

Welcome to the SSSH Vocal Music Department!

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome back to another phenomenal year in the SSSH choir department. I am very excited and honored to be here and look forward to working with award-winning students who are both talented and motivated. We have many great opportunities to perform, compete, and learn this year. By working together as a team and bringing our best to class every day we can continue to show to the community and beyond that our program is fantastic! Get ready for a great year!

Mrs. Abbe

How To Get Information The best way to get information about upcoming events, trips, concerts, and fundraisers is by looking at the choir website: www.santasusanachoir.org Information regarding just about anything related to Vocal Music will be posted and updated there on a regular basis. If you have any other questions please email Mrs. Abbe at bevin.abbe@simivalleyusd.org

Attendance is essential to learning, affects the amount of preparation for concerts, and allows every student to receive assignments and important information. All missed classes will be counted against students with the exception of five excused absences, by either parental note or doctor's note. A total of eight unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.

Tardiness falls under the heading of attendance. As stated in the rules, punctuality is very important. Three tardies will result in a phone call home. For every four tardies, a detention is assigned and one attendance grade is taken away. Tardiness to a call time for a performance will result in a lowered concert grade and possibly result in the student's not being able to perform at the concert.

Participation/Attitude is graded completely by the student's ability to follow rules in a positive and proactive way. When a student is attentive and capable of participating constructively this portion of their grade will reflect that.

Quizzes/Assignments are assignments that will be given in class and either completed immediately or turned in, on time, when specified. Partial completion is better than nothing, credit will be given to any work turned in that is correct. Late work will not be accepted for full credit. If an assignment is more than one week late it will not be accepted for credit.

Concerts are mandatory. If there is any question that your student will not be able to participate in one of the scheduled events, notice must be given within 48 hours of receiving the date of the event. (Allowances will be made for family emergencies with a written excuse.) It is important for parents to support their students by making sure that everyone is punctual and ready to perform at, or attend, the concert. As performances get closer, letters will be sent out with more detailed information.

There may be additional performances scheduled. Holiday time is also a busy time for the choirs. Dates will be given as soon as they are available. Any student who has a prior conflict must notify me within 48 hours of the announcement of a new performance date. Otherwise, these new performances will become mandatory. Students are required to attend the Winter and Spring concerts. Any student, who cannot attend one of the concerts, must let me know within 48 hours of receiving this notice. Any student that misses any mandatory technical rehearsal, or performance, other than for illness or family emergency, will be docked a minimum of one full letter grade per absence.

Students must attend school on the day of performances and technical rehearsals in order to perform in that evening's performance. There are no exceptions.

Student Responsibilities

There are many costs involved in running, maintaining, and performing in a choral program. Due to massive budget cuts on every level, it is not clear what can and cannot be provided for by the school towards our program. A letter will be coming home shortly that goes into detail regarding how we will deal with the impending costs of being an award-winning program.

Students will be responsible for obtaining and maintaining their concert/performance attire. Appropriate footwear for the students: black dress shoes and black socks for the men, and two to three inch black heels and skin colored pantyhose for the women. Other concert wear will be discussed in detail in the packet that will come home next week.

Expected Classroom Behavior (Rules)

These rules are in addition to the rules and procedures set forth in the SSHS student handbook.

Be On Time- Punctuality for class, performance call times, and turning in assignments is essential! Tardiness counts against your attendance grade and your accountability, which is taken into consideration when auditioning for higher vocal groups.

Be Prepared- Bring a pencil, all music, assignments and a good attitude to rehearsal every day. When class starts please be finished with all food, drinks (except water), chewing gum, grooming, personal issues and conversations. These items each have a time and a place and they are not in the classroom. Study the material given to you and come to each practice ready to give 100%.

Be Appropriate- Appropriate attitude, language, concentration skills and dress are necessary for a safe and productive classroom environment.

Be Disciplined/Respectful - Without disciplined performers a vocal music program will suffer. Practicing music outside of class and knowing your part is essential to musical success. During class and performances do not draw attention to yourself by acting or behaving in a manner that is disrespectful to your peers and the audience.

Be Flexible- We are all human, and we all make mistakes. I will take into consideration the fact that you make mistakes if you will return the favor. Keeping in mind that there are guidelines that we look to as "Law", such as attendance, assignments, etc., there are a few things we may need to change as we go.

Be Without Gum or Food - Choking, spilling, mess making and disrupting are not part of the vocal music course syllabus. Please leave everything except water outside of the classroom.

No Cell Phones- There is no texting or cell phone use allowed during class.

Consequences for not following the Rules

One warning

Phone call home, with a possible detention

Referral to the office

Grading Policy

Attendance- 30%

Participation/Attitude- 20%

Concerts- 20%

Quizzes/Assignments- 30%

Grade Requirements (Academic Eligibility)- In order to stay academically eligible to perform, and participate, in venues outside of school, and stay in competitive groups, students must maintain a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average.

How Parents Can Help

Here is the answer to your burning question... "How can I help?"

-The SSHS Performing Arts Boosters needs representative parents from each of the disciplines. This organization provides support so that our program can thrive. If you are at all interested please contact me, and/or come to parent night, and I will give you information as to when and where they meet.

-We need chaperones! Throughout the year there are trips and tours, as well as concerts that we will need extra supervision on. Many of the dates are already provided in this packet. If you are available to help out for any of those events, please let me know.

-If you have any handiwork experience, we could use your help. There are times that costumes need a little TLC, and our set-up and tear down go much faster with many volunteers.

Please write your email addresses on the signature sheet being returned to me so that I may keep you up to date.