

ISU Children's Chorus Handbook

Statement of Purpose

Founded in October, 1987, the purpose of the Idaho State Children's Chorus is to provide activities and experiences which will assist students in learning about music through appreciation and performance. The exposure of basic music theory foundations, challenging music literature and the high performance standards set by Idaho State Children's Chorus' tradition are invaluable. The chorus is sponsored by the ISU Department of Music.

Membership

Members of the ISU Children's Chorus are chosen by audition only. Boys and girls, grades 3-9 with unchanged voices are eligible for audition. Auditions are held in the spring and in the early fall or by special appointment. A commitment to a full year's participation is expected!

Students are not required to take private music lessons, but are strongly encouraged (especially piano lessons!) This allows the directors to focus on vocal and choral technique as they teach songs. When students already have or are working on a theory foundation, the level of musicianship in the chorus rises and the level of appreciation for the student increases. This leads to a lifetime of music appreciation and involvement which is priceless!

Attendance

Each Member of the Chorus fills a need that no other can fulfill. It is very important that every member of the chorus be at every rehearsal and performance. There is no other way the objectives of the chorus can be maintained. If a student must miss a rehearsal, please notify one of the directors before rehearsal begins. If a child is ill and a call has been received by a director, the absence is excused. Students are allowed 3 EXCUSED ABSENCES. After a 2nd UNEXCUSED ABSENCE (no notification before or after the rehearsal), the student may be removed from the chorus.

Please note, it is extremely important that the directors know who is going to be absent before the rehearsals begin. Unfortunately, if a student has too many absences, a student may not be allowed to perform with the ensemble at the following concert.

If there is an occasion where a child will be picked up early from rehearsal, please send a note in advance. However, it is very important for the child's musical experience to attend the full rehearsal, so please keep early departures to a minimum.

Communication

Emails: A formal letter will be mailed to the student's home at the beginning of the school year. Thereafter, all communication will take place via email. Please make sure all of your information has been submitted and is correct. If you do not have an email account, please provide an email address of a relative or trusted friend that you can regularly obtain information from.

Rehearsals

Regular day and times: *The chorus will be divided into two groups, The Apprentice Choir and The Select Choir. Both choirs make up the entire ISU Children's Chorus. The purpose of the split is to bring less prepared students up to a level equal to that of the Select Choir, thus making rehearsals more productive. The Select Chorus will prepare separate literature in addition to the repertoire that the entire chorus will prepare each semester.*

The Apprentice will meet at 4:00 and dismissed at 5:40 P.M. in room in room 110 of the Fine Arts Building.

The Select Choir will meet 4:15 in the choir room , joining with the Apprentice Group for a joint rehearsal. They will be dismissed at 6:00 P.M.

In case of poor weather: If School District 25 has cancelled school on the day of rehearsal, the rehearsal will be cancelled as well. If school is in session but very bad weather occurs in the afternoon and cancellation becomes necessary, students will be notified by email. We will try to make that call no later than 2:30 p.m. An attempt will be made to post a note on the South outside entrance of the Fine Arts Building as well as the Choir Room door.

Homework/Care of Music

Practice: Practicing at home is MANDATORY!! We would like students to take their folder of music and practice CD home each week and work on their parts. Students are required to practice at least 4 days a week for a minimum of 1520 minutes each day. Of course more time is encouraged.

Students are required to have a pencil during rehearsal to make notes in their music. No ink should be used and all markings should be erased before turning in.

Students are rewarded during rehearsal time, throughout the semester for their hard work and effort in practicing.

Care of music: The cost for any folder or music that is damaged or lost will need to be replaced by the student. Folders and music should be turned in before the last activity of

each semester. CDs do not need to be returned.

Tardiness

Rehearsals begin promptly at 4:00 and 4:15. We suggest that students be dropped off 5-10 minutes before rehearsal begins in order to sign on-time draw, get music and seat and take care of any other necessities. It is imperative that all members be in attendance at the beginning of rehearsal]] Rehearsals are disrupted when students arrive late and adherence to our schedule and organizational efforts are greatly hampered.

We suggest students be dropped off 5-10 minutes before 4:00. If you're unable to get students at the rehearsal before the start time, perhaps your child could ride with another chorus member or find another means of transportation.

If there is a scheduling problem with sports, plays or other after school activities which will cause the student to be late, please talk to the directors before the situation arises.

Discipline

The purpose of this chorus is to sing and make music, to learn and grow in the knowledge and ability to sing, and to have a lot of fun in the process! Our hope is that the members of the chorus become so involved in the above activities that disciplinary actions will never have to be taken. However, if behavioral problems occur, certain procedures will be observed:

- First offense: A conversation with a director and the child will occur during or after rehearsal.
- Second offense: Another conversation will occur with communication being made with the parents about the problem.
- Third offense: the child will be given a period of time to work through the problem.
- Last offense: The child may be asked not to participate in the chorus.

Behavioral problems include: students not showing their best efforts, disruptive talking and/or behavior during rehearsal, inconsiderate behavior toward chorus members and adult leaders, unexcused lateness to rehearsals or performances, or unexcused absences, to name a few.