

Rancho Christian School

Choir Department Policies

Mission Statement

To instill the values and standards of a great Christian performer, make a positive difference in the lives of our members, and to provide a myriad of musical experiences that will encourage students to obtain confidence, find camaraderie, hone leadership skills, maintain responsibility, and pursue high standards of excellence—all in the service of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

(2 Tim. 1:6)

Choir Member Expectations

- Each student will learn proper choral etiquette for rehearsals and performances.
- Each student will complete performance assignments involving rhythms, dynamics, and other performance techniques due as assigned. These may be from the method books, concert music, or handouts.
- Each student will learn to properly care for their music, folder, handouts, and both the rehearsal and performance spaces.
- Each student will learn a healthy practicing habit to be adopted inside as well as outside of the classroom.
- Each student will learn the basic Italian musical terms, proper pronunciations and their definitions.
- Each student **MUST** bring their rehearsal materials to class each day.
- Each student **MUST** attend all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances. They will be required to stay through the entirety of each unless previously discussed with the director.
- Each student **MUST** be respectful and attentive to the director. This attitude will be expected to extend to fellow classmates as well.
- Each student **MUST** sufficiently prepare assigned music. It is recommended that each student practice at least fifteen minutes a day in order to prepare to the best extent for each performance.
- Each student **MUST** wear the appropriate attire assigned for each event. See the **Extra Costs / Concert Attire** section for proper attire guidelines.
- Because this is a **yearlong** course and the group works as a team, students **are not permitted to leave the group after the first two weeks of school.** Leaving the group could affect future participation in the performing arts programs at Rancho Christian.

Tests:

In order to hold students accountable to practicing their music, there will be tests scheduled at the discretion of the director to assess their knowledge and performance capability of assigned music. Tests will be scheduled at least a week in advance to ensure the students have ample time to prepare. Tests will be based on the assignments from the assigned method book (provided by the director), music notation and composition, student's knowledge of the assigned concert pieces, ability to sing from memory, posture, proper technique, and ability to vocalize the assigned music.

Attendance Policy

The week before a concert, daily participation points will be worth double the normal amount. Students MUST be present at EVERY rehearsal the week before a concert. All students must be present at every concert and must stay through the entirety of the concert. No exceptions will be made. In addition to this, students may be called individually or in groups for sectionals outside of the normal class time schedule. These extra rehearsals are on an "as needed" basis and will be scheduled as far in advance as possible. Students unable to attend these extra rehearsals must discuss their absence with Mr. Lybeck at least one day prior to the allotted rehearsal time. A student's absence from sectionals and extra practices could affect their grade if frequently missed.

Extra Costs / Concert Attire:

Fees

While we wish that being a part of a performing arts group could be completely 'free', the simple fact is that it costs money to run a quality program. The Band & Choir Fees help cover the costs of the programs from year to year including: new equipment, choir camps, clinics, supplies, festival expenses (entries and travel), parties, end of the year concert, t-shirts, and folders. Band & Choir Fee Payments and fundraising provide the monies to support the Rancho Music Program. All students are responsible for paying for any personal items that they lose or which they will keep (performance polos, shoes, pants, instrument hygiene items, tuners, metronome, etc.). The fees for being in **Concert Choir** is currently **\$100/year** payable in one lump sum or installments. Visit [this link](#) for more info on fees and payment options. Each student will be required to obtain the listed items below no later than **the first week of September**.

Attire Requirements:

- **Performance Polo (ordered by the director)**
- **Khaki Pants**
- **Plain black or white shoes (if in doubt, send me a picture)**

Other Required Purchases:

- **#2 Pencil**
- **Pitch Pipe** for practice at home (not needed if a student owns a piano and knows how to find pitches on it)
- **Water Bottle** to bring to class (going to get a drink of water will not be allowed after the first few rehearsals)