

South High School Show Choir Handbook 2023-2024

GENERAL INFORMATION

South High School offers two competitive Show Choirs, The Ambassadors (H Show Choir) and Amplify (Prep Show Choir).

ELIGIBILITY/MEMBERSHIP

Eligibility - Students who wish to be a performing member in the Show Choir program **must** be simultaneously enrolled in either Freshman Choir, Mixed Chorus, or Concert Choir for the 2023-2024 school year. Students grades 10-12 are also strongly encouraged to participate in our Intro to Voice or Voice Class. Students in grade 9 are able to take lessons in their free time (during lunch or advisement.).

AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held on April 8th for all current 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students interested in auditioning for the Show Choir Program. 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, or the middle schools.

An informational meeting of the year (not required) will be held on Monday April 3rd, and 3:30p.m. and again at 6:15p.m. in Room 148 of the choir room.

Workshops will be held the week of April 4rd-7th at South High school in room 148.

- Tuesday April 4th – 6:15p.m.-7:45 p.m. (**No School for High School** – Junior ACT day)
- Wednesday April 5th – 3:30 p.m.-5:00p.m., 6:15p.m.-7:45 p.m.
- Thursday April 6th – 3:30 p.m.-5:00p.m., 6:15p.m.-7:45 p.m.
- Friday April 7th – 3:30 p.m.-5:00p.m., 6:15p.m.-7:45 p.m.
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Attendance at all workshops is not mandatory – students are suggested to attend as many as they need.

We will be using “signup genius” for those wishing to audition in person – a link to which will be posted online - 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, Ms. Ussery or a Vocal Music staff member is allowed in for the auditions. Results will be posted for the 2023-2024 Show Choirs on Thursday, April 13th at 4:00p.m on the Vocal Music Page on the South High Website.

ATTENDANCE

All Show Choir members will attend all practices and competitions or events, unless pre-approved by the directors. **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 advanced.

Competitions: All members of the show choir program 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 2023-2024 school year, the Ambassadors will travel to 6-7 Competitions, and Amplify will compete at 4-5.

Students in the Ambassadors (H Show Choir) will Honors Credit and PE credit for being in the group. Students in Amplify (Prep Show Choir) will receive a PE credit for being in the ensemble. The Honors portion is made up of outside rehearsals/competitions and other assignments. Therefor – 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 show choirs are auditioned groups – 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** – reflects the plans for the 2023-2024 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 and finalized schedule will be provided to students in May.

PRESENTATION

Students will be assigned several uniforms/costumes for use during the season. These uniforms are property of the 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.

Students who choose to wear makeup will be given specific guidelines 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. A suggested hairstyle will be chosen for members of the Show Choirs. Each performer is responsible for keeping their hair neat and secured up and out of the face.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT/FUNDRAISING

Financial commitment will be depending on the ensemble a student is selected into. Members of the Ambassadors show choir will asked to pay or fundraise up to \$500 for the entire years’ worth of activities, including 3 overnight trips, and personal garments. Members of Amplify may be asked to fundraise up to \$200 to help with various expenses. A set amount will be given in May, along with a fundraising schedule.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT/FUNDRAISING Continued

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

TRAVEL

Members of the Ambassadors show choir will travel overnight 3 times, once in the Fall for the fall retreat (@ Camp Carrol Joy Holling), once to an overnight contest in January, and for an overnight trip in March.

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 travel to an overnight 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.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION Continued

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 a staff member
- 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) on school premise
- **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" 2/16/24 - 2/17/24

On Friday, February 16th and Saturday February 17th, 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 and in 2023.

Parent/Guardian Involvement

Families are encouraged if they so want to, to volunteer throughout the year, or attend performances. Parents/Guardians/Family members who are interested in helping out, should email Mr. Gruttemeyer at tyler.gruttemeyer@ops.org.

There are several events throughout the year that can use family volunteers, which include (but are not limited to)

- Sound off – Planning Committee
- South Omaha Classic - Planning Committee
- Room Monitors during contests
- Chaperoning trips, concerts, competitions, etc.
- Assisting with meals during choreography sessions

We hope to host a parent/guardian "Get to know Each other" night in May – details will be sent out in late April for those interested in attending.