

South High Magnet School
SHOW CHOIR HANDBOOK

“The Ambassadors”

and

“Radiance”

2019-2020

Audition Workshops

Monday April 1st 3:30p.m. - 5:45p.m., 6:30p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Tuesday April 2nd - 3:30p.m.-5:45p.m.,

Wednesday April 3rd 3:30p.m. - 5:45p.m., 6:30p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Thursday April 4th - 3:30p.m. - 5:45p.m.

Auditions

Friday April 5th - 5 minutes time slots

(Sign up times can be found at southhighchoirs.com and will go live at 8:00a.m. Monday April 1st)

Mr. Gruttemeyer

tyler.gruttemeyer@ops.org

office - (531) 299-2803

Omaha South High Magnet School Show Choir Handbook

ELIGIBILITY/MEMBERSHIP

Students who wish to be a performing member in either “The Ambassadors” or “Radiance” Show Choirs **must** be enrolled in either Mixed Chorus (Cantaré), Junior Chorus (Coro Brava), or Concert Choir for the 2019-2020 School year. Students whom have a full schedule DO have the opportunity to opt out of a lunch period, allowing them to eat during the first fifteen minutes of their concert choir.

Students must also be in good standing academically, and attend classes regularly to be considered for a spot in one of the competitive show choirs

AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held on Friday April 5th in the Choir room (room 148). Students wishing to audition will be required to sing “My Country Tis of Thee” and perform the audition song and dance taught at the Choreography Workshops at South High April 1st-4th. (times are available on the Front of the Packet).

We will be using “signupgenius.com” for audition time slots – a link to which can be found both on the South High Music Website (southhighchoirs.com) or you can sign up by talking with Mr. Gruttemeyer at one of the workshops offered. **These Auditions will be closed auditions**, meaning no one outside the judges and South High Vocal Music staff will be allowed to watch auditions. Results will be posted on the main page of the South High Vocal Music website (southhighchoirs.weebly.com) on Wednesday April 10th at 4:00p.m.

ATTENDANCE

All Show Choir members are required to attend all practices and competitions or events, unless pre-approved by Mr. Gruttemeyer. **Unexcused absences of 3 or more rehearsals, practices, concerts, and/or performances will result in probation of the student.** During probation the student will be allowed to rehearse but not perform with the group.

Summer and Fall Choreography Workshops: All show choir members are **required** to attend. Students must make their families aware of choreography sessions to assist with planning of vacations, trips, and other family events. Information regarding outside of the school day rehearsals and choreography sessions will be made at least 2 weeks in advance. If given less than 2 weeks it will not be mandatory for students to attend.

Competitions: All show choir members are required to attend competitions for which their group is competing. Show Choir is a group activity and when one person is missing, the entire group is affected. Travel to and from competitions will be via bus. Students are not allowed to transport themselves or others to events unless permission from Mr. Gruttemeyer and Parents/Guardians is given.

Parent’s/Guardians should not use attendance/participation at competitions as a form of punishment for their individual student for behavior at home – as it does not just punish one student, it punishes all the students in the program.

Students in “The Ambassadors” receive and Honors Credit and PE credit for being in the group. The Honors portion is made up of outside rehearsals/competitions. Therefor – if a student misses outside performances or rehearsals– it does affect their semester grade.

A Calendar has been provided in this audition packet. This calendar – while tentative – reflects the plans for the 2019-2020 school year. If there is a change to the schedule, students will be notified in advanced. Students are expected to attend all events scheduled unless given permission from Mr. Gruttemeyer.

APPEARANCE

Members of South High Show Choirs strive for a “uniform” and neat appearance for performances. Students will be assigned a costume for use during the season. **These costumes are property of the Omaha South High School Vocal Music department**, and must be taken care of while in use. **Costumes will be stored at School and may not leave their assigned locations** with exception of performances or permission from Mr. Gruttemeyer. Students may NOT eat or drink anything while in costumes (with exception of water). These costumes are expensive and need to last. If a student damages a costume outside of normal “wear and tear”, they will be asked to replace the item.

Make-up for performances will be ‘uniform’, but not identical. Women will be given specific guidelines for their make-up, but will be encouraged to make it work for their individual skin tones. Students not wishing to follow the guidelines set by the directors may not be permitted to perform.

A hairstyle will be chosen for the female members of the Omaha South Show Choirs. Hair for men and women will be of **natural** color and compliment the skin color. Un-natural highlights (whether seen or not seen) are not allowed. Each performer is responsible for keeping his/her hair neat and secured up and out of the face. For male participants hair must be out of the member’s eyes and styled in a neat clean look. Use of hair care products may be necessary. In some cases, a haircut may be necessary. Male participants will also be clean-shaven. These rules apply to every formal (in costume) performance.

All piercings other than the uniformed earrings for the women will be removed (a spacer can be used to keep the hole from closing while on stage for male and female performers). Tattoos **MUST** be covered and should not be seen by the audience.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT/FUNDRAISING

Ambassador Show Choir/Show Band members will be required to fundraise \$350 dollars to help cover the cost travel/necessary costume items (Shoes, etc.). Radiance will be required to fundraise \$75. If a student would rather donate the required amount instead of fundraising, that is encouraged. **Students should NOT make the decision not to audition for a South High Show Choir based the financial commitment.**

TRAVEL

This year, the Ambassadors will travel overnight 2 times. The cost per trip is anywhere between \$50-\$75, which helps cover hotel, and charter buses (which is included in your travel fund). This year, we are anticipating needing two charter busses per trip, meaning our expenses will increase.

During overnight trips, all male students are prohibited from entering female hotel rooms and all female students are prohibited from entering male hotel rooms. Members who violate this rule will be confined to their hotel room, not allowed to participate in the performance, and may be removed from the group.

During overnight trips – students are expected to maintain all school rules for the duration of the trip. This includes language, behavior, and school appropriate clothing when traveling.

ACADEMICS

Due to the fact that students will occasionally be missing class due to performances or competitions, students are expected to keep up with his or her other coursework. Students will go through grade checks in the middle of each quarter and at the end of each quarter. Students who are not passing their classes **or not attending their class** may not be allowed to participate in after school performances until an improvement is seen.

CONDUCT

Show choir members are expected to uphold **ALL** Omaha South school rules and policies while participating both on and off campus, including dress codes while at rehearsal and when representing South High Magnet at competitions.

Members are to refrain from ‘inappropriate’ behavior both on and off campus. No vulgar language or inappropriate displays of affection. Students who do not follow these rules may not be permitted to perform with the group and may be placed on “probation” (See disciplinary action). Students who do not follow these guidelines may result in probation from the group, disciplinary actions, and/or removal from the group. Should a student be removed from either the Ambassadors or Radiance, or quit throughout the school year, that student will have a fine placed on their account for the total of any item purchased specifically for them. Show choir members are expected to follow group itineraries while on trips or competition excursions.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Due to the competitive nature of Show Choir, students will be asked to carefully consider their presence/posts on social media. Positive comments of their ensemble or other schools/groups are encouraged! Negative, inappropriate, or malicious comments will not be tolerated and can result in disciplinary actions. While on social media – remember anyone you follow/like can be seen to the outside world. As an “Ambassador” to the Vocal Music department you are encouraged to keep your timeline/feeds free of inappropriate content.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Show choir members who act in violation of the rules and regulations of the ensemble will be subject to disciplinary action. The student will first meet with the director in an attempt to resolve disciplinary issues. Parents will be notified of any issues in the classroom. If the problems persist, the performer will be placed on probation. Members on probation will not be allowed to perform but will be expected to continue with rehearsals in the hope that they can rejoin the group’s performance schedule. If a member continues to disregard rules and regulations while on probation, the member will be removed from the ensemble.

A show choir member may be suspended from performances for the following reasons:

- 1.) 3 Unexcused absences from rehearsals, including during the school day
(Excused absences include illness, family emergency, etc.)
- 2.) Non-compliance with rules/regulations of the ensemble and/or the classroom non-compliance with rules and regulations of the ensemble and or classroom
- 3.) Failure to cooperate with other members of the ensemble

A show choir member may be dismissed from the ensemble for the following:

- 1.) Consistent and/or excessive disruptive conduct
- 2.) Use of drugs and/or alcohol (including tobacco products)
- 3.) Any action that reflects negatively on the show choir and/or South, including on social media
- 4.) Failure to comply with any of the guidelines set forth in the handbook

Omaha South “SOUTH OMAHA CLASSIC” 2/21/20 and 2/22/20

On Friday February 21st and Saturday, February 22nd 2019, the Vocal Music Department will be holding our annual “South Omaha Classic”, a show choir competition for schools across the Mid-West. This event will last the entire day, and require Student/Parent Volunteers. Each student is required to work the ENTIRE day. **We also ask that at least one family member per student involved in the Show Choir program works 2 shifts throughout the day.** This fundraiser can raise anywhere between \$35,000-\$55,000 dollars for the Vocal Music Department

Parent/Guardian and Student Agreement Form

Student Information (Must be turned in by your audition time!)

Student Name (Please Print legibly): _____

Student ID #: _____ Student E-Mail: _____

(please print legibly)

2019-2020 Grade Level: _____

Other activities you plan on being involved in: _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Information

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print legibly): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

(please print legibly)

Please initial each of the following statements indicated.

Student
Initials

Guardian
Initials

- | | | |
|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | 1.) We have read the Show Choir handbook and understand all the requirements, expectations, and consequences as listed. |
| _____ | _____ | 2.) We understand that the director's decisions regarding student placement, show design, appearance, and costume design within groups is final and we will not question decisions. |
| _____ | _____ | 3.) We understand that as members of the South High Magnet Show Choir program, students will be expected to act with professionalism, class and respect (including on social media). We understand that failure to do so may result in removal from the Show Choir Program. |
| _____ | _____ | 4.) We understand that if students do not follow through with their obligations (including classroom/rehearsal attendance) that it might mean a removal from the ensemble at semester and/or probation from upcoming performances. |
| _____ | _____ | 5.) We understand that to be a member of a South High Show Choir students are required to be a member of one of South High's concert Choirs (Concert Choir, Jr. Chorus or Mixed Chorus). |
| _____ | _____ | 6.) We understand and allow Mr. Gruttemeyer to look at class schedules for the 2019-2020 school year and to contact us about re-arranging schedules so students can participate in the group they have been accepted into. |

By signing below, we acknowledge and agree to all terms listed in the auditions packet

Student Signature

Parent Signature