

# Fishers Choral

## Department Handbook

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### **Scheduling, Participation, Regulations**

- Unlike sports teams, there is no way of substituting for players who do not attend or drop out mid-season. Failure to participate has a negative impact on every other member of the choir. This results in increased expenditures to pay the design team for staging revisions, time to re-create sections of the show, and extra work on individual students to re-learn parts.
- Students must attend all rehearsals and performances (this includes Summer and Winter breaks for varsity choirs). Students will communicate potential conflicts to Ms. De Luna or Mr. Archer 2 weeks prior to the missed date. (Work, driver's training, doctor/dental appointments, etc. are not acceptable absences.) Once in a lifetime events are excused only IF communicated 2 weeks prior.
- Students must abide by the FHS Choirs DAT clause and abstain from drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and nicotine products while a member of an ensemble. Violation of this policy will result in being ineligible to participate in 25% of performances. Students will need to maintain good academic standing for their ensemble's course.
- I understand the progression of consequences for receiving a strike:
  - First Strike: Verbal Warning
  - Second Strike: Consequence at the Director's Discretion (Swung out of a competition number, no participation in a performance, etc.)
  - Third Strike: Pending Removal from the Ensemble
- Students must be enrolled full-time and have a passing grade in five (5) courses. Failure to maintain this record for any grading period will result in denial of participation. Student eligibility may be checked at any time during show choir season. Students must be passing a minimum of five (5) classes to be eligible to perform in a contest performance.
- Swings (members who are not blocked in one particular number) may be incorporated in JV and Varsity groups next year. Students may be used as a swing at the discretion of the directors. Furthermore if a student is injured and/or must sit out of a rehearsal for any reason, a swing may be blocked in their spot at the discretion of the directors.

### **Photo And Injury Release Statements**

- My students may be used in promotional photo or video for the FHS Choral Department
- Show choir is a physical activity and FHS Choirs will not hold liable for any injury that may come from choreography, moving equipment, and other choir related tasks.

## **FHS Choral Department Attendance Clause**

- Each student is granted 4 free class absences, a 5th absence and subsequent absences count as a strike
- NO free rehearsal skips are granted to students
- All students must be present at school the day of a performance/day before (if weekend performance) to be eligible to participate
- Students must be in attendance for the start of their first academic class the next school day after a performance
- In order to attend after school rehearsal, students must be in attendance for 2 of the 4 class periods that school day
- If a student misses the rehearsal directly before a performance (either evening rehearsal or class period) that student is not permitted to perform unless previously excused from director (i.e. for athletic conflicts, pre-arranged absences, etc.).

## **Spotlight Requirements**

- Parents/Guardians of a member of a competing choir are required to volunteer at the Fishers Silver Spotlight Show Choir Invitational taking place on February 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Varsity parents/guardians are required to work at least **two shifts** and Junior Varsity parents/guardians are required to work at least **one shift**. If parents/guardians do not meet this requirement they may be fined up to \$100 for their lack of participation.

## **Fee Expectations**

- Fee refunds will not be given to students who drop their choir class
- Paying and/or fundraising fee amounts is a requirement to be a member of the FHS Choral Department. Payments must be made on time as per the fee schedule listed on FHSChoirs.org. If an alternative payment plan is necessary, parents/guardians must discuss with Ms. De Luna, Mr. Archer, and/or the FHS Choir Board Treasurer before June 1st.
- Failure to complete payments on time without notice may result in the following:
  - Being swung from a number of the extra-curricular show
  - Not receiving one costume for the extra-curricular show
  - Not being permitted to audition for a JV or Varsity Show Choir the following year
- Limited additional hair and makeup costs may arise. Students are responsible for these limited costs

## **Conduct Expectations**

I understand that students AND parents represent FHS, HSE Schools, and the Fishers Choral Department while at competitions and other school sanctioned events. Students and parents are expected to behave in a manner that represents the Fishers Choral Department in a positive light. All parties will be friendly, polite, courteous, and kind to all while at competitions and school sanctioned events. Students and parents will refrain from engaging in arguments and using foul language with others while in attendance of the aforementioned events. If an issue presents itself, address these concerns only with Mr. Archer and Ms. DeLuna unless instructed by the director to do otherwise. Failure to meet these expectations can result in expulsion from a competition and ineligibility to participate in FHS Choral Department events.