



Preparing EACH Student for a Successful and Meaningful Life

SMSSings

20501 S. School Rd., Peculiar, MO 64078

smssings.weebly.com

Choir Director: Mrs. Lezlie Waltz

RayPec South Middle School Vocal Music Department

Choir Handbook

Director Lezlie Waltz

Email: lezlie.waltz@raypec.org

Website: smssings.weebly.com



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Department Mission

The RPSMS Vocal Music Department's mission is to provide an instructional and engaging environment that enables middle level learners to advance their musical and leadership skills all while investigating the rich cultural heritage that is found within musical history.

Program Standards: represents what a student should know at the end of a course.

1. The student will be able to practice music literacy.
2. The student will be able to apply age appropriate vocal skills through performance.

Learning Targets: build to the Power Standard.

- 1.1 I can interpret rhythmic values appropriate to my grade level.
- 1.2 I can read notes.
- 1.3 I can identify grade level appropriate major key signatures by sight.
- 1.4 I can sight read grade level appropriate melodies.

- 2.1 I can practice proper rehearsal skills (being prepared for class, following rehearsal instructions and classroom procedures, staying focused during rehearsal).
- 2.2 I can sing with proper tone, expression and musicianship (vocal formation, projection, support, diction, part acquisition, memorization, stylistic appropriate attributes).
- 2.3 I can apply vocal and rehearsal skills in a performance setting.

Supplies Needed

- **Daily Classroom Supplies:** Students are to bring their agenda and a writing utensil (pen or pencil) with them to every class. They will write daily activities in their agendas, as well as use them for hall passes. Music folders and music will be provided. Lost or destroyed music will result in a fine.



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Rehearsal Standards

This is a performing choir, so students are expected to follow proper rehearsal standards.

Proper rehearsal standards include:

1. Being prepared to start class on time. Warm-ups will begin as soon as the bell rings. Students who are not in the class at the bell will be counted tardy unless they have a pass from a teacher. Students who take an excessive amount of time getting ready for class will receive a warning. Multiple warnings will result in a lowered rehearsal score, removal from that day's rehearsal, or both.
2. Displaying a focused attention during rehearsal. The student's eyes should be focused on the director and they should be actively participating in whichever activity the choir is doing. Any other behavior will be viewed as distracting and warnings will be given. After two warnings in a class, the student will be removed to a buddy room, will receive a reduction in rehearsal score and a phone call will be made home.
3. Being respectful and productive in the rehearsal room. Students will utilize rehearsal rooms in order to efficiently use our rehearsal time. Active rehearsal of vocal parts should be happening at all times and excessive talking or distractive/rude behavior will result in removal from the rehearsal space. Students should be kind and respectful to all who are in the rehearsal room. Students who do not exhibit proper rehearsal room behavior will not be allowed to participate in rehearsal room practices and will have to complete their practice at home.

Frequent breaks are planned in the lesson to allow for socializing, stretching and rehydration.

NO gum is allowed in the Choir room, and the only beverage that is allowed is water that does not have a mix in it.



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Students who are removed from rehearsal due to not following the expected proper rehearsal standards will be required to complete an alternative assignment that has them focus on what skills they are lacking. Once that assignment is completed, they will be allowed to return to the classroom.

Rehearsal tracks and study guides are located on the Department's web page:
(www.smssings.weebly.com)

Testing Standards

Music Literacy is a vital proponent of musical performance. In order to become a better performer, students must know how to read music. In order to support their music literacy training, students will participate in three google form testing units: Rhythm Identification, Pitch Identification and Key Signature Identification.

1. Material will be covered in class using powerpoints and digital tools that will be shared through the student's Vocal Music Canvas Site. Students are expected to review the material and practice the worksheets while at home if extra support is needed.
2. Practice tests that contain the same questions as the actual tests will be provided through the student's Vocal Music Canvas Site in order to provide additional support. Students may take these practice tests as many times as needed.
3. Tests will occur only in class and students will only be allowed to take the test two times. Tests will be given via a google form and students will have full access to their graded answers as soon as their form is submitted. The student's best score out of the two takes will be recorded.



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Folder and Music distribution

- 1 Each singer will be assigned a folder number. Students will use a choir department folder.
- 2 Music will be issued by number and kept in the folder.
- 3 A corresponding numbered slot in a folder cabinet will be assigned for the student to store the folder and music in the choir room. If the student takes the music home for practice, they are responsible for making sure they have it for the next day's rehearsal. Pencils should be kept in each folder.
- 4 Lost or damaged music will be replaced at the student's expense. Singers will be charged \$10.00 (or more) to replace the music in the folder.

***This course will utilize a traditional grading method based on a 100 point scale. Grades will be based on total points earned and will include:**

Rehearsal technique, Singing tests, Written work, Quizzes, Tests and Concert performances

Music theory, vocabulary, history, and vocal technique are all important parts of the curriculum. Students will be assessed over information regarding these various aspects of music literacy and choral musicianship. Students will be given grades they earn on their performance on specific tasks.

Rehearsal technique will be evaluated by Instructor observation and will be assigned bi-monthly. Rehearsal technique includes: obtaining the correct items needed for rehearsal, following instructions in a timely manner, displaying positive teamwork skills, demonstrating proper posture and tone, and performing musical tasks to their best ability.

An easy way to remember this is that they must demonstrate the 3 P's of Musicianship:

1. **Preparation** (coming to class prepared to be a singing musician)
2. **Perspiration** (giving appropriate musical effort to be a singing musician)
3. **Production** (demonstrating proper posture and tone as a singing musician) If a singer shows these attributes, they will be well on their way to being a lifelong musician.



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If a student is unable to participate due to illness, they must notify the director prior to the beginning of the rehearsal. As long as they remain in class, he/she is expected to participate in the rehearsal by being actively involved and singing silently. If the student is unable to sing a second day in a row, they must bring a written excuse from a parent. If a student is unable to sing for three or more days, a physician's note is expected.

Singing tests

Singing tests will be regularly administered to every singer. Each student will be held accountable for knowing and accurately singing his/her part. Sight singing exercises will be tested as well.

Theory skills will be evaluated by exam. Instruction over specific skills will be held daily and will be accompanied by a digital activity. Students will be responsible for proving their mastery of this information in digital exams. It is up to absent students to arrange a time in which they can make-up their missing tests. No Extra Credit will be given.

Concert skills will be evaluated by Instructor observation at the Concert. Students will need to show mastery in these areas: Performer and Audience etiquette, Musical performance and Concert Preparation.

6th, 7th & 8th Grade Experiencing Music Classes

6th Grade Performing Choir- The Chromatics

7th Grade Performing Choir- The Interludes

8th Grade Advanced Choir- Cadenza

Syncopation and Southside Jazz- Vocal Ensembles

Voci Angelico- Performance Choir (6-8)



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Auditions: 7th grade students will audition for Cadenza while participating in their 7th grade choir class. If a student is not enrolled in choir this year, they may audition during the open audition time in March. Seventh Grade students wishing to audition to be a part of the Music Theatre class their 8th grade year will do so in a series of auditions held before the end of the year. Auditions for Syncopation, Southside Jazz and Voci Angelico ("Voci") are each Fall with additional auditions as deemed appropriate. Students will need to check the information boards by the Choir classroom door for more information.

Concerts: Students enrolled in the performing choirs will be responsible for putting on concerts and performances each Semester.

Concert attendance and concert attire is mandatory since it is directly linked to their performance exams. Concerts are a demonstration of the student's ability to synthesize all of the performance attributes in a live performance. Students are expected to participate in the performance if they were at school the day of the concert. Emergencies do happen and will be dealt with on an individual basis. Students who miss the concert due to sickness or family emergency will participate in a makeup performance which will happen in class following the concert date. Concert makeups will include a smaller group of performers who perform the music of the concert in class with the remaining classmates as an audience. The overall expectation is that the student will perform their concert music in order to receive their concert grade.

Concert Dress: Concerts are mandatory, and students will receive a grade for wearing the appropriate attire. **Students are encouraged to use what is in their closets or to borrow from others to reduce cost. If there is a financial need, the Department does have some items for loan.** Concert Dress pants/slacks **do not** include the following: capris, leggings, jeggings, joggers, sweats, etc.,

****Our Choir Boosters and parents of former choir students created a "Choir Clothes Closet"!** Please consider donating any gently used items that your child has outgrown to continue to build the Choir Closet with formal concert attire to benefit those who come to "check out" the concert items. ******



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Attire for Cadenza's Formal Concerts is "dressy". We call this their "dress blacks"

This would include:

Guys: black dress shoes, black socks, black dress shirts and black slacks with a black belt

Girls: Black dress shirts or blouses, black skirts that reach the ground when the student is standing on their knees, nylons (hosiery) and black shoes with a heel no higher than 3".

Students arriving in street clothes will not be given points for achieving correct concert wear.





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Attire for The Interludes' formal concerts is "dressy". We call this their "*dress black and whites*". This would include:

Guys: black dress shoes, black socks, **WHITE** dress shirts and black slacks with a black belt.

Girls: **WHITE** dress shirts or blouses, black skirts that reach the ground when the student is standing on their knees, nylons (hosiery) and black shoes with a heel no higher than 3". Students arriving in street clothes will not be given points for achieving correct concert wear.



Attire for Cadenza and The Interludes' Semi-Formal Performances, and The Chromatics' concerts is semi-formal. At these venues students will wear black slacks, black belts, black socks and black dress shoes, and their choir t-shirts tucked in. Information on purchasing these t-shirts can be found in the T-Shirt section below as well as on our website. www.smssings.weebly.com These are purchased through the choir department and as of this year will be able to be purchased online!

Attire for Sports Venue Performances is casual. At times there will be casual performances (ie Performing at the Mavericks or the Phantoms' Games) At these events students will wear black jeans, black socks, shoes (these can be tennis shoes), a black belt, and our designated/approved choir t-shirt. Information on purchasing these t-shirts can be found in the T-Shirt section below as well as on our website. www.smssings.weebly.com These are purchased through the choir department online.



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Honor Choirs: Participation in the District (WCMMEA), State (MCDA), Regional (SWACDA) and National (ACDA) Honor Choirs is optional, but greatly encouraged. Information for each honor choir and the audition process is located in the plastic bins outside of the Choir Classroom and on the Weebly Site (www.smssings.weebly.com).

Professional Athletic Games: RPSMS has the honor of performing the National Anthem for some professional athletic teams this year.

In the fall, our 7th and 8th graders enrolled in The Interludes and Cadenza will perform at the Sporting KC Center for a soccer game (The Rangers) and our select performance group (auditioned 6–8th graders) will perform at the Mavericks Game. In the second semester those 6th Graders enrolled in The Chromatics will perform at the Royals Game. More info. on both of these events will be shared as soon as it becomes available! These events require a ticket and the approved choir t-shirt. Ticket and T-shirt money will be non refundable. Family, friends and community tickets are available, and are at a discounted rate. Those interested will need to email lezlie.waltz@raypec.org or see the website (www.smssings.weebly.com) for more information. Students will ride school transportation to the event, ***but may sign out with a parent immediately after performing.***

T-Shirts: T-shirts are available for purchase through the Vocal Music Department. Orders are submitted once per semester. They will be non-refundable. Students will be given the size they order. If it is incorrect, they will need to pay for a new t-shirt or, if possible, they may trade with another student.



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RPSMS Vocal Music Schedule for 2019-2020

KEY: Black – all students required; [Blue - Cadenza \(8th Grade Advanced Performing Choir\)](#)

[Red - The Interludes \(7th Grade Performing Choir\)](#)

[Orange- The Chromatics \(6th Grade Performing Choir\)](#) [Green - Optional to all or some students](#)

[Purple- Syncopation & Southside Jazz](#)

[Burgundy-SMS Combined Performing Choir \(Cadenza, Syncopation, Southside Jazz and auditioned Interludes\)](#)

(Color coding is only visible when viewing the pdf as this is not printed in color)

Important dates to remember:

- [Sat. Aug. 17th - Choir Orientation \(7th & 8th Grade Choirs\)](#)
- [Sat. Sept. 14th National Anthem @ Children's Mercy Park- Rangers \(Soccer\) \(7th & 8th Grade\)](#)
- [Sat. Sept. 21st- Raymore Parade](#)-Come show up and represent CHAIR!
- [Sat. Oct. 12th National Anthem @Mavericks \(6th Grade\)](#)
- [Thurs. Oct. 24th -Southside Showcase](#) (Coffeehouse style Showcase of Talent which is our fundraiser for our Music Program and our Showcase Scholarship)
- [Nov. 2nd- WCMMEA Jr. High Honor Choir](#) (This is the 7th & 8th Grade Honor Choir)
- [Fri. Nov. 8th- Veteran's Day Assembly](#)
- [Thurs. Nov. 14th MPACT Vocal Festival \(Jazz Ensembles\)](#)
- [Fri. Nov. 15th Winter Pep Assembly \(Cadenza & The Interludes\)](#)
- [Sat. Nov. 23rd- RP Select Event](#)
- [Wed. Dec. 18th - Winter Concert:](#) 6-7pm AND 7:30-8:30pm @RPHS Theatre
- [TBD-Concert for Elementaries\(Daytime\) - Cadenza, The Interludes Syncopation & Southside Jazz \(Perform for Elementary Students\)](#)
- [Feb. 13th Jazz Dinner Show-](#) Syncopation & Southside Jazz (I will update when tickets are available for purchase for the Valentine's Jazz Dinner Show.)
- [March 4-7 SWACDA Regional Honor Choir](#) (W-Sat) in Little Rock, Arkansas
- [Sat. March 7th WCMMEA 6th Grade Honor Choir:](#) (6th Grade)(Warrensburg)



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- TBD- Concert for incoming 6th Graders
- TBD- Concert for parents of incoming 6th Graders
- **Fri. March 13th** Pep Assembly (Jazz Ensembles)
- **TBD- Spring National Anthem Performance** (8th Grade Advanced Cadenza AND 7th Grade Interludes)
- **Sat. April 4th-Mid Missouri Music Festival** (MS Solo & Ensemble Contest)
- **Sat. April 25th - Worlds of Fun Music Festival** for 8th Grade Advanced (Cadenza) and 7th Grade Interludes -(Choir Competition):
- **Spring 2020 (Exact Date TBD) - Kansas City Royals 6th Grade National Anthem Performance.** The 6th Grade Choir will perform the National Anthem at the Kansas City Royals game. Specific details are not available right now, but the game will be in the Spring of 2020.
- **Thurs. May 7-Spring Concert & Award Ceremony: at RPSMS 6-7:30pm**
- **July 2020 MCDA Honor Choir: State Level Honor Choir in Jefferson City**
- **TBD- Choir Clinics- Cadenza, The Competitive Interludes, Syncopation & Southside Jazz**
- **TBD-Donuts with Dudes - 7th & 8th Grade Boys**
- **TBD-Chicas & Chocolate - 7th & 8th Grade Girls**

AS you can see some dates are still to be determined. There may also be some additions or changes as time goes on. Rest assured that I will update and inform you of any changes as soon as I am made aware of them!

You might notice that the Fall concert will be at the HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE on the stage. It will be our 6th grade and ensembles performing from 6-6:30pm. Then there will be a small break to "reset" after which we will have our 7th and 8th Graders and ensembles perform. In the past we have had 6-8th graders all perform in the same concert. We are not able to do that at the high school at this point due to the growth in our choirs and limited seating. We also have found it did not work to have back to back concerts with parents choosing one concert to attend as it was too long of an evening for our 6th graders. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns. The best way to reach me is via our Remind Group. My contact information is given below.

Please also visit rpsings.com and **sign-up for the remind group for your choir's class.**



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Communication: Families may stay up to date on classroom activities using the Weebly site (www.smssings.weebly.com) and by **subscribing to our Remind Group** to receive the updates. (See the attached pdf on Remind Page for directions). Questions can be given to Mrs. Waltz directly by sending a message from within Remind or by emailing Mrs. Waltz. (lezlie.waltz@raypec.org).

I hope that this information is helpful to you in understanding the expectations for these courses. Your student's first assignment for the semester is to return the lower portion of this page. Please keep the rest of the page for your records and mark your calendar now with the concert and important dates above. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, and again please remember to sign up for text updates at remind.com

Let's make this a great year!

SIGNATURE PAGE

I appreciate your careful reading of the choral music handbook. Signing below signifies that you have read and understood the requirements and commitments to the RayPec South Middle School Choir Program; and that you have marked the concert dates and other important dates on your calendar.

Student's Signature_____

Parent's Signature_____



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Your Choir Department Needs YOU!!

The choral department is always looking for parents who are willing to assist with various events or needs. Would you please consider joining our Choir Booster Organization? If so, you will find the membership information attached. **If you are not interested in formally becoming a member of the Choir Boosters, but are interested in helping when needed for specific events, please give me your contact information!**

Name:

The best way to reach you:

Thank you, parents and students for your cooperation and support!

