

Omaha South High School

Show Choir Handbook

2021-2022

ELIGIBILITY/MEMBERSHIP

Eligibility - Students who wish to be a performing member in “The Ambassadors” Show Choirs **must** be enrolled in either Mixed Chorus or Concert Choir for the 2021-2022 school year.

Membership - There is no set number of students for the Ambassadors, and for the 2021-2022 season, we will more than likely NOT have even numbers between Alto/Soprano and Tenor/Bass.

Additional members **may** be admitted and allowed to fill vacant ensemble positions after auditions have been held due to the following conditions: student vacancies in the group, students who move to Omaha South after auditions have been held, and foreign exchange students who meet the criteria for participation.

AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held on March 25th for current 8th grade students, and April 1st for current 9th/10th/11th grade students on the auditorium stage. 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. Due to Covid-19, these auditions will all be recorded, so at home students have the option of recording at home OR in person.

We will be using “signup genius” for those wishing to audition in person – 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 of Mr. Gruttemeyer or a Vocal Music staff member is allowed in for the auditions. Results will be posted for the Ambassadors on Friday, April 9th at 4:00p.m on the Vocal Music website.

ATTENDANCE

All Show Choir members will attend all practices and competitions or events, unless pre-approved by the director. **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/Fall Choreography Workshops: Members are **required** to attend, and dates have already been provided. 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 performers to attend.

Competitions: All members of the Ambassadors are required to attend competitions, which are scheduled months in advanced. 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. Parents/Guardians are highly ENCOURAGED to attend and support your students in the crowd!

For the 2021-2022 school year, a total of 5 contests have been scheduled. A possible 6th contest may be added **before November**. If that is the case, families will be notified. Due to the uncertainty with Travel, at this time no overnight contests are being scheduled. Decision on whether to compete out of state will be made by this summer. After auditions, and guidance from the district, decisions will be made on whether or not we will be traveling overnight.

Students in “The Ambassadors” receive an Honors Credit and PE credit for being in the group. The Honors portion is made up of outside rehearsals/competitions. Therefore – if a student misses outside performances or rehearsals– it does affect their semester grade. A complete schedule has been made available in this packet for use.

Because the Ambassadors is an auditioned group – and highly competitive, students who audition in the fall are auditioning for a full year commitment. Students are not allowed to drop the course unless removed by Mr. Gruttemeyer. If a student is removed from the show choir program they are responsible for anything purchased for that individual student and a fine will be turned into the school.

A Calendar has been provided at the back of this audition packet. This calendar – while tentative – is a reflection of the plans for the 2021-2022 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. An updated schedule will be provided to students at the start of the school year with all dates.

PRESENTATION

Members of South High Show Choirs strive for a “uniform” and neat appearance. Students will be assigned several uniforms for use during the season. These uniforms 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 may 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. For hygienic reasons, each performer will be asked to use their own make-up. 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. Each performer is responsible for keeping their 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 or trim may be necessary.

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 should also be covered and should not be seen by the audience. Members with tattoos may be asked to purchase make-up for coverage.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT/FUNDRAISING

Show Choir members may be required to fundraise anywhere from \$100-\$300 to help cover the cost of costumes/choreographers/clinicians/contests. **This is not required, but a suggested amount.** If students are unable to fundraise there will be other opportunities to raise the money. If a student would rather donate the required amount instead of fundraising, that will be allowed.

Some materials required for performances will not be provided by South High Magnet School. Ladies are required to wear proper performance apparel, including a nude color bra with clear straps. Men will be required to provide a belt the color of which will be determined by your director.

Women involved in both The Ambassadors will be required to purchase their dance briefs and tights. If a student does not wish to purchase them or are unable to purchase them, they are required to fundraise the total amount of the combined items. This typically runs around \$30-\$40 dollars. More information will be given out at the beginning of the school year for students regarding costuming requirements.

Students should NOT make the decision not to audition for a South High Show Choir based on the financial commitment. There will be plenty of opportunities to fundraise/work off payments. Please speak with Mr. Gruttemeyer with any concerns and he will make it work for you!

TRAVEL

We are unaware at this time if we will be allowed to – or even if it is safe to travel outside of the state during the 2021-2022 school year. While the Ambassadors typically do 2-3 overnight trips a year, a decision will be made in the Fall of 2021. Families will be notified, and encouraged to voice their thoughts before a decision will be made.

In the event of an overnight trip - 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. Students are expected to maintain all school rules for the duration of the trip. This includes language, behavior, and school appropriate clothing when traveling.

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. 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).

Show choir members are expected to follow group itineraries while on trips or competition excursions. In other words, you are not allowed to wander off on your own!

Should a student be removed from either the Ambassadors 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

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.

ACADEMICS

Due to the fact that students will occasionally be missing class due to performances or competitions, students are expected to keep up with their 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 performance until an improvement is seen.

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:

- 3 Unexcused absences from rehearsals, including during the school day
 - (Excused absences include illness, family emergency, etc. Infinite Campus will be checked)
- non-compliance with rules and regulations of the ensemble and or classroom
- failure to cooperate with the director
- failure to cooperate with other members of the ensemble

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

- Consistent and excessive disruptive conduct (both in rehearsal and/or performances)
- Use of drugs and/or alcohol (including tobacco products)
- **and ANY** action that reflects negatively on the show choir and/or South, including on social media.
- Failure to comply with any of the guidelines set forth in this handbook

South High “South Omaha Classic” 2/18/22 - 2/19/22

On Friday, February 18th and Saturday February 19th, 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 ask that at least one family member per student involved in the Show Choir program works 2 shifts throughout the day. This fundraiser grossed \$60,000+ in 2020.

Parent/Guardian and Student Agreement Form

Student Information

Student Name (Please Print legibly): _____

Student ID #: _____ Current Grade (circle): 8th 9th 10th 11th

Student E-Mail: _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Information

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print legibly): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Please initial each of the following statements indicated.

Student Guardian
Initials 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 if questions arise, we address them with Mr. Gruttemeyer asap.
- _____ _____ 3.) We understand that as members of the South High Show Choir program, students will be expected to act with professionalism, and respect when representing South (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 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, or Mixed Chorus).
- _____ _____ 6.) We understand and allow Mr. Gruttemeyer to look at schedules for the 2021-2022 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/Guardian Signature