

# Smoky Valley Vocal Music Handbook



Mrs. Britney English, Director  
[benglish@smokyvalley.org](mailto:benglish@smokyvalley.org)  
785-227-2909 ext. 351

## SVMS/SVHS Choir Commitments 2018-2019

### First Semester

Sep. 27	SVHS	Bethany Choral Workshop, Bethany College, 7:00-3:00
Oct. 9	SVMS	7/8 Band/Choir/Orchestra Concert 7:00 PM
Oct. 18	SVHS	Choir Concert 7:30 PM
Nov. 3	SVHS	KMEA SC District Band/Choir/Orch Auditions all day
Nov. 3	SVMS	SCKMEA Middle School Honor Band/Choir all day
Nov. 9	SVMS	Veteran's Day Program 1:30 PM
Nov. 13	SVMS	6th Grade Band/Choir/Orchestra Concert 7:00 PM
Nov. 15	SVMS	5th Grade Band/Choir/Orchestra Concert 7:00 PM
Dec. 1	SVHS	KMEA SC District Band/Choir/Orch Festival all day
Dec. 3	SVHS	Choir Concert 7:30 PM
Dec. 11	SVMS	7/8 Band/Choir/Orchestra Concert 7:00 PM

### Second Semester

Jan. 24	SVHS/MS	Real Men Sing @ Bethany College
Feb. 14	SVHS	Madrigals Singing Valentines All Day
Feb. 21, 22, 23	SVHS	KMEA In-Service Workshop
Feb. 27	SVHS	CKL League Music Festival All Day (Wed)
Mar. 5	SVMS	7/8 CKL Band/Vocal Music Contest @ SVMS
Mar. 8-12	SVHS	Music Department Trip to Denver
Mar. 22	SVHS	Graduation Special Music Applications Due
Mar. 28	SVHS	Graduation Special Music Auditions
April 4	SVMS	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band/Choir/Orchestra Concert 7:00 PM
April 6	SVHS	Regional Music Festival for Solos/Ensembles
April 10	SVHS	State Music Festival for Large Ensembles
April 12	SVMS	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band/Choir/Orchestra Concert 7:00 PM
April 27	SVHS	State Music Festival for Solos/Ensembles
May 6	SVHS	Choir Concert 7:30 PM
May 8	SVHS	Baccalaureate
May 11	SVHS	Graduation
May 14	SVMS	7/8 Band/Choir/Orchestra Concert 7:00 PM
May 16	SVMS	8th Grade Class Night 7:00 PM

## REHEARSAL GUIDELINES

- Grab your folder and go to your seat
- When the bell rings, hum the bell's pitch and wait for instructions
- Always have a pencil to mark your music
- Bottles of water are the only food or drink item allowed.
- Bathroom breaks are in between songs or before or after class only.
- Talking, unless a question is asked or feedback is requested, is not allowed. If your part is not singing, follow your part quietly.
- Put your folder away when dismissed. You will lose 2 daily points if your folder is left out.

## GRADING

### Daily Responsibilities-5 points per day

(ex. 4 days of choir = 20 points that week)

- If you are present, on time, and living up to the rehearsal guidelines, all 5 points will be easily attained
- Points are awarded either all or nothing. If you are asked more than twice to be on-task, you will lose your points for the day.
- 2 points will also be lost every time your folder is not put away.
- Class-wide points will be taken away if the entire class is having difficulty following the rehearsal guidelines.

### Folder Checks-10 points each

- Randomly, folder numbers will be displayed on the board. Those people are to turn in their folders to Mrs. English when they leave the day.
  - If the folder is being taken care of, a pencil is in it and the music has the appropriate marks in it, all 10 points will be awarded.
  - Classroom activities will also be graded when your folder is checked. Make sure to keep activities in your folder unless otherwise told!

### Performing Concert Attendance-200 points per concert

- Attendance is required at all performances
- Points are based on proper dress, proper behavior, being on time, staying for entire concert and focusing while on stage.
- Excused absences are only those involving illness, death in the family or an emergency out of your control. Excused absences must be made up within two weeks. You will need to come and sing your part on all of your group pieces to assess that you have done your part in class.
- Unexcused absences cannot be made up and will result in a zero.

### **Concert and/or Rehearsal Critiques-25 points each**

- Occasionally, we will watch/listen and critique a performance or rehearsal.
- Full points will be awarded to the quality of critique given.

### **Octet Checks (SVHS)-50 points per student**

- A few times a year, 8 different students will be selected to perform one song from our concert repertoire.
- Those students will be graded on accuracy of pitches, dynamics, expression, tone, diction, balance, blend and posture.
- All other students will be graded on their ability to constructively critique the octet.

### **HS Honor Choirs and Contest**

(ex. Middle Level KMEA, Districts, All-State, solos, ensembles and large group Regionals and State)

- High School participants
  - Grade book points for contest groups
  - Lettering points for auditioned choirs and contest solos
- Middle School participants
  - Grade book points for contest solos
  - Extra credit for honor choirs

### **Audience Points-10 points extra credit each concert**

- Come sign the board in the choir room if you wish to receive extra credit for attending a concert.
- If you attend an outside concert, bring back a program with an adult's signature on it.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

\*It is very hard for students to make up what was missed in choir. Since this is a participatory class, students must be in class in order to receive class participation points. The following policy is to help students who have missed to catch up.

- Attendance will be taken every day. Once a student misses 4 rehearsals (school events exempt) those days will become a 0 in the grade book.
- In order to earn back those points, you must do the following:
  - sing with Mrs. English before or after school for 30 minutes (earns back 2 days)
  - sing at home with your music for 1 hour and send an email or note to Mrs. English with parent confirmation (earns back 2 days)

- attend a concert and return the program to Mrs. English with a parent signature on it (earns back 2 days)
- Grades can be earned back each semester.
- Absent count will start over each semester.
- If you already have extra credit concert points, you can transfer them to absences.

## CONCERT ATTIRE

### 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Gentlemen: black pants, black shoes and socks, plain white collared shirt

Ladies: black pants (no leggings) or skirt that fall at or below the knees, black shoes (no flip flops!!), plain white top that covers the shoulders and has a modest neckline, stud earrings only, nothing in hair except headbands that are black, clear or the same color as hair

### High School

Gentlemen: black pants, black jacket, button-up white collared shirt, black shoes and socks, black bow tie

Ladies: black pants (no leggings), or skirt that fall to ankles, black top that covers shoulders and has a modest neckline, stud earrings only, nothing in hair except headbands that are black, clear or the same color as hair

Madrigals: attire provided

\**Please* contact me with any questions regarding attire or affordability of attire.

## LETTER POLICY

- HS students can letter in vocal based on a point system.
- Those sheets will be handed out at the beginning of the school year for students to keep track of their points. Letters winners will be announced in May.

## CHOIR COUNCIL

- Choir council is an integral part of choir. The council serves as the right hand of Mrs. English and is also a sounding board for the students.
- Position descriptions and requirements follow:

### *All Positions*

Address attire for concerts (dress, jewelry)  
Help substitute teacher  
Promote events  
Set up/Take down for events  
Create and hand out Paper Plate awards  
Meet occasionally during class time

### *President*

Answers phone  
Leads WU on Friday  
Helps sub or leads the class  
*Campaign -Selected by Vote*

### *Secretary*

In charge of social media  
Makes copies of materials  
Checks out robes, props, etc.  
Numbers contest music  
*Selected through application*

### *Librarian*

Tech helper at all times  
Files away music (re-label, re-organize if needed)  
Inputs new music into library database (Google sheets)  
*Selected through application*

### *Section Leaders*

Attendance (through Google sheets) at rehearsals and concerts  
Leads sectionals/Organize sectionals  
Communicates to Mrs. English what needs work  
*Selected through application*

# MADRIGALS

\*Open auditions will be held in the spring of each year and 16 students will be chosen from those enrolled in Concert Choir (sophomores-seniors).

## Meeting times

- This class will meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m.

## Tardy policy

- Since this is a select group, the Madrigals will be expected to behave at a higher standard. This includes promptness to rehearsals.
- We will be following the SVHS tardy policy with one exception. If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will be required to come in before or after school to work on the repertoire for the time missed.
- Time is to be made up within 2 weeks.
- If time is not made up within the time frame, that day will become a zero.

## Attire

- Madrigals attire will be provided. Members will be responsible for returning clothes **dry cleaned** at the end of the school year.

## Performances

- Along with our scheduled concerts, the Madrigals will be asked to perform many times through out the year.
- As long as two weeks notice is given, all members are expected to be in attendance. You will receive performance points for each performance.