*Shamokin Area Middle/Senior High School*

***Senior High Choral Music***

***2020-2021***

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! This year we are entering uncharted territory; while this can be nerve-wracking, it is my hope that we’ll find new ways to explore music this year, giving your child new types of performance opportunities and new ways to experience music. Since safety is our #1 concern, you will notice several changes in protocol throughout this year’s handbook highlighted in boldface fonts. Please take the time to read everything carefully.

**Please keep the last page of this packet for reference for all important chorus dates throughout the school year – but know these are all TENTATIVE!** As of the start of this school year, **we are not allowed to hold any in-person performances.** If circumstances improve as the school year progresses, the dates on the last page will be the dates we use for performances.

I use the Remind app to communicate information to students, including quiz and performance reminders. In accordance with Remind’s terms of service, any student under the age of 18 must have parental consent before using the app.Terms of service can be found at [**www.remind.com**](http://www.remind.com). You can give your consent in the Google Form linked at the bottom of this page.

Thank you in advance for supporting the Senior High Choral Department. Please keep this handbook for reference throughout the school year; ***In lieu of a paper return form, please complete the Google Form through the link or QR code at the bottom of this page.*** It is also linked on the chorus class page on the district website.

Lastly, if you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 648-5731 x3115, or at [mstump@indians.k12.pa.us](mailto:mstump@indians.k12.pa.us).

Mrs. Mary Anne Stump, B.S., MME

MS/HS Choral and General Music

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Please complete the information below OR the Google form link and submit by

Friday, September 4.

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**I have received, read and understand the Senior High Choral Student Handbook.**

**I \_\_\_\_ do / \_\_\_\_\_ do not give my child permission to use the Remind app for chorus.**

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**STUDENT NAME** (printed) **PARENT NAME** (printed)

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**STUDENT SIGNATURE AND DATE**

**PARENT SIGNATURE AND DATE**

Parent e-mail address or Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SENIOR HIGH CHORAL DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK**

Music

***FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR: Students will be asked to keep their music in colored folders issued at the start of the school year. These folders should NOT be kept in the classroom, but in the student’s locker/bag and brought to class each day.*** Black concert folders will be used in performance only. Students are expected to mark their music as directed, but should mark the music in black pencil only. They are expected to turn in all music after our concerts; **students will be responsible for paying for all lost or severely damaged music and folders.**

Singing

***FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR:*** Based on the results of the NFHS aerosol study conducted in the spring/early summer of 2020, singing can be done with reduced risk of virus spread if specific recommendations are followed. These include:

* Not singing for more than 30 minutes at a time
* Wearing well-fitting masks when rehearsing indoors or outdoors

In addition to these recommendations, we will be observing the following safety measures:

* Rehearsing outdoors when possible
* Indoor rehearsal periods will be held in the band room to allow for social distancing (ideally, at least 8 feet apart)
* Adjustment of rehearsal formation so that all students are facing the same direction (not in an arc-shape as we would normally use)

\*Bell Ringers\*

Students will complete daily bell ringers. ***For the 2020-2021 school year, bell ringers will be completed through an “online notebook” in Google Classroom (if Chromebook accessibility permits).*** Bell ringers will be check for completion/accuracy 1-2x per marking period. The vast majority of quiz and test material will come from daily bell ringers.

## Grading Policy

Since chorus is a performing art, a significant portion of each student’s grade will be based on performance. Concert attendance is is worth a major percentage of the marking period grade. Keep in mind, our performances are a group/team effort and are an important part of our curriculum and should be a priority for all chorus members. The only valid excuses for missing a concert or public performance are ***personal illness or significant family emergency.***

**If a student has a legitimate excuse to miss a concert, they are required to hand in a signed parental excuse within one week. In addition, they are expected to complete a graded taped assessment of all concert material, per course selection description.**

For specific information on grading policies for each choral course, see the **Grading Policy**.

**Concert Attire**

The following is ***required:***

* **Gentlemen** - black dress slacks, white shirt, tie, black socks and black shoes
* **Ladies** – **black skirt (knee-length or longer) OR dress pants (NOT leggings/yoga pants), solid-colored black or white blouse or sweater, black dress shoes (NOT sneakers). CONCERT GOWNS WILL NOT BE WORN FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR.**

Appropriate concert attire is expected of ALL music department students; inappropriate dress will affect the concert grade. If this dress code is a burden for your family, please contact me at 648-5731 x3115 to discuss other possible arrangements.

**Rehearsal Expectations**

The following music department expectations are posted in the choral/orchestra room and apply to all students. Not following these expectations will result in a lowered daily grade.

1. MUSIC, pencils, folders/folios, agenda, ALWAYS with you.
2. No cell phones permitted in class (school rule).
3. GUM, food and drinks (other than water) prohibited.
4. RESPECT everyone and everything.
5. Be CONSIDERATE, positive and proud.

## Expectations of Manners and Professionalism

All students are expected to use manners at all times and have a positive, professional attitude toward all peers and faculty in the music department. Rudeness and disrespectfulness will not be tolerated. Being a professional means that colleagues do not speak ill of one another, but instead they encourage each other to become better musicians. Professionals also respect all the different types and genres of music for the knowledge it may bring to the overall musicianship of the student. *If there is ever a problem between students or about any of the music, please see Mrs. Stump. Her door is always open.*

Students are also expected to exhibit a high level of responsibility at all times. **If a student is going to miss a choral class and knows ahead of time (due to field trip, school activity, etc.), please notify Mrs. Stump in advance** so that s/he can get necessary information and rehearsal plans can be adjusted to best accommodate the students in class each day.

***Public Performances:*** All students are expected to represent the Shamokin Area School District in a positive manner during public appearances. All school policies regarding dress, behavior, and discipline apply. There is ZERO TOLERANCE for possession or consumption of drugs and/or alcohol. All rehearsal expectations apply for public performance as well. Any violation of this (including the addition of words/movement/etc. in a public performance without pre-approval by the director) will result in a reduction of grade and/or disciplinary action.

**Fundraising**

The Senior High Chorus may participate fundraisers to defray the costs incurred during the school year (including field trips, music purchases, etc.). ***To make bookkeeping easier and provide you with a receipt, you can convert all cash to a single check payable to “Shamokin Area School District.”*** Fundraiser payments should be placed in a sealed envelope clearly labeled with the student's name, fundraiser, and amount enclosed. Envelopes should be given directly to Mrs. Stump at the designated times.

**Select Ensembles**

Select ensembles may be assembled at the director’s discretion, based on student interest and membership. Students who audition for an ensemble should be prepared to rehearse ***after school*.** Rehearsal times should be planned for accordingly – regularly missing rehearsal will be grounds for dismissal from the ensemble.

## Ensemble and Courses

**Chorus ~ Chorale**

Chorus and Chorale will function as a choral ensemble that will emphasize choral singing, vocal technique, music literacy, and preparation for public performance. Chorus is the main ensemble. Chorale is a select group that studies music at a more advanced level. Chorale performs the chorus repertoire, as well as a few more advanced selections for each concert. **\*Repertoire for the 2020-2021 school year may follow different criteria.**

**Student Officers**

\*President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian\*

The officers elected for Chorus will oversee all activities of the chorus. These officers will be responsible for organizational tasks, aiding the director, and boosting ensemble morale. The position of librarian will be appointed by the director. Officers will be elected by members of chorus and follow Robert’s Rules of Conduct, supervised by the director. All officers are expected to uphold the highest level of professionalism - a student may be removed from office at the director’s discretion due to insubordinate behavior or failure to follow school or music department policies.

**\*PMEA Festival Participation\***

***THE 2021 PMEA DISTRICT, REGIONAL AND ALL-STATE FESTIVALS HAVE BEEN CANCELED.*** **PMEA determined it was best to suspend all festivals for the safety of participants. Interested students may still audition for all-state distinction for the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Stump will have more information soon.**

**Rehearsal/Performance Dates**

Please mark these dates on your family calendar.

You are responsible for making arrangements due to any conflicts.

**Mandatory Rehearsals**

\*\* In order for the entire choir to benefit as a whole, there will be two in-school­ rehearsals and one out-of-school rehearsal for each concert so the chorus may rehearse in its entirety. \*\*

**Fall Concert Rehearsals (with Orchestra)**

Monday, November 16, 2020 (*night rehearsal*)…..….….……………..……………...…………….........6:00-8:00PM

Tuesday, November 17, 2020…………………………...……………………………………….………….…2nd/3rd periods

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 …………………....………………...……………………………….…….7th/8th periods

**Winter Concert Rehearsals (full music department)**

Monday, December 14, 2020 …………………...……………………..…………………….....……….…….2nd/3rd periods

**PMEA DISTRICT 8 CHORAL FESTIVAL**

Saturday, January 30, 2021 *(student help will be needed)*…………………………...…………...………….ALL DAY

**Spring Choral Concert Rehearsals**

Monday, April 26, 2021 *(night rehearsal)* ……….…………………………………..…………..………….6:00-8:00PM

Tuesday, April 27, 2021.……………………………………………………...……...…….………..……………7th/8th periods

Wednesday, April 28, 2021…...………...…….....…………………………..……………………....……....…2nd/3rd periods

**Choral Department Performance Schedule for 2020-2021**

Fall Chorus/Orchestra Concert…………………..…………………Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 7:00PM

Winter Band/Orchestra/Chorus Concert.……………………......….Monday, December 14, 2020 at 7:00PM

Spring Chorus Concert……………………………..............................…..…..Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 7:30PM

**2021 Musical**

***TENTATIVE DATE/TIME*** April 9-10, 2021 at 7:00 PM

\*\* Dates and times may be subject to change per administration and choral director decision. \*\*