

Johnston Community School District

2010 – 2011



Summit Middle School, 6th & 7th Grade

Vocal Music Handbook

Katie Pollak, director
Elyse Brimeyer, director

Summit Middle School- 6th & 7th Grade Vocal Music Handbook

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Summit Middle School
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Dear Summit Vocal Music Families & Singers,

Welcome to the 2010-2011 Summit Vocal Music year! We consider it a privilege to have the opportunity to work with such motivated and talented students in the Johnston Community School District. A new year means new faces, new experiences, and new challenges. We are looking forward to a great year!

We are excited that you will be a part of the Vocal Music Program here at Summit Middle School. This is a chance for you to shine as you bring your personality and talents with you to each rehearsal. We will sing, laugh, and become lifelong learners and musicians together. Thank you for joining us for the journey!

The Summit Middle School Vocal Music Program will be successful, if we continually demonstrate initiative, commitment, enthusiasm, and passion in order to further the group's goals. Please look over the following pages of the Summit Middle School Vocal Music Handbook. Feel free to contact us at any time if you have questions, comments, or concerns. As directors, we are committed to helping each student reach his or her highest potential.

Thank you!



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About the Directors

Katie Pollak

Mrs. Pollak is a 2004 graduate of the University of Northern Iowa (Go Panthers!) with a Bachelor of Music Education, K-12. This will be Mrs. Pollak's seventh year at Summit Middle School, and she feels very blessed to be a part of the Johnston Community School District.

Mrs. Pollak teaches all sections of 7th grade girls chorus, 7th grade show choir, and all sections of 6th grade mixed chorus. In addition to teaching music, Mrs. Pollak enjoys singing on the worship team at church, traveling overseas, camping, boating, reading books with her adorable nephew, eating chocolate, and spending time with her new husband!

Elyse Brimeyer

Mrs. Brimeyer is a 2007 graduate of Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Music Education, K-12. Mrs. Brimeyer recently earned her Master of Arts in Education from Viterbo University in July of 2008. This will be Mrs. Brimeyer's fourth year teaching at Summit Middle School.

Mrs. Brimeyer teaches all sections of 7th grade boys chorus, 7th grade show choir, and all sections of 6th grade general music (World Drumming curriculum). Mrs. Brimeyer enjoys teaching private voice lessons, exercising, traveling, cooking, spending time with her husband and baby girl, and walking her dog Rufus! Mrs. Brimeyer loves teaching students in the Johnston Community School District.

Vocal Music Course Offerings

6th & 7th Grade Chorus - Elective

6th Grade Chorus – Mixed Boys & Girls Chorus

7th Grade Chorus – Split Boys Chorus & Girls Chorus

*Meets during the school day

- ✓ Learn how to correctly produce a healthy vocal tone, which is age appropriate, as a result of understanding vocal pedagogy
- ✓ Develop and demonstrate a basic knowledge of musical fundamentals and tools (solfege, sight-reading, balance, phrasing, rhythm, dynamics, ear training, aural training)
- ✓ Prepare and perform a wide variety of vocal music repertoire in two - three parts
- ✓ Participate in daily assessments of individual and large group rehearsals and performances
- ✓ Learn appropriate vocal music rehearsal techniques through teamwork
- ✓ Interpret the ideas of musical composers and make connections through personal application

FUSION

7th Grade Show Choir

Select Mixed Choir

***The choir for the 2009-2010 school year was previously selected in May at the conclusion of the 2009 school year.**

**** The show choir for the 2010-2011 school year will be selected in May at the conclusion of this upcoming 2009- 2010 school year. Information will be given out in April of 2010.**

* Meets outside of the school day

- Perform a set of popular repertoire of contrasting styles with varying accompaniments (piano, drum set, guitar, percussion instruments)
- Develop skills in vocal technique, choreography execution, and how to use facial expressions and individual personality in order to enhance each performance

➤ Classroom Expectations & Guidelines

Be Respectful

Do your very best

Only positive comments & facial expressions

Be an active listener

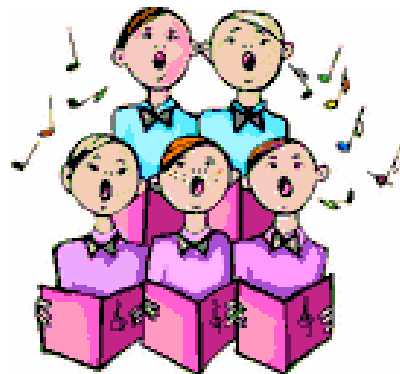
Follow directions

Be creative

Never give up

** Every child is unique and consequences will vary on each individual situation. If a student fails to adhere to classroom expectations, the teacher and student will come to an agreement on the appropriate action. Some examples may include: detention, note/call home, office referral, etc.

We appreciate your support at home and your willingness to encourage your student to be consistently successful in music!



Academic Evaluation

Students are graded each academic quarter.

Daily Participation, Attendance, & Effort – 60%

Each student can earn up to 10 “on-task” points per week. Throughout weekly rehearsals, students will be evaluated on their level of participation and effort towards following classroom expectations.

Concert Attendance & Effort – 30%

Attendance at concerts is required. See Performance Policy (page 8) for more information. Grade assessments will also reflect promptness, concert attire, on task behavior, level of participation, and individual effort.

Written Work & Evaluations – 10%

Written work and evaluations will be given to assess student progress, give personal feedback, and to aid in incorporating diverse learning styles/student needs into daily rehearsals.

Music & Folder

Each student in the choir will be given a folder containing music. Music will stay in the Summit Vocal Music room. If music is lost, damaged, or misplaced, the student will be responsible for the replacement cost.

Seating Charts

Seating charts are altered occasionally during the year. If your student is uncomfortable with where they have been placed, please contact their vocal music director.

Performance Policy

Participation in public performances is mandatory. **Concerts are a large portion of the student's grade. It is essential that all students be in attendance.**

Students who will be absent from the concert need to provide the vocal music director with a hand-written note, e-mail, or parent phone call prior to the concert. Illness is an automatic excused absence. The vocal music director must excuse any absence at least *one week prior* to the performance date. All absences will be reflected in grading assessments.

Concert Attire Guidelines

The following are general guidelines for concert dress:

Boys: Please wear nice pants/khakis (no jeans) and a casual dress shirt (button down/polo, collar preferred). Students will need to wear dress shoes (no tennis shoes, sneakers, or flip-flops). Ties are not required, but look nice!

Girls: Please wear nice pants, dresses, or skirts (no jeans). Shoulders must be covered - no halter-top, spaghetti strap, sleeveless, or strapless dresses are permitted unless covered with a cardigan. Skirts and dresses must be knee-length or below. Students will need to wear dress shoes (no tennis shoes, sneakers, or flip-flops). Please avoid tall shoes with heels so to prevent injury on the risers.

Overall, please look professional. When students dress nicely, it shows that they have pride in themselves and their concert performance. The more professional a student looks, the more confidently they will sing!

If you have questions about appropriate concert attire, please feel free to bring the outfit to your vocal music director at school to check. Please let the vocal music director know if there are added concerns or stresses with adhering to the concert attire guidelines. Exceptions may be considered.

If students are dressed inappropriately, they may be asked to not perform. Grade deductions may also occur if concert dress is not acceptable for performance.

Vocal Music Calendar – 2010-2011

Date:	Time:	Event:	Choir:	Location:
7-Dec	5:45 pm	6th Winter Vocal Concert	TBD	Summit Cafetorium
	6:30 pm	6th Winter Vocal Concert	TBD	Summit Cafetorium
	7:15 pm	6th Winter Vocal Concert	TBD	Summit Cafetorium
8-Dec	5:45 PM	7th Winter Vocal Concert	Boys Chorus	Summit Cafetorium
	6:30 PM	7th Winter Vocal Concert	Girls Chorus	Summit Cafetorium
	7:15 PM	7th Winter Vocal Concert	Girls Chorus	Summit Cafetorium
11-Nov	1-8pm	Youth in Harmony	Boys Chorus	Southeast Polk High School
13-Jan	7:00 pm	Show Choir Preview	Fusion	JHS
21-Jan	All day	Showzam! Show Choir Competition	Fusion	JMS
10-Feb	7:00 pm	Fusion End of the Season Show	Fusion	Summit Cafetorium
11-Feb	All day	Urbandale Show Choir Invitational	Fusion	UHS
15-Feb	2:45-4pm	6th & 7th Grade Boys Event	Boys in Chorus	Summit Chorus Room
16-May	5:45 PM	6th Spring Vocal Concert	TBD	Summit Cafetorium
	6:30 PM	6th Spring Vocal Concert	TBD	Summit Cafetorium
	7:15 PM	6th Spring Vocal Concert	TBD	Summit Cafetorium
17-May	5:45 PM	7th Spring Vocal Concert	Boys Chorus	Summit Cafetorium
	6:30 PM	7th Spring Vocal Concert	Girls Chorus	Summit Cafetorium
	7:15 PM	7th spring Vocal Concert	Girls Chorus	Summit Cafetorium

- Additional Honor Choir/Festivals TBD

Vocal Music Contract

Please detach this sheet and return it to your vocal music director by ***Friday, September 3rd.***

Student Name: _____ **Date:** ____ / ____ / ____

Primary Phone Number: _____

Parents/Guardians:

Name: _____ Address: (list below) e-mail: _____ Phone : _____
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Name: _____ Address: (list below) e-mail: _____ Phone : _____
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Is there anything Mrs. Pollak/ Mrs. Brimeyer should know about your student so they can create the most beneficial, successful, and safe experience in music for your student?

Statement of Understanding

We have read the Summit Middle School Vocal Music Handbook and understand the expectations involved in being a participant in the Summit Vocal Music Program. We understand that if a student does not adhere to handbook expectations or is a consistent distraction to the learning environment, disciplinary actions will be taken and deductions in his or her grade assessments will occur. We further understand that the vocal music directors are always available for consultation and should be contacted if any concerns should arise.

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

