensemble open only by audition and teacher permission for a limited number of students. Honor Choir is offered purely at the prerogative and discretion of the Director. These students learn the vocal works of more difficult levels. Therefore, Honor Choir members meet additionally every Monday during the 12:00 noon recess.

Choir Uniforms

Every choir student receives the OSLS choir uniform: Aloha mu'umu'us and shirts. These uniforms will be worn to most of the performances and then returned to OSLS. Students' parents pay for damages and/or replacement costs.

Girls: Choir uniform is to be worn with white shoes or sandals. **NO SLIPPERS.**

Boys: Shirt needs to be complete with black or dark blue pants and black shoes.
Students are **NOT** allowed to wear denim pants or tennis shoes on our performances.

Our Savior Lutheran School 2009-2010 Tentative Choir Schedule

TBD = "To Be Determined"

Date		Rehearsal Time	Performance or Church Time
<u>2008</u>			
August TBD	Our Savior Lutheran Church	7:50 a.m.	8:15 a.m.
September TBD	Our Savior Lutheran Church	TBA	TBA
November TBD	Our Savior Lutheran Church	7:50 a.m.	8:15 a.m.
December TBD	Choir sings at Pearlridge Mall	5:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
December TBD	Choir Sings at Arcadia Retirement Center	9:00-11:00 a.m. (via school bus)	
December 13	Choir & Band Concert, Grades 4-8, at Our Savior Lutheran Church	1:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.
<u>2009</u>			
January TBD	Our Savior Lutheran Church	7:50 a.m.	8:15 a.m.
February TBD	Our Savior Lutheran Church	10:15 a.m.	10:43 a.m.
Feb. 26 (Fri.)	Choir practice at St. Mark, Kane'ohe	7: 50 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (we take a bus)	
Feb. 27 (Sat.)	Lutheran Schools Band and Choir Concert at Leeward Community College.	5:45 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
April TBA	Our Savior Lutheran Church	10:15 a.m.	10:43 a.m.
May 23	Combined Choir & Band Concert	1:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.

If you have any questions or concerns,
please feel free to call me at 488-0000 or e-mail me at jhagen@osls-hawaii.org .

Sincerely,

John Hagen, Choir Director

Please return this signed bottom portion to me by Monday, August 10, 2009

We, student and parent, understand the rules, policies, and attendance requirements
in this Choir Handbook and agree to abide by them in every way.

Printed Parent's Name: _____ Parent's Signature: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Grade Level: _____ Date: _____