

**OSAKIS HIGH SCHOOL CHOIRS**  
**PARTICIPATION & GRADING POLICY**

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*Congratulations on becoming a part of the Osakis High School Choral Music Program!  
I look forward to working with each and every one of you and to having a great year  
making music! Please feel free to contact me with any questions.*

Choir at Osakis High School is presented as a co-curricular, academic class important to the development of student achievement and educational success. Studying vocal music combines the physical, mental and analytical learning processes to prepare students for future artistic and academic pursuits. Participating in a choral program involves many aspects:

**1. CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR & PARTICIPATION** Students begin each class period with 5 points. If the student has participated well and shown exemplary behavior throughout the class period, they will retain their 5 points for the day. However, if the student has shown inappropriate behavior, has not participated well, comes to class tardy, or is disrespectful they will lose points accordingly.

**2. CONCERT ATTENDANCE** Choir is a performance-based class and concert attendance will be used in determining a large portion of each quarter's grade. Any unexcused absence from a concert will result in the automatic failure of choir for that quarter and a possible dismissal from the class, at my discretion. Should illness occur the day of performance, please call the school and leave a message for me prior to the performance. If you are not in school the day of a performance, or you go home ill, you are not eligible to sing in the evening concert as per MSHL rules.

**3. CONCERT ATTIRE** Students are expected to dress as follows:

**Jr. Choir** Girls can wear dresses, skirts or dress pants with a dress top/blouse. No spaghetti straps or short skirts (skirts should be knee length). Boys can wear a dress shirt with tie or a collared and/or button-up shirt with dress pants. No jeans, tennis shoes or t-shirts.

**Sr. Choir** A robe will be assigned to each member. Ladies are to wear black nylons and black dress shoes. Men are to wear black pants, black socks and black shoes. No turtlenecks are to be worn. I recommend dressing lightly as concert lighting can be very warm.

**4. CLASSROOM WORK** Along with vocal study and performance, instruction in music theory, analyzing, sight singing and music history will take place. Though most of this will occur informally, students may have some written work, tests and/or evaluations. Students are required to mark their music with a *pencil* (never pen!) when necessary. Therefore, a choir member must always have a pencil with them.

**5. LESSONS** The H.S. Concert Choir members (grades 9-12) will receive small group lessons (no more than 4 students) lasting approximately 15 minutes. Students are required to have 2 lessons per quarter when offered (usually quarters 1 & 2). An “A” grade cannot be attained without fulfilling this requirement. Every effort will be made to make a lesson time available before, during, or after school. I look forward to meeting with you all in a small group setting!

**6. GRADING** Grades are based on students’ daily and concert points as well as lesson attendance for 9-12 graders. Each concert is worth 150 points. If a student misses a concert he/she will be required to make up the time and/or do work relating to the concert in order to receive the 150 points. I take the liberty to raise or lower a student’s quarter grade based on his/her overall attitude and work ethic.

**7. G.P.A.** Choir quarterly grades are included in the GPA for all students in grades 10, 11, and 12. Students in choir will receive 1/2 credit per semester, or 1 music credit for each school year. Students who participate in both choir and band will receive 1/2 credit for each class, each semester, for a total of 2 music credits for the year.

**8. FUNDRAISING** Choir members are given the opportunity to raise funds for a trip we take every four years. The next trip is planned for the summer of 2012 with Florida being the tentative destination. Our main fundraiser is scheduled to be Oct. 12-26 with another possible, closer to spring. Students do not have to participate and donations are acceptable. Each student has his or her own account. Any unused money by the student remains in the overall choir budget or can be passed along to a sibling in choir within the same trip year. Any money raised in choir stays in choir. Additional money raised may be used for fees to attend choral festivals.

### **9. GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS**

\* No gum, candy or food.

\* No cell phone.

\* No personal listening devices (MP3 players, Ipods, etc.) unless permission is granted.

\* Students are responsible for all assigned music and folders. All music used in choir is the property of Osakis High School. Any music that has been destroyed, defaced, written on in ink, torn, has missing pages, or is lost, will need to be replaced. All replacement costs, including shipping and handling, will be assessed to the student.

\* I encourage students to have a bottle of water in class!

\* In order for a group of any size to learn to work together and produce a positive, quality performance, we must learn to respect, trust and have pride in what we do. Respect and trust of other choir members and the instructor is essential. Therefore, during rehearsals and performances, listening and 100% cooperation is very important for a successful educational experience.

**Together Everyone Achieves More!**