Rockford Choirs
2012-2013 Handbook

Developing Music Literacy &
Fostering A Life-Long Love Of Music

www.rockfordchoirs.org
CONTACT INFORMATION

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THE ROCKFORD CHOIRS

FRESHMAN CHOIRS – Beginning Mixed Ensemble (1st and 2nd hours/Scott), open to all interested 9th grade students. Freshman Choirs participate in an annual Freshman Retreat in the Fall.

WOMEN’S CHORUS – Intermediate Women’s Ensemble (3rd hour/Scott), open to all interested 10th-12th grade women.

CHAMBER SINGERS – Advanced Mixed Ensemble (1st hour/Duiven), open by audition only to 11th-12th grade students.

CHORALE – Intermediate Mixed Ensemble (2nd hour/Duiven), open to all interested 10th-12th grade students, however the first trimester is probationary.

ADVANCED WOMEN’S ENSEMBLE (AWE) – Advanced Women’s Ensemble (4th hour/Duiven), open by audition only to 11th-12th grade women.

ACES – A select a cappella men’s ensemble directed by Jed Scott. Auditions occur in the fall. The group performs on all major concerts, Solo and Ensemble, U of M Male Vocal Arts Day and independently throughout the year. Rehearsals are Monday evenings.

ALL-SCHOOL MUSICAL - The musical is open to ALL ROCKFORD STUDENTS and is a collaboration of students on the stage, in the pit and working technical crew. This year’s musical is Footloose. Audition details to follow.

“"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”"

Eleanor Roosevelt

2012-2013 CLASS SCHEDULE

<table>
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<th>Mr. Duiven</th>
<th>Mrs. Scott</th>
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<td>Chamber Singers</td>
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CLASSROOM RULES

ROCKFORD HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR OPPORTUNITIES DEMAND THAT WE ADHERE TO CERTAIN RULES FOR EXEMPLARY CONDUCT, BEHAVIOR, AND PERFORMANCE

RULE 1: TREAT EVERYONE WITH RESPECT
* Practice the golden rule: treat others as you would have them treat you
* Do not interfere with someone else’s learning
* Leave negative attitudes and comments elsewhere
* Avoid any behavior that may embarrass the reputation of our choral program

RULE 2: PARTICIPATE WITH ENTHUSIASM
* Sing with energy, good singing posture and an activated face
* Be committed to improving the choir
* Eliminate behavior that interferes with our progress as a group

RULE 3: LIMIT TALKING
* Talking in rehearsal is frustrating to those around you
* Talking makes it difficult for us to improve
* Limit communication to only what is absolutely necessary
* Personal conversations must happen outside of class

RULE 4: NO GUM, CANDY, FOOD, DRINK, CELL PHONES, MP3’S OR NUISANCE ITEMS
* Food & drink in the choir room is allowed only on certain occasions
* The choir room will be closed during lunch periods
* No nuisance items (cell phones, MP3s, etc.) in the room during school hours

RULE 5: KEEP BACKPACKS BY THE WALL OR IN THE HALL
* Rehearsal is for singing and music study
* Use choir time to learn about music, not for homework in other classes
* Do not use the choir room as a personal storage area

In this world of political, economic, and personal disintegration, music is not a luxury it is a necessity. Not simply because it is therapeutic, nor because it is the universal language, but because it is the persistent focus of our intelligence, aspiration and good will.

– Robert Shaw
EXPECTATIONS

BE EARLY FOR REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES
* For rehearsals, be seated with your music when class begins
* If you are not seated with music, you may be marked tardy
* For performances, arrive before the designated report time
* Remember: “on time is late”

BRING YOUR MUSIC AND A PENCIL TO CLASS EVERY DAY
* Music will be randomly checked for required rehearsal markings
* We will periodically check to see if everyone has a pencil
* Never write on your music with a pen

SPEND TIME ON YOUR MUSIC OUTSIDE OF CLASS
* Identify problem spots in your music and fix them outside of rehearsal
* Partner up with another singer and work on your part
* You may take your folder home, but you must also have it in class

ENTER THE CHOIR ROOM WITH A POSITIVE ATTITUDE
* Do not allow personal problems to interfere with rehearsal
* Maintain a friendly demeanor in class
* R.A.M.S. Right Attitude Means Success

ASK FOR PERMISSION TO USE THE PIANO, STEREO, OR OTHER CHOIR EQUIPMENT
* Do not use the piano unless you have some piano skills
* Treat choir property with respect

INFORM OTHER TEACHERS WELL IN ADVANCE IF YOU WILL BE MISSING THEIR CLASS
* Due to trimester scheduling, we should not miss other classes for rehearsal
* We will miss other classes for performances if they are scheduled during school
* If another class is missed for choir, you must keep up with the homework in that class

USE THE RESTROOM DURING PASSING TIME
* Only use the bathroom during class when it’s an emergency
* Do not use passing time for social activities, and then class time for bathroom

DO NOT INTERRUPT CLASS FOR PROBLEMS BETTER SOLVED OUTSIDE OF REHEARSAL
* Think first before you interrupt rehearsal for something that can wait
* If you would like to make suggestions, make them either before or after class

DO NOT EXPRESS YOUR OPINION OF CHOIR REPERTOIRE UNTIL WE HAVE PERFORMED IT
* Allow the teacher and other students to remain enthusiastic about the piece
* The repertoire will often grow on you as you continue to learn about it

REFER TO THE VOCAL MUSIC STAFF AS MR. DUIVEN, MRS. SCOTT, MR. SCOTT AND MRS. ODREN
* Maintain appropriate teacher–student demeanor at all times
* Even though we know each other well, appropriate boundaries must remain

REHEARSALS SHOULD ALWAYS BE ORDERLY AND BUSINESS-LIKE
* “Lead, follow, or get out of the way”
GRADING POLICY

Daily Participation 50%
Concert Attendance 25%
Assignments and Quizzes 25%

DAILY PARTICIPATION GRADES
* 50 percent of your grade will be determined by daily participation in rehearsals
* You must have your music binder and a pencil for every rehearsal
* Missing materials will result in a lower daily participation grade
* Tardiness will result in a lower daily participation grade
* Breaking choir rules will result in a lower participation grade
* Doing homework during choir will result in a lower daily participation grade
* Enthusiastic participation in rehearsal is expected daily

CONCERT ATTENDANCE
* 25 percent of your grade will be determined by concert attendance
* You are expected to attend ALL concerts
* If you have a job, you must request, well in advance, days off for performances
* You will not be allowed to make up points if you choose to report to work
* Athletic conflicts will be handled between choir teacher, coach and student
* Singers missing agreed upon performances are required to submit make-up work
  Examples:
  A one-page concert review, such as a middle school or church choir concert
  A one-page review of a CD that primarily consists of choral music
  Other assignments agreed upon between conductor and singer

ASSIGNMENTS AND QUIZZES
* 25 percent of your grade will be determined by assignments and quizzes
* Part checks will be given to see if you can sing your part independently
* Music theory and solfege quizzes
* Rhythmic dictation assignments
* Melodic dictation assignments
* Ear training assignments
* Listening journals
* Vocabulary tests
* Random pencil and music binder checks

EXAMS
* Exams will be given at the end of each 12 week trimester
* Exams are based on the repertoire, assignments and quizzes given during the trimester
* Exams will either be singing, written or a combination of both
VOICE LESSONS

All students are encouraged to study voice privately to develop their vocal technique and musicianship. Voice lessons are available for an additional fee during choir classes and after school. Our voice teachers are professional singers and accomplished teachers. Interested students should contact teacher directly. Lesson payments should be made directly to the voice teacher.

Voice teacher contact information can be found on our website: www.rockfordchoirs.org.

CHOIR BOOSTER MEETINGS

The Rockford Choir program needs YOUR help! Parent involvement is an essential part of the success of the Rockford Choirs, and every helping hand allows your student to have a better choir experience. Meetings are open to all Choir Parents!

2012-2013 Meeting Schedule
(all meetings are held in the 10-12 Choir Room)

Thursday, September 20 @ 7:00 PM
Thursday, January 17 @ 7:00 PM
Thursday, April 18 @ 7:00 PM

EXECUTIVE PARENT BOARD
Tami Hjelm, Choir Booster President
Carolyn Staley, Vice-President
Susie Knoll, Secretary
Tammie Keane, Co-Treasurer
Jeff Joyce, Co-Treasurer
MISSION STATEMENT

Performing, Describing & Creating Music
in a
Positive, Performance-Based
Academically-Challenging Environment

Cultivating Music Literacy
through a
Nurturing, Student-Centered Approach

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