



CHRISTIAN HERITAGE
ACADEMY

THE AMBASSADORS
MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR HANDBOOK
Grades 6-8
2020-2021



*We are ambassadors for Christ,
God making His appeal through us...
on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

2 Corinthians 5:20

Forms due August 19

Mrs. Eileen Swanson

Instrumental Music (4-8), Choral Music (4-12)

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The AMBASSADORS are the middle school choir of Christian Heritage Academy. As a performance-based music class meeting during the school day, we create music throughout the school year to present outside our classroom with purpose and joy. Individually, we are growing our faith, knowledge and vocal skills to accomplish that purpose.

Class Description

A typical class includes prayer together, vocal warm-ups and concentrated work on learning our performance repertoire in 2, 3 or 4-part harmony. We develop sight singing and rhythm reading skills. We make connections between our music and Scripture, history, art, literature, science and math – singing each piece presents its own learning opportunities and contributes to a well-rounded education here at CHA.

Because performances are the tests of what we have learned, **all performance dates listed below as “required” are included in quarter grading and participation is expected.**

Every effort is made to communicate performance dates (and changes) well in advance. Absence from a required performance may be considered as excused for student illness or family emergency only, with prior parent communication. Vacation or travel does not excuse a required performance.

Performances that are encouraged, but not required, are designated below as “opportunities.”

Please note: Choir members may not have a cell phone on their person during performance events.

Evaluation

This is a performance-based class that meets during the school day, throughout the school year. Knowledge and skill are demonstrated in performance; therefore all performance dates listed below as “required” are included in quarter grading. Every effort is made to communicate performance dates well in advance.

Assignments, performances and grades are posted on Veracross as follows:

- Performances = “Tests” on Veracross (25%)
- Class Participation = “Class Participation” on Veracross (40%)
- Skill Tests = “Quizzes” on Veracross (20%)
- Written work = “Writing” on Veracross (15%)

First Semester - Required Performance Dates

- September and October chapel dates - TBD
- Friday, November 13 - Veterans Day Chapel
- Wednesday, November 18 - Thanksgiving Chapel
- Friday, Dec. 11 – Christmas Choral Concert, 7:15 p.m.
- Thursday, December 18 - Christmas Chapel, 2:00 p.m.

First Semester Opportunities

- **Saturday, November 7, 2020** – ILMEA District Honors Chorus (Illinois Music Educators’ Association), grades 6-8. Students work with a guest conductor and present a public concert. Firm registration deadline is October 16. \$20.00 registration fee. Registration forms available October 1.
- **December 1, 2020** – For 7th & 8th grade Ambassadors - due date for ACSI Midwest Music Festival Registration - forms will be available in November and are due by December 1. Festival dates are March 13-14, 2020. No late forms accepted. Please see details under Second Semester Opportunities.

Second Semester - Required Performance Dates

- Thursday, April 1, 2021 – Holy Week Chapel, 2:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 23 – Spring Choral Concert, 7:15 p.m.
- Date TBA – 8th Grade Celebration Service
- Friday, May 27 - All School Praise Chapel, 10:30 a.m.
- Friday, May 28 – 8th Grade Graduation/US Commencement, p.m.
- Chapels – additional dates to be determined

Second Semester Opportunities

ACSI Midwest Music Festival, March 12-13, 2021 (overnight) – Grades 7 and 8

ACSI Festival is a Friday/Saturday overnight event at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais. Working with a guest conductor, hundreds of Christian school students from the Midwest prepare challenging repertoire and present a public concert on Saturday afternoon. Registration is due by December 1 with the completion of all three forms. No late forms can be accepted. **Parents, we will need a number of overnight chaperones**, based on the number of students attending. This event requires a separate, non-refundable fee for both students and chaperones (covering festival registration, hotel and three meals.)

Ambassadors Performance Dress:

- The purpose of concert dress is to present a unified, polished presence in performance.
- Concert clothes are to be worn for all performances, including ACSI.
- The cost for concert dress appears on student statements.
- Instructions for measuring will be sent home with students in the first days of class.

Boys: black dress shirt, black dress pants, tie (all purchased; fee on account)

The student will need to provide black dress belt, black socks, and black dress shoes (no sport shoes). No jewelry or watches, please.

Girls: black palazzo pants, black knit top (all purchased; fee on account)

The student will need to provide black dress flats, no socks. Small gold/silver post earrings only may be worn. Please do not wear hair bows, headbands or any other jewelry, including watches.

Please note: Choir members may not have a cell phone on their person during performance events.

Registration Forms due August 19

Each student and parent/guardian should complete both forms that follow in this handbook. Please return them by August 19 to the CHA office, attention Ambassadors.

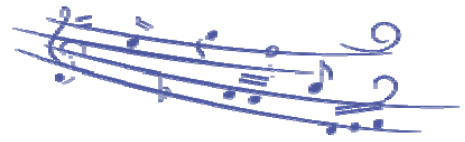
Choir Fees

The fee for participation in Ambassadors is prorated through the student's account. Please contact Mrs. Swanson if this is a hardship. We want every interested student to be an Ambassador.

CHRISTIAN HERITAGE ACADEMY

THE AMBASSADORS

Interest Form



Student Name _____ Grade _____ Homeroom _____

I am interested in: _____ vocal solo _____ small group _____ reading/recitation

_____ playing an instrument _____ which instrument?

_____ possible acting role _____ section leader _____ music librarian

Parent/Volunteer Opportunities

Supervision in performance _____

Sewing/repairs _____

Costuming/makeup – drama _____

Choreography _____

Transportation as needed _____

Chaperone for ACSI festival (overnight, fee) March 12-13, 2021 _____

Chaperone for other events _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Email _____

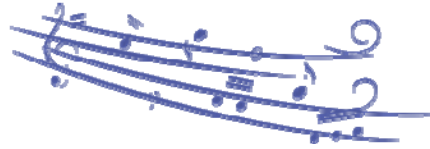
Home phone _____ Cell _____

Please return to the CHA Office or Mrs. Swanson by August 19, 2020.

Attention: Ambassadors.

THE AMBASSADORS

Measurement Form



Student Name _____ Grade _____ Homeroom _____

T-shirt size (circle one): **Youth:** S M L XL **Adult:** S M L XL

Skirt/slacks size (girls): _____ Pants size (boys): _____

Dress size (girls): _____ Shirt/blouse size _____

Height (in performance shoes) _____ Shoe size _____

THE AMBASSADORS CLASS CONTRACT

A choir is a musical team working together to communicate through singing. These attitudes and choices are expected so that our choir can be that kind of team:

- Respect and care for every person involved
- Cooperation, 100% effort and teamwork
- Kind, encouraging speech and actions

By signing this contract, you are choosing to be this kind of choir member. You are agreeing to respectfully care for all the materials, music and equipment we will use.

When a student consistently chooses *not* to honor these standards, he/she should not expect to be rewarded with special responsibilities. It takes all of us sharing the aim to honor God and bring Him glory.

I have read and understand all of the above. I am ready to be an Ambassador.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Cell Phone

Parent Email

Please return to the CHA Office or Mrs. Swanson by August 19, 2020.

Attention: Ambassadors.