JOHNSBURG HIGH SCHOOL
CHORAL HANDBOOK 2018-2019



***“Refining individuals, peers, and the world through music.”***

**Miss Kendall Kott, Choir Director**

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**Introduction**

Welcome to JHS Choir! I am so eager and excited to make music with all of the wonderful students in the JHS Choral Program. I truly believe that music is a gift we were given, and it is our job as musicians and singers to share that gift with the world around us. This year will challenge students as both singers and people to step outside their comfort zone and trust in their own abilities. This year will encourage students to work together as an ensemble, in order to create a sound we are proud of and that have worked hard for. I believe that passion can take you anywhere you want to go in life. With hard work and dedication, I know that we can soar to new heights this year!

I am anxious to dive into the music and to discover the joy of singing with all of you. I have lots of creative ideas for the upcoming year, and I can’t wait to see what we can create together.

The support of our parents, faculty, and community is essential in creating the best choral experience for all students. I appreciate and thank you in advance for the time, commitment, and encouragment you will bring to our JHS Choir family this year!

“When we all sing with one voice, the world will stop and listen.” ~Robert Shaw

If you ever have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

**Looking forward to an amazing year!**

Sincerely,

Miss Kott

**Vision**

 **“Refining individuals, peers, and the world through music.”**

**Program Objectives**

-Development of the basic fundamentals of healthy singing technique

-Development and improvement of music reading, ear training, and sight-singing skills

-Growth in the knowledge of various music genres and their roots

-Knowledge of proper performance etiquette

-Estabilshment of a community in the ensemble setting

-Confidence in independent singing, skills, and abilities

**Program Description**

Concert Choir

This two-semester course is a performing ensemble open to anyone who is interested in singing. No experience and no audition required! Instruction will focus on basic understandings of the vocal mechanism, both as an individual and within the role of an ensemble. This ensemble will also focus on basic techniques for developing music literacy. Additionally, students will sing a variety of styles of choral music. Members perform in several required concerts outside of class and may also be required to perform at other events such as organizational contest, sporting events, graduation, etc.

Varsity Choir

This two-semester course is a performing ensemble open to any sophomore, junior, and senior that has completed one year or more of Mixed Choir (formerly Concert Choir) or Treble Choir. Audition is required. Understandings and techniques of the vocal mechanism, both as an individual and within the role of an ensemble are a large focus for this ensemble. This group also continues to develop techniques and acquisition of music literacy. Additionally, this group will perform various styles of choral music. Members perform in several required concerts outside of class and may also be required to perform at other events such as organizational contest, sporting events, graduation, etc.

JHS Madrigals

The JHS Madrigal Choir is an a cappella ensemble open to any sophomore, junior, or senior that has completed one year or more in the JHS choral program. Audition is required. This group sings various musical works from the Renaissance era. This group will perform at all JHS fall and winter choral performances. In addition to various community performances, this ensemble prepares an annual Madrigal dinner, held in early December. Composed of approximately 16 singers, these students prepare during the fall semester to learn both music and a script for the dinner. This group begins in August and ends in December.

Skyhawk Singers

The Skyhawk Singers is an a cappella ensemble open to any freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior that is enrolled in the JHS choral program. Audition is required. This group sings contemporary music,

focusing mainly but not restricted to pop and alternative. This group will put on a variety of community performances as well as perform at all JHS spring choral performances. This group begins in January and ends in May.

**Extra-Curricular Opportunities**

**IHSA Solo and Ensemble**

IHSA Solo and Ensemble auditions are Saturday, March 2nd, 2019, at Harvard High School. All students are invited to participate in the IHSA Solo and Ensemble Competition. Those performing solo or group pieces must have their pieces selected and approved by Miss Kott by Thursday, January 17th. Students will be registered at this time. If a student wishes to perform a solo work but is not taking private voice lessons, the student must meet with Miss Kott a minimum of three times prior to audition.

**Grading Scale**

Daily Participation - 20%

Quizzes & Tests - 15%

Weekly Singing Progress Reports 15%

Concert/Performance Participation - 30%

Written Work 10%

Semester Final 10%

Late Work Policy

If students are absent on the day that work is due, students may turn in work the next school day without penalty. Every day that a student does not turn in their assignment, 2 points are deducted from the assignment total. Points are deducted each day until the assignment reaches half credit. Once the assignment reaches half credit, the student may complete it at any point in the semester to turn it in for half credit. Students should work to turn in late work quickly, to avoid losing half of the assignment point value.

**Concert Procedures**

**Absence Policy**

The opportunity to perform is an educational experience like no other. Performances are unique experiences to showcase the work students have accomplished during rehearsals. Concerts are also an opportunity to reflect on our sound as an ensemble and anaylze what goals we have moving forward. In order to participate in concerts, students must be present for at least one half of the school day, in accordance with JHS school policy. **Students should plan on arriving 1 hour prior to start time of performance, unless otherwise directed by Miss Kott.** Students may lose points for tardiness. If a student cannot attend a concert, their absence is characterized as excused or unexcused.

The following reasons may qualify as an excused absence:

* Illness
* Observance of a religious holiday or ceremony
* Death in the family
* Family Emergency
* Other situations beyond the control of the student

If a student knows they will be absent from a concert, they must send Miss Kott an email explaining the potential conflict a minimum of 10 days before the scheduled concert. If a student fails to do this, the absence will be marked unexcused.

If a student encounters an emergency, the student or parent/guardian should contact Miss Kott via email or telephone as soon as possible. Once the student returns to class, they must meet with Miss Kott to create a make-up plan for missed concert points.

The following reasons may qualify an unexcused absence:

* Work
* Other JHS activities (unless pre-approved by Miss Kott)
* Lack of transportation
* Other situations

\*If the student is unexcused from the concert and does not perform, the lost points may NOT be supplemented.

**Concert Attire**

All JHS choir students have the opportunity to perform in choral robes. Due to keeping the choir uniform at all times, students should wear all black dress clothes underneath their robes. Examples of this include:

-Black dress shirt and black dress pants

-Appropriate length black dress

-Black blouse and appropriate length black skirt

-Black tights

-Black, closed-toe shoes (no heels, please)

-No shiny or distracting hair pieces/jewelery

-No distracting/drastic make-up or hairstyles

\*If you have a question about what is appropriate or fits within the concert attire uniform, come ask Miss Kott!

**JHS Student Activity Conflict**

JHS encourages students to explore their varied interests. Because of this, students may encounter conflicts with extracurricular activities. In these situations, students must communicate any potential calendar conflicts with Miss Kott as soon as possible. Students must send Miss Kott an email explaining the potential conflict a minimum of 10 days before the scheduled event. If a student does not properly communicate the issue with all involved parties, they will receive an unexcused absence for the event. In these situations, Miss Kott, the student, and additional party involved will be in contact to create a plan for future conflicts that may arise. Miss Kott is flexible and willing to work with all students and faculty to ensure the best possible experience and to allow all students to take advantage of the variety of opportunities that JHS offers.

**Classroom Procedures**

**Entering the classroom**

1. Students will enter the classroom and place belongings along the back wall of the classroom.
2. Students will place cell phone in numbered slot on wall hanger.
3. Students will retrieve their choir folder and pencil from the folder slot and take care of any business needed (turning in assignments, filling up water bottle, etc).
4. When the bell rings, students should be in their seats, prepared to begin rehearsal.

**Exiting the classroom**

1. Students will be dismissed by Miss Kott at the end of rehearsal, and should not pack up to leave prior to being dismissed.

**Leaving during class**

1. If a student needs to use the bathroom or get a drink of water during rehersal, the student should have their agenda signed by Miss Kott.

1. Student should go about their business quickly and quietly without disturbing classroom rehearsal.
2. Students should return quickly and quietly.

\*\*If there is an emergency, student may leave classroom by grabbing the emergency pass without following classroom procedure. Please follow-up with Miss Kott afterwards.

**Classroom Materials**

1. Choir folder
2. Repetoire selections
3. Sing at First Sight book
4. Rehearsal pencil(s)
5. Water bottle

**Choir Executive Board**

Every student in the JHS Choral Program has the opportunity to run for the Choir Executive Board. This gives students the opporunity to take a leadership role in the choir community by helping plan and organize events such as concerts, recruitment ideas, field trips, etc. These leaders also serve as liasons and are expected to promote positivity and encouragement throughout the school and the program. In addition to working closely beside Miss Kott, the Choir Executive Board will put together a monthly newsletter to inform parents, staff, and community members of upcoming events and recent successes of the JHS Choral Program.

**Choir Social Media**

Please support JHS Choir and stay updated on all our events by regularly following and checking our social media outlets listed below!

 \*Website: www.johnsburgchoirs.weebly.com

 \*Facebook Page: JHS Choir

 \*Twitter account: @jhs\_choir\_

JHS Choir Events 2018-2019

**(All bold events are mandatory)**

Feb 4 Music Boosters Meeting, 7pm

Feb 22 Bowl o’ Arts, 10am-2pm

March 2 IHSA Solo & Ensemble Contest, Harvard High School

**March 19 Combined Choir/Band Rehearsal, 6:00-7:30pm**

**March 20 Masterworks Choir Concert, 7pm at JHS**

March 4 Music Boosters Meeting, 7pm

April 1 Music Boosters Meeting, 7pm

April 25-27 JHS Spring Musical, 7pm at JHS

April 28 JHS Spring Musical, 2:30pm at JHS

**May - Fri/Sat Trills and Thrills at JHS**

May 6 Music Boosters Meeting, 7pm

**May 8 Combined Choir Rehearsal, 6-7:30PM**

**May 9 Senior Choir Concert, 7pm at JHS**

**A Note from our Music Boosters**

The JHS Music Boosters would like to invite all parents of band and choir students to join us in helping our music program.  We meet at 7:00 p.m. on the first Monday night of each month (not on school holidays) throughout the school year in the JHS Teacher’s Lounge.  We are a warm and welcoming group of parents who are committed to helping our music department thrive. This group was originally formed to lend support, both morally and financially, to the JHS Music Department.  We act as chaperones at competitions and on class trips, as well as raising funds so the band and choir can replace worn out equipment and uniforms/costume. We also aid in sending students to training camps. If you noticed our stunning band trailer... well, that’s one way we helped. This is only possible with a group of amazing parents.  We hope you will join us. We actually have a good time together while helping the music program.

2019 Meeting Dates

February 4, 2019

March 4, 2019

April 1, 2019

May 6, 2019

It’s never too late…consider joining us second semester! We have a lot of spring events and could use some new hands to help out!

**Questions? Please contact President Linda Williams at lwilliams@dist46.org**

**Student Information Page**

Student name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s)

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Parent/Guardian Email

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guradian Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Interested in joining our Music Boosters, or volunteering to help with concerts, field trips, etc?? Fill out the interest form below!*

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***Volunteer Interest Form***

\*Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Email Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Areas of interest/experience \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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\*Contacts/Community resources

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\*Willing to chaperone? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Availability during daytime (M-F) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Acknowledgment of Participation**

I have reviewed the responsibilities of a JHS Choir member, including the attached calendar. I am willing to participate and abide by the procedures, policies, and expectations set forth in this handbook.

Student Signature Date:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature Date:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Please return page 9 and 10 of handbook to Miss Kott by Thursday, January 17.*