# **Choir Handbook 20**21**-202**2

#### **CASTEEL HIGH SCHOOL**

**Casteel choir helps singers of all abilities strengthen their voices and level of musicianship. Choir can be an exploratory class for new musicians or the beginning to a rewarding performing arts career. This handbook contains course information that can help you make the most out of your experience in Casteel Choirs.**

***Mrs. Clausen’s Schedule and Contact Information***

* 0 period “Encore” – HS Jazz Choir
* 1st period “Dolce” – HS Women’s choir
* 2nd period “Forte” – HS Intermediate Mixed Choir
* 3rd period “Chorale” – HS Concert Choir
* 4th period PREP (JH choir - Mrs. Pearce)
* 5th period “Triple Threat” – JH Advanced Choir
* 6th period OFF (JH choir - Mrs. Pearce)

Contact Information:

Voicemail: 480-424-8264

\*E-mail: [clausen.camilyn@cusd80.com](mailto:clausen.camilyn@cusd80.com)

E-mail is the best way to reach me. I will do my best to respond

to all e-mails within 48 hours.

Please sign up for Text Reminds! This is the best way to receive important choir information.

SIGN UP FOR Advanced Junior High Choir (Triple Threat) REMIND: text **@bdkb7b** to 81010

SIGN UP FOR Intermediate Mixed Choir (Forte) REMIND: text **@forte21** to 81010

SIGN UP FOR Advanced Women's Choir (Dolce) REMIND: text **@dolce21** to 81010

SIGN UP FOR Concert Choir (Chorale) REMIND: text **@b229b2** to 81010

SIGN UP FOR Jazz Choir (Encore) REMIND: text **@23ah96** to 81010

SIGN UP FOR Men of 'Steel (Men's Choir club): text **@menofsteel** to 81010

Important class information:

* Mrs. Clausen’s biography and class website: <http://www.cusd80.com/Page/67120>
* New information regarding concerts, field trips, tax credit, and all other news will be given via email and website. Please check the website for up-to-date information. Paper copies will occasionally be used as well.

##### ***Class Supplies***

Choir participants **must come to each rehearsal prepared** to work hard. This it what you need to have in ***every rehearsal:***

* Your choir folder (**please bring in your own**) and music (provided)
* A pencil (must be stored inside your folder)
* Water (optional, but a good idea!)

## ***Choir Mission Statement:***

In Casteel Choir, students will use and strengthen their voices as they explore a variety of repertoire, learn new theory and technical skills, and build community through musical collaboration.

## ***Class Objectives***

The list below gives you an idea of the musical topics we cover in each choir; they are based on state and district music standards. Choir kids are not just singing along with the piano, but building up knowledge on the road to music mastery. The topics are taught throughout the year incorporating different learning styles and many of the “multiple intelligences.” Some of the topics:

* How to build up strength in your singing voice- exercises and warm-ups
* How to sing parts in an ensemble- using listening, creating balance, blending
* Music literacy- how to read note names, clefs, and rhythmic values
* Sight-singing- reading a line of printed music without hearing it first
* Performance etiquette- walking on and off stage, dress, applause
* Music theory basics- keys, intervals, chords, and scales
* How to add expression and style to fit the mood and genre
* Evaluating musical performances of self and others
* Decoding lyrics- point of view
* Influence of music in society- past and present
* Changes in music across times and places
* How to listen to different types of music and make fair and insightful evaluations
* HAVE FUN!!!!

###### ***Grading Policy***

If you want to get a good grade in choir, you must come prepared for class, be positive, be respectful and attend your concerts each quarter.

* **Rehearsal participation-**

Students earn participation points for participating in rehearsals. Unexcused absences or excessive talking or lack of participation will result in loss of points. 50 points possible per week. When you are absent, you cannot learn what the rest of the choir learned that day during rehearsal. If you are absent, please check with a friend to get the notes in the music you may have missed. Any new music given out will be on the back table.

Google classroom should be up to date with current rehearsal tracks. Please rehearse at home, especially on the days you are absent for any reason.

* **Concert attendance-**

Your class will have two performances per semester. Concert dates are listed later in this handbook. The concerts will be worth 500 points each. Mrs. Clausen will send home frequent news updates via email reminding parents about upcoming events. This is a performance-based class. Concert attendance is mandatory!

If a student has an **excused absence** for a concert (one that a parent calls or e-mails me about **before** the concert), he will be allowed to make up the concert grade by completing an alternative project.

If a student has an **unexcused absence**, however, *no make-up points for the concert portion of the grade will be accepted*. Since this is a large percentage of the total points, make sure you uphold this performance commitment, and email ahead of time if you have a scheduling conflict.

* **In-class work/quizzes**

Throughout the year we will have assessments, quizzes and reflections. These will all be done in class.

* **Extra credit**

Students *who are in need of extra points*, can earn extra credit by attending musical events such as choir/band/orchestra concerts, musicals, or voice recitals. Simply bring in the program with a parent signature and you will be given 20 extra points.

| **Average** | **Letter Grade** | **Performance Descriptor** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 90-100% | A | Exemplary mastery of concepts |
| 80-89% | B | General mastery of concepts |
| 70-79% | C | Progress toward mastery of concepts |
| 60-69% | D | Difficulty with mastery of concepts |
| 0-59% | F | Lack of mastery of concepts |

##### ***Behavior Expectations***

As a community of singers, you are responsible for contributing to the learning and safe environment of our choir. Behavior expectations are:

* ***Being on time***

To be considered “on time”, students must be in the room, getting out their folders, and *ready to begin* when the last bell rings.

* ***Participating***

Appropriate participation means following all directions the first time, giving your *best effort* on every activity, and not complaining or being disruptive.

* ***Listening with attention***

Choir members are expected to listen to others when speaking or performing by looking at the speaker or performer and waiting to speak in turn.

* ***Respecting others***

For choir to be a safe learning place to sing, mutual respect is a must! Please keep an open mind, and avoid negativity. Just be nice!

***Concert Attire***

Uniforms for the High School Groups “Forte”, “Dolce”, and “Chorale”: Tuxedos and Dresses have been ordered for you. Your choir uniform rental fee will help cover the cost of these uniforms. When you borrow a school uniform, you are acknowledging your responsibility to care for it and return it in good condition.

Uniforms for Encore Jazz Choir: Men: black dress pants, black dress shirt (long sleeved), white suspenders, black converse. Women: black dress we will pick online together.

Uniforms for JH “Triple Threat” are as follows:

Men- Black dress pants, white button down long sleeve shirt, black tie, black dress shoes.

Women- Long ankle-length black skirt or black dress pants, short sleeved solid black top (no tanks or spaghetti straps), black dress shoes, hair pulled off of face.

This will be our uniform for all formal concerts and festivals. Choir T-shirts will be used for our informal events. New choir shirts will be ordered this year. More information will be coming soon. The cost will be around $10.

***Choir fees***

Per district policy, fees must be assessed for extra-curricular classes such as choir.

Fees are below:

JH Triple Threat - $40

HS Forte - $75

HS Dolce - $75

HS Chorale - $75

HS Encore – $40 class fee

Fees cover music and other supplemental materials, transportation to/from local festivals, and uniforms (HS). Fees are paid through your infinite campus account. If you are unable to pay these fees, please contact the bookstore.

**Choir performance dates*:***

TUE, September 21

TUE, December 7

TUE, March 8 (HS only) (JH on Monday, May 7 at 7pm) SHOW TUNES CONCERTS!

TUE, May 10

Junior High Concerts begin at 5:30PM, and will feature all 3 junior high choirs. High School concerts begin at 7:00PM and will feature Encore, Forte, Dolce, Chorale, and Men of ‘Steel (our men’s choir club). Students must report to the choir room *30 minutes prior* to the concert start time. Concerts are free.

**Other dates to be aware of:**

November 6 --- All-State Jazz/ Show Choir Auditions (HS only)

November 13 --- Cantaremos Honor Choir (grades 7-9)

January 10-14 --- tentative dates for school musical Auditions

January 21-22 --- All-Region Auditions (HS only) @ Mountain Ridge HS

January 28-29 --- All-State Jazz/Show Choir festival at AMEA conference

February 10-11 ---Encore to Jazz/Mad Festival at NAU

February 18-19 --- All- Region Festival @ McClintock HS

March 11-12 --- All-State Auditions – Mountain Pointe HS

March 30-April 2 --- School Musical Performances

April 7-9 --- All State Festival –NAU

April 21-24 --- Chorale and Encour tour to Seattle!

May 6 --- (tentative) AZACDA JH choral music festival – Mesa

May 26 ---Graduation! Chorale and Encore perform

**Parents and Students:**

**Once you have read the information in the choir handbook, please fill out the information and return this page to Mrs. Clausen. Keep the rest of the packet. If you have questions about this information, please contact Mrs. Clausen using the information on the front page. It’s going to be a fantastic year!**

**Casteel Choir Commitment**

**As a willing participant in Casteel’s choir program, I will do my best to contribute to the success of my choir by following the guidelines established in this handbook. I understand the grading policy and will uphold my commitment to attend rehearsals and concerts outside of class in order to earn full points for the choir grade. If I cannot meet the class behavior expectations or performance commitment, I understand that Mrs. Clausen and the counselors will find me alternate placement in another elective class.**

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**Student’s name (printed) Signature Date**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian’s name (printed) Signature Date**

**As the parent of said student, I give permission for his/her name to be printed in programs and photos to be taken for yearbook and choir history purposes.**

**Parents/Guardians: We are in need of parents/guardians to serve on the Boosters to help organize uniforms, plan fundraising, plan field trips, help at concerts, etc. Board meets only once or twice a quarter in the evening. Please consider serving.**

**I am willing to be a member of Choir Boosters (circle one) YES / NO**

**If yes,**

**Parent/Guardian Cell Phone number: (\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Best email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Students: If interested in serving as an officer or section leader (SL), please fill out this portion:***

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Per: \_\_\_**

**What position you would like: P VP Sec Treas Hist SL**

**You may circle more than one.**

**Why do you want to be an officer or section leader? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**Why do you think you’d be a good officer or section leader? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**If chosen as an officer, do you commit to outside of school time for meetings, setting up/cleaning up events, etc? (circle one) YES / NO**

**Section leaders help lead the music rehearsal when we split into groups.**

**Do you play the piano well enough to play parts? (circle one) YES / NO**

*Section leaders will be chosen by Mrs. Clausen*

*Officers will be voted on by class members during the first 3 weeks of school. Mrs. Clausen will take these essay answers into consideration when making the final decision for both officers and section leaders.*