

Johnston Choral Music

Chamber Choir

Concert Choir

Women's Choir

Mixed Choir

Innovation

Synergy

Sarah Van Waardhuizen, Director

Ted Brimeyer, Associate Director

*Johnston High School
Johnston, Iowa*

W e l c o m e

Welcome to the Johnston High School Choral Program!

Why Sing?

The purpose of the Johnston Choral Program is to help each individual develop – musically, socially, and personally. We believe that being in music classes helps build self-discipline, confidence, dedication, and a learning of how to work with others toward a common goal. We strive to be the best we can be in all respects.

What To Sing?

Literature for each of our choirs is chosen very carefully. It is the belief of the Johnston Vocal Music Department that students are to be exposed to a variety of choral literature. The selection of choral music is determined by the instructor based upon availability, quality, educational value and suitability for healthy vocal development.

It is not the intent of this department to persuade student views with opposing beliefs or ideals that a musical selection's text may present. Rather, we desire to familiarize students with quality choral literature that will give them a better historical and global perspective as well as to make them conversant with musical aesthetics. It is our intent to give the students a broad perspective of the numerous choral composers, styles and types. For more information on the involvement of sacred text in the school setting, please reference www.acdaonline.org.

Earning Your Grade

Performance Assessment (40%)

- *Concerts and performances are the culmination of months of work – i.e. classroom exam
- *Participation in these events is of the utmost importance
- *Students will be assessed on their individual performance, attitude and effort in each performance
- *Students need to be on time and with the proper attire
- *If there is a conflict between two school-sponsored activities the sponsors involved, Principal and/or Activities Director, Choral Directors, student and parent will make the best decision for the student and both activities
- *An email or written note from parent/guardian needs to be sent to the directors **two weeks prior** to missing a concert
- *Family emergencies – i.e. death of a loved one is excused – make-up work will be assigned to make up the points
- *Make-up work will be assigned by the directors
- *If make-up work is not done by due date, there will be no credit given
- *Unapproved absences from performances may be made up for half credit

Earning Your Grade

Rehearsal Assessment (30%)

- *Daily rehearsal is where success begins
- *Rehearsal time is precious and not to be wasted
- *Each rehearsal is designed with high expectations
- *Students get 10 points a day for doing the following:
 - *Following classroom rules
 - **Standing in assigned spot when the bell rings*
 - **Singing – not chatting with the neighbor*
 - *Being respectful to others
 - *Not chewing gum
 - *Finishing food – before coming into the room
 - *Drinking only water (***nothing else***) during rehearsal
 - *Marking things in their music with a pencil
 - **Having their 3-ring binder with their assigned music*
 - *Contributing positively to the rehearsal
 - *Leading by example
 - *Singing with good posture and correct phonation techniques
- *Points will be deducted from the automatic 10 points a day if students are not able to demonstrate the above criterion

Written Assessment (10%)

- *May include the following:
 - *Theory worksheets
 - *Post-concert tests and exams over literature
 - *Research papers
 - *Concert reviews
 - *Self Evaluations
 - *Goal Setting

Earning Your Grade

Voice Lessons (20%)

All students will be required to take lessons. Students will be responsible for attending up to five lessons during each nine week quarter. A lesson schedule will be posted regularly that will let students know when they are expected to attend lessons. It is the **student's responsibility** to make sure they attend the required number of lessons. Students taking private lessons will receive credit for those lessons. Mrs. Van Waardhuizen or Mr. Brimeyer will provide students with a form to fill out to receive this credit. Lessons are meant to develop practical vocal skills and to work on ensemble music as necessary. Full lesson credit is achieved by showing progress from lesson to lesson. A variety of materials will be used for each student to improve singing skills. Lessons may also include occasional structured practice time in the choir rooms.

Uniform Requirements

Mixed Choir

Men: Choir Robe

*JHS Vocal Department will provide a choir robe and stole

*Students will assume responsibility for repair and replacement due to neglect

*Black Dress Slacks

*Black Dress Shoes

*Black Socks

*White T-shirt

*NO JEWELRY (including piercings on face or tongue)

Women: Choir Robe

*JHS Vocal Department will provide a choir robe and stole

*Students will assume responsibility for repair and replacement due to neglect

*Black Skirt or Dress or Black Slacks

*Black Panty Hose

*Black Closed Toe Dress Shoes

*NO JEWELRY (including piercings on face or tongue)

Chamber, Concert and Women's Choir

Men: Black tux

*JHS Vocal Department will provide a Black Tux Coat

*Students will assume responsibility for repair and replacement due to neglect

*Black Tux Pants

*White Tux Shirt

*Black Dress Shoes

*Black Socks

*Black Bow-tie

*NO JEWELRY (including piercings on face or tongue)

Women: Black Gown

*JHS Vocal Department will provide a Black Tux Coat

*Students will assume responsibility for repair and replacement due to neglect

*Black Panty Hose

*Black Closed Toe Dress Shoes

*NO JEWELRY (including piercings on face or tongue)



Johnston Vocal Parents Association

- *VPA exists to support the JHS Choral Department through fundraising and service opportunities
- *All parents are invited to attend VPA meetings
- *Meetings are held in the Show Choir room on the first Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm, unless otherwise noted

September 3

October 8

November 5

January 7

February 4

March 11

April 2

May 6

June 3

*All Parents are needed to help with two major events for JHS Choral Department:

Madrigal Dinner: An Olde English Feaste, December 2 and 3 including Chamber, Concert, Women's, Synergy

Showzam! : Show Choir Competition, January 22 and 23 – main fundraiser to support ALL JHS CHOIRS

A \$30.00 rental/maintenance fee is charged to each student in the choral program. Please make checks payable to Johnston High School. Checks may be given to Sharon Von Hagen in the Accounting office at the High School.

At no time will payment or non-payment of fees prohibit a student from participation in the choral program. Please contact one of the vocal directors if the payment of fees is a problem. The following is a new confidential form, for financial assistance. It is also available online at www.johnstonchoirs.com - on the VPA page and is available at the Johnston Public Library. If the need arises, please do not hesitate to ask for assistance.

Music Department Out-of-School Performance Practices

Performing groups utilize both classroom and out-of-class time. They are considered co-curricular because the outcomes of class instruction are used in public demonstrations for an audience. Choral ensembles are used in such dual roles. The vitality and value of these classes are much affected through preparation as a group for public performances at out-of-class time participation. The student cannot be a satisfactory member of the organization if his/her only participation is that part carried on in the classroom in school time. Satisfactory membership must also include the out-of-class time participation.

It is essential that students who enroll in such classes understand that the conditions for satisfactory grades include out-of-class performances. A schedule of performances for the semester will be given to students at the beginning of each semester and sent home to parents/guardians. Some of the class and co-curricular activities are conducted off campus and students are responsible for arranging their own transportation. Notification of any such event will be sent to the parents/guardian prior to performances.

Thank you for reviewing the information presented. The communication and performance expectations are important to your child's development in the music program. Please sign the following page and complete the medical information if you have not already done so. We will need this information when traveling to events away from the school.

Thank you for reviewing the information presented. The communication and performance expectations are important to your child's development in the music program. Please detach and return the form below to your vocal music director by Friday, August 28, 2009 for **10 Extra Credit Points**. After this date, please return, but no extra credit will be given.

We have received and reviewed the information and understand the expectations, policies, and procedures of the Johnston High School Vocal Music Program. We further understand that the directors are always available for consultation and should be contacted should any problems arise.

Furthermore, we grant permission for our son/daughter to participate in school-sanctioned vocal music activities and to travel in transportation provided by the Johnston Community School District - either buses or a vehicle driven by a school employee.

Student: _____

Parent: _____

Date: _____

Johnston High School Vocal Music Calendar 2009-2010 (Subject to Change)

Updated, August 24, 2009

August

6VPA, 6:00 pm HS Choir Room
5-6 ISU All-State Camp
29 All-State Workshop at Waukee, 9 – 3
29-31 Innovation with Stephen Todd/Synergy Show Choir Camp
30 Vocal Parents Association Kick-off Meeting, 4:00 pm

September

3 VPA, 6:00 pm, HS Choir Room
13-14 Innovation with Linda McEachran and Stephen Todd/Synergy Show Choir Camp
12 District All-State Workshop – all day (tentative)

October

8 VPA, 6:00 pm, HS Choir Room
3 Drake All-State Workshop, 8 am - noon
15 Fall Choral Concert – 7:30 pm, HS Auditorium, All Choirs
18-19 Innovation with Linda McEachran and Stephen Todd/ Synergy Show Choir Camp
24 All-State Auditions – all day, Indianola HS

November

5 VPA, 6:00 pm, HS Choir Room
5 Youth in Harmony, Men of Chamber and Concert Choirs, JHS Auditorium
19 OPUS Honor Choir – all day, Iowa State University, Ames, IA
19-21 Iowa All-State Music Festival – all day, Iowa State University, Ames, IA
23 Show Choir Potluck, Innovation and Synergy, 7:00 pm

December

30-1 Madrigal Dinner Dress Rehearsals 6:30 pm – 10:00 pm, The Bridge
2-3 Madrigal Dinners – 7:30 pm, The Bridge

January

7 VPA, 6:00 pm, HS Choir Room
9-10 Innovation Stephen Todd and Linda McEachran/Synergy Show Choir Camp
14 Open Dress Rehearsal – Impact, Sound Advice, Synergy and Innovation, 7:30 pm, MS Auditorium
16 University of Nebraska at Lincoln - Innovation and Synergy
22-23 Showzam!
28 Mixed Choir Festival– 7:30 pm Concert – Hoover High School

February

4 VPA, 6:00 pm, HS Choir Room
13 Urbandale – Innovation and Synergy
14-15 ISU Honor Choir
27 Southeast Polk– Innovation and Synergy

March

6 Emmetsburg – Innovation and Synergy
9 Masterworks Concert, HS Gym, 7:30 pm
11 VPA, 6:00 pm, HS Choir Room
24 – 28, Innovation to Show Choir Nationals, Nashville, TN

April

2 VPA, 6:00 pm, HS Choir Room
10 Spring Show Choir Show, 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm ,HS Auditorium
12-16 Choral Department Auditions
22 Solo/Ensemble Contest at JHS, 4:00 pm
29 Spring Choral Concert, 7:30 pm, HS Auditorium

May

6 VPA, 6:00 pm, HS Choir Room
8 State Large Group Contest – All Choirs
18 Music Awards Banquet, 7:30 pm, HS Auditorium
TBA Commencement, Concert/Chamber Only, Drake Knapp Center

June 3 VPA, 6:00 pm, HS Choir Room