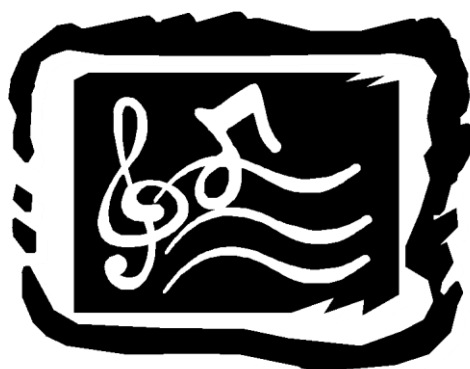


# **Andover Central Middle School Vocal Music Handbook**



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## **Introduction**

The purpose of this handbook is to provide insight to both parents and students of the expectations and requirements of the vocal music department at Andover Central Middle and High Schools. Please read this information thoroughly, as it will be a great reference tool.

After reading the handbook, please complete the attached medical consent form and obtain parent signatures.

## **Objectives**

- To develop fundamental music concepts. Students will have a proficient knowledge of music theory and music history through performance and classroom lecture and lab.
- To develop knowledge of the emotional and cultural values that can only be obtained through music. In order for an audience to relate to the emotional value, higher-level thinking is an essential part of performance in music.
- To develop quality life skills that can be used in any walk of life. Participation in the vocal music program requires self-discipline, organization, time management, team work, responsibility, and commitment.

## **Expectations**

### **1. RESPECT**

- a. Respect for your director
  - i. No gum, food, or drink are allowed in the classroom
  - ii. Be punctual to class and extra rehearsals
  - iii. Never miss a performance or your grade will suffer
  - iv. Excessive talking will not be tolerated
- b. Respect for your classroom
  - i. Instruments and other equipment are not to be touched unless permission is given
  - ii. Music will be issued to you and is expected to be returned in the same condition
  - iii. Follow classroom rules, school regulations, and all travel instructions issued for trips.
- c. Respect for your classmates
  - i. Treat others as you would like to be treated
  - ii. Be courteous when others are talking/singing

- d. Most importantly, respect for yourselves
  - i. Give your best every day and come with a positive attitude
  - ii. Be clean, neat, and properly dressed.
  - iii. Most of all, enjoy your gift and abilities

### **Vocal Music Classes**

#### Boys Choir

This is a non-auditioned choir for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade male students. This choir will sing music especially written for the boys' voice. The choir will perform at 3 evening concerts, Veteran's Day assembly, Winter assembly & Pioneer League Festival.

#### Girls Choir

This is a non-auditioned choir for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade female students. This choir will sing music especially written for the boys' voice. The choir will perform at 3 evening concerts, Veteran's Day assembly, Winter assembly & Pioneer League Festival.

#### Mixed Choir

The Girls choir and the boys choir will combine to perform together at concerts and other functions throughout the year.

### **Uniform Code**

It should be considered the highest honor to be allowed to wear the uniform of your organization. When in uniform, you are no longer an individual; you are a representative of your school and community. Uniforms will be worn at all public performances (unless you are instructed otherwise.) You are not to eat while in uniform. Wear your uniform with pride. **WHEN IN UNIFORM, REMAIN IN COMPLETE UNIFORM** unless you are instructed otherwise.

Uniform Requirements:

1. Choir polo (\$15)
2. Khaki pants (provided by student)
3. Black shoes with black socks(provided by student)

### **Rehearsal Guidelines**

1. A pencil should be included everyday in your binder. Having a pencil is crucial to quality musicianship. No pencil in your binder will affect participation points.
2. Gum, candy, and pop are not allowed in the vocal music room, unless otherwise stated.

## **Grading**

### Percentage Breakdown

45% Daily Participation

40% Concert Attendance

15% Theory wrkshts, folder checks, singing tests, writing assignments

### Grading Scale

A 90-100%

B 80-89%

C 70-79%

D 60-69%

F 59%↓

The instructor reserves the final word on determining a rounded percentage.

## **Daily Participation**

Participation points will be given each day class is held. Each student will start his/her class period with 4 points for the day. If a student should show disrespect according to the "Expectations" listed above, they will be deducted a point. If a student is losing points frequently, they will be notified.

Grades will be entered at the end of the week. One score will be entered for the whole week. Example: If we have a 5 day school week, each student will have 20 possible points (4 points per day) that will be entered at the end of the week.

4 points – Does everything the teacher expects.

3 points – Makes a minor error in judgment. (i.e. chewing gum, excessive talking, laziness)

2 points – A second offense of the above.

1 point – A third offense of the above.

0 points – Either another error of judgment or complete lack of participation.

The instructor reserves the right to subtract multiple points for an offense that is worthy.

## **Concert Attendance**

Choir is a performance-based class. Concerts are mandatory and are worth 100 points at 40% of the grade. Every effort is made to schedule concerts around other school-related activities. Only in extreme cases will missing a concert be permitted. Advance notice should be given as soon as a conflict arises. Of course, in some cases, such as a death of a family member or a severe illness, that would not be possible.

If a concert is missed and is excused by the director, the student shall write a 5-paragraph essay over a topic of the director's choosing. This must be completed within a week of the missed concert to make-up the points. An "A" will not be given if a concert is missed.

<b>Red, White &amp; Blues</b>	<b>October 13, 2009</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Veteran's Day Assembly</b>	<b>November 11, 2009</b>	<b>During school</b>
<b>Holiday Assembly</b>	<b>December 18, 2009</b>	<b>During school</b>
<b>March Concert</b>	<b>March 2, 2010</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Pioneer League Festival</b>	<b>April 28, 2010</b>	<b>During school</b>
<b>Spring Concert</b>	<b>May 10, 2010</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration</b>	<b>May 26, 2010</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>

Please mark these dates on your calendar at home and in your agenda book. Several other performance opportunities may arise throughout the year. In these cases, notice will be given well in advance.

### **Theory worksheets, folder checks, singing tests, etc.**

Over the course of the semester, the instructor must determine what areas of the curriculum need improvement. Theory worksheets are to help build quality musicianship. Folder checks are used to make sure a pencil is in the binder with the proper markings in the music, as requested by the instructor. Singing tests are not a punishment but a tool to see where problems are occurring within the music. Singing tests will be done in quartets or octets, not individually.

### **Writing Exercises**

The writing exercises in this class are used to assist each student in becoming a reflective learner. The exercises will be used at least twice a semester. Once the assignment is given, each student will have a full week to complete the assignment. The instructor will give a rubric stating the contents of the paper at the time the paper is assigned. Late work will be docked 25% each school day the paper is late.

### **Final Exam**

The final exam will consist of music theory, musical terms, and reflection. Notes should be taken, as they will help tremendously with this exam. This exam is a tool to help each student see their personal development and for the instructor to see what areas need improvement.

**Extra Rehearsals**

There will be occasional rehearsals before school (7:00a.m. – 7:50a.m.) If an extra rehearsal is needed the students will be given as much advance warning as possible. Students who decide to go on the annual trip, will have rehearsals before school. These rehearsals are mandatory and should only be missed in extreme circumstances. Advance notice of an absence should be given as soon as a conflict arises. The teacher and student will then discuss options to make up the absence. Participation points will be given in the Concert Attendance portion of the grade.

**Absences/Tardy Policies**

School policy written in the ACHS handbook will be strictly adhered to. If a student misses class and does not return with an excused admit slip, they will earn 0 participation points for the day missed. An Unexcused tardy will result in a 2 point loss of their participation points for that day.

**Private Lessons**

Every choir member would benefit greatly by taking private lessons. Private lessons will advance the individual's playing ability, both technically and tonally. A list of qualified Private Instructors is available through Mr. Engels.