

Tarakanian Ms Choir Handbook



Why Study Music?

Music is a Science

It is precise, specific and demands exact acoustics. A musical score is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody and harmony all at once and with the most exact control of time.

Music is Mathematical

It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time and fractions, calculations that must be done instantaneously—not worked out on paper.

Music is a Foreign Language

Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, often even the national and/or racial feelings.

Music is Physical Education

It requires intricate coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheeks and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic back, stomach and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ears hear and the mind interprets.

Music Develops Insight and Demands Research

Music is all of these, but most of all music is art. It allows a human being to take all these dry, technically boring (but difficult) techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate; humanism, feeling, emotion, call it what you will.

That Is Why We Study

Not because we expect to major in music...

Not because we expect to play or sing all our lives...

Not so we can relax...

Not so we can have fun...

But...

So we will be more human...

So we will recognize beauty...

So we will be sensitive...

So we will be closer to an infinite world beyond this world...

So we will have something to cling to...

So we will have more love and compassion...

More gentleness, more goodness...

In short, so we'll have more life!

Of what value will it be to make a prosperous living unless we know how to live?

School-wide Classroom Rules & Progressive Discipline

School-wide expectations and procedures, in line with the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Program (PBIS), have been posted throughout campus and are to be posted in every classroom; however, a serious behavioral infraction may result in a non-chronological step in progressive discipline such as an immediate dean referral.

School-wide Classroom Rules Be Respectful	Be Safe	Be Proud	Be Responsible
<p>Follow directions the first time.</p> <p>Use academic vocabulary.</p> <p>Use appropriate voice and tone.</p>	<p>Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.</p>	<p>Always do your best.</p> <p>Assist others when appropriate.</p> <p>Give thanks to teachers and peers.</p> <p>Keep classroom clean.</p>	<p>Bring necessary materials and complete work on time.</p> <p>Arrive on time.</p> <p>Ask for help when needed at the appropriate time.</p> <p>Use electronic devices at teacher's discretion.</p> <p>Fill out your planner.</p>

Citizenship

Citizenship for all subjects is based on the following symbols and scale:

O – Outstanding

S – Satisfactory

N – Needs improvement

U – Unsatisfactory

***Please be advised that serious infractions may result in an automatic *Unsatisfactory* in citizenship.

CHOIR CITIZENSHIP RUBRIC

**In order to receive an OUTSTANDING
citizenship grade, students will:**

1. ALWAYS arrive quietly, and on time to class
2. ALWAYS sit in assigned seat quickly upon arrival
3. ALWAYS contribute to the class by giving 100%
4. ALWAYS have required materials quickly when needed (pencils /pens/
paper/folder)
5. ALWAYS maintain eye contact with the director during rehearsal and instruction
6. ALWAYS remain silent when appropriate
7. NEVER chew gum, consume beverages, or eat in class
8. ALWAYS sing with tall vowels and at the appropriate volume
9. ALWAYS sing with energy and enthusiasm
10. ALWAYS have a positive attitude
11. NEVER miss a concert

ALWAYS ~ Outstanding

MOST OF THE TIME ~ Satisfactory

SOMETIMES ~ Needs Improvement

RARELY~ Unsatisfactory

Hours of Availability

Teachers are on campus from 7:25 a.m. until 2:36 p.m. If a student needs additional assistance, teachers are available by appointment. Students are required to make arrangements in advance with the teacher(s) to come in before or after school. A pass will be provided to the student to allow the student access to the teacher's classroom, as students are not permitted in the corridors at these times.

Student Progress



Grade Reporting

The Clark County School District reports student achievement for all subjects in secondary schools and computes grade point averages using the following symbols and scale:

A	Excellent	90 – 100%	4.0
B	Above Average	80 – 89%	3.0
C	Average	70 – 79%	2.0
D	Below Average	60 – 69 %	1.0
F	Failure	Below 60%	0
P	Passing		

The teacher will issue quarter grades to students on designated dates. Quarter grades shall reflect student achievement on assignments and assessments provided by the teacher. Both quarters must be equally weighted. Semester exams shall be comprehensive of the material covered during the semester and are worth 20% of the student's final semester grade. Final semester grades shall reflect assignments and assessments completed throughout the semester and the final exam grade.



Grade Weighting

Formative: 30%
Daily Participation, In-Class Assignments, Quizzes

Summative: 70%
Concerts, Tests

Extra Rehearsals

Sometimes the difference between a good performance and an exceptional performance is determined by the amount of time spent in preparation. Extra rehearsals allow for many things: individual and sectional work, help from visiting clinicians, and more time for extra “polishing.”

All extra rehearsals are required and will be kept to a necessary minimum. You will always be notified of an extra rehearsal in advance to allow you to make the necessary arrangements to attend. **If a student needs to leave early, he/she must have a written note from his/her parent/guardian. Excuses will be accepted for missing a rehearsal only if received PRIOR to the rehearsal (except in extreme circumstances-i.e.: family emergency, etc.) Mrs. Edgar will determine whether an absence is excused or unexcused.**

Concerts

Concerts are worth 400 points, are 70% of the grade, and are **MANDATORY**. This is CCSD policy. Students will only be excused from a performance due to extreme emergencies over which the student has no control. **Students will not be excused because they do not have a ride.** Concert dates are scheduled well in advance, so please plan ahead for transportation. In addition, there are usually plenty of people willing to carpool.

Performing is one of the most important aspects of being in choir. We work constantly to be prepared to perform. When performing, students gain a deeper appreciation of music and a greater feeling of unity from the organization and the people with whom they are involved.

There is no other way for a director to duplicate a performance for the student who is absent. There is no one assignment that could make-up the unique thrill of performing; experiencing the reaction from the audience, or the excitement of knowing the hard work in preparation for the performance was worthwhile.

Grades for each performance will be based on the following:

PUNCTUALITY

PROPER DRESS

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

STAY FOR ENTIRE CONCERT

In the case of family emergencies and serious personal illness, students may be excused from concerts. However, students must have a written explanation from a parent/guardian that includes a daytime phone number where the parent/guardian can be reached to confirm the absence. Please note: Students will have to complete an assignment to make up the points.

CCSD Attendance Policy mandates that students who are absent, RPC'd, or suspended the day of a concert, may NOT attend/participate in that concert. Again, students will only be excused in the case of an extreme emergency. All excused absences from a concert must be approved BEFOREHAND.

****Students will perform at the discretion of the director based on attitude, discipline, and adherence to rules, tardiness and attendance. If it is determined that the student may not perform, he/she will be given the opportunity to complete an alternate assignment to make up the points.*

Makeup Procedures

Teachers shall provide an opportunity for a student to make up missed work due to any absence. Students shall be held accountable for their work. When a student is absent, the educational experiences lost during that absence might be irretrievable because the instruction and interaction in the instructional setting cannot be duplicated through makeup work. After any absence, a secondary student is required to initiate contact with the teacher(s) to obtain appropriate makeup work within three (3) school days immediately following the absence. Once contact has been made with the teacher(s), specific makeup work must be completed and returned to the teacher(s) within a reasonable length of time, to be determined by the teacher and communicated to the student/parent or legal guardian. The makeup work must be returned to the teachers(s) by the specified due date if it is to be acknowledged. Students shall be allowed a minimum of (3) three days to complete makeup work.

Daily Participation Points: The student must write one paragraph for each day absent on a musical topic of his/her choice.

Rehearsals/Concerts: The student must complete an assignment on a composer. Materials for this assignment will be provided by Mrs. Edgar.

Materials

The list of suggested school supplies for each student is provided in the student planner. Choir will utilize one divider in the student's binder. Students should have an adequate supply of paper, pencils, and pens to complete in-class assignments.

Uniforms

We would like the Tarkanian Choir Program to establish a reputation of looking very professional. In order for us to look this way, we must all wear the same outfits. All uniforms must be wrinkle-free and in tip-top condition for **ALL** performances. Students wearing dirty or wrinkled uniforms or missing part of the uniform may be ineligible to perform. Uniforms will not be issued until the \$30 choir fee is paid for.

The Beginning and Men's Choirs will wear the following uniform:

Choir Polo Shirt (included in the fee)
Black Dress Pants (NO SKIRTS OR JEANS)
Black Dress Shoes (NO TENNIS SHOES)
Black Socks

The Advanced Choirs will wear the following Uniform:
(Your \$30.00 choir fee covers the rental of this uniform)

Ladies:

*Choir Dress
Black dress shoes (NO sandals, flip flops,
gym shoes, etc)

Gentlemen:

*Choir uniform
Black Socks
Black dress shoes (NO
gym shoes)

The Ladies and Concert Choir uniforms are provided by the school and must be returned at the end of the school year in the same condition it was issued to the student. Any damaged uniform, or failure to return any part of the uniform, will result in a fine. Students who move or switch schools prior to the end of the school year must return the uniform prior to withdrawal from Tarkanian MS.

Choir Trips

One of the most rewarding parts of being in a performing group is the opportunity to travel with that group. Participation in these events is a **PRIVILEGE** and only students who exhibit proper execution of all classroom rules, attend all performances and rehearsals, have no U's in citizenship, no RPC'S/Suspensions, have paid all their choir fees, and have permission from the director and parent/guardian may attend.

Fundraising

Fundraising is a crucial activity for the choir program at Tarkanian. This enables us to purchase those materials necessary to enhance the choral music experience in ways that would normally not be possible through district funding (such materials include uniforms, music folders, larger quantities of music, sound equipment, etc.). The choir will participate in several fundraisers this year. We expect that all students participate in such fundraisers, since all money earned benefits the entire group.

Money raised from fundraising belongs to the school. Any lost, stolen or damaged fundraising products are the responsibility of the student, and will be charged accordingly. STUDENTS MAY BE CHARGED A LATE FEE FOR LATE PAYMENTS ON FUNDRAISERS.

To save paper, the choir handbook can be accessed online:
<https://www.tarkanianms.org/>

I, _____ and my child _____ have received, read, and understand the contents of the Tarkanian MS Choir Handbook. We agree to adhere to all policies, procedures, rules, and fees described therein. These include, but are not limited to: required materials, concert attendance, uniform requirements, grading and discipline policy, make-up procedures, student responsibilities and expectations.

I, the student, understand that my failure to abide by this agreement may result in appropriate action including, but not limited to: teacher/student conferences, teacher/parent conferences, grade penalization (as stated in the grading policy), discipline referrals, and restriction from any choir events.

(Student Signature)

(Date)

I, the parent/guardian, agree to support my child in his/her participation in choir, and to help foster the sense of pride, teamwork, and success that s/he can acquire through such participation.

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)

Please indicate which size shirt you would like for us to order your student:

Size (Circle One):

Children's Small

Adult Small

Children's Medium

Adult Medium

Children's Large

Adult Large

Children's Extra Large

Adult Extra Large