

Noah Wagar

# **Classroom Rules and Procedures**

# Letter of Introduction

Dear Families:

Greetings! My name is Mr. Wagar, and I have the distinct pleasure of working with your children to make beautiful music and build relationships every day. A little about me: I'm from Alpharetta, Georgia and I received my Music Education degree from Stetson University (Go Hatters!). Besides choral music and music history, in my spare time I love reading philosophy and psychology books as well as keeping up with new technology.

Chorus has always been and will continue to be an environment of support and unity. The bonds and friendships you make in choir are parallel to none and last a lifetime. It is my hope that I can not only offer every student the opportunity to grow their musicianship skills, but also an environment where they can be themselves and use their individual talents to strengthen the group.

Again, I can't wait to work with the students! I'm looking forward to an amazing semester!

Sincerely,

Mr. Noah Wagar

# Classroom Rules & Expectations

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## 1. Show Respect

- Be on time - in your seat prepared for class before the bell rings
- Bring your pencil and assigned choir folder to class every day
- Do not talk when a teacher or student leader is instructing
- Rehearsal and performances are device-free zones. Phones and other electronic devices should be left in backpacks unless otherwise specified

## 2. Actively Participate

- If you cannot sing, you are expected to lip sync throughout the entire rehearsal. This reinforces learning of lyrics and rhythms.
- Use hand signs when performing solfege
- Sing and perform with correct posture, breath management, and a lifted soft palate

## 3. Work as an Ensemble

- Hold other members of your section accountable to the rules and expectations.
- Follow your ensemble/section leader during rehearsal
- Sing as a balanced and blended ensemble member. No one should "stick out."
- Accept and give constructive criticism with praise and grace

# Classroom Procedures & Policies

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## Entering Classroom Procedures:

- Place backpacks and cellphones in the designated area (not your seat)
- Bring your pencil and assigned choir folder to your seat and sit, ready to go before the bell
- Leave your seat only with permission
- If you are chewing gum or eating food, it must be disposed of prior to class. Only water-filled bottles are permitted during rehearsal/performances.

## Exiting Classroom Procedures:

- Wait for the teacher to dismiss you before getting up.
- Rearrange your chair back into its row.
- Gather your belongings and have a wonderful rest of your day :)

## Bathroom Policy:

- Ask permission by raising your hand and wait to be acknowledged
- Sign your name on the bathroom sheet
- Take the bathroom pass and have it with you at all times.
- You have 5 minutes to go, use, and return from the bathroom.
- Sign the bathroom sheet against to indicate your return
- Only one student may go to the bathroom at a time

## Tardy Policy:

The following tardy policy will be in effect in conjunction with the High School's tardy policy. **In chorus, being tardy means not being in your seat with your materials when the bell rings.** If you are in the room with your materials, but are not in your seat when the bell rings, then this is considered a tardy. Three "chorus tardies" (not in your seat) will constitute a teacher detention. If a student is tardy to class, the school-wide tardy discipline plan will be followed.

## Attendance Policy:

- Attendance at all rehearsals is essential and mandatory
- Attendance at all scheduled performances and concerts is mandatory to keep your position in ensembles and to pass the course
- Missed performances/concerts will result in a failing grade for that particular performance

## Absence Procedures:

- Students are responsible for communicating with the teacher or classmates about what was missed
- If you have a valid excuse for being absent during a concert date (wedding, funeral, severe illness, etc.), immediately inform the teacher upon knowing the conflict and you will be allowed to complete an alternate make-up assignment

- Students are expected to learn and gather pitches/rhythms, markings, etc. prior to returning to rehearsal
- Upon returning to rehearsals, check and empty your choir box of any new materials/music handed out during your absence

## **Concert Performance and Classroom Behavior:**

- During concerts, you are expected to sit silently and actively listen to the performing ensemble
- Applaud and praise your fellow peers after their performances at a reasonable level - they have worked hard too! (In other words, no inappropriate whooping, hollering, whistling)
- Students are expected to follow all classroom rules and procedures during rehearsals
- It is at the teacher's discretion whether or not a student may sing in a performance. If a student has shown lack of discipline in class or excessive tardies or absences, he or she may not be allowed to perform.
  - If the student does not perform due to teacher given consequence, the student will have a major project or alternative performance to complete/attend.
  - If the student does not on his/her own complete the alternative assignment, the result will be a failing grade for that particular performance

## Uniform Policy:

- A uniform identifies the group as a choir at every event. Choir members are required to wear their uniform during all choir performances

### **PERFORMANCE DRESS** (\$80)

- Full dress (black) and pearl necklace, purchased by students
- Black hose and black, closed-toe shoes with a back or strap (shoes should ideally be flats - you will be standing for long periods of time)

### **PERFORMANCE TUXEDO** (\$120)

- Tuxedo shirt, coat, pants, bow tie, and cummerbund
- Black DRESS shoes and long black socks

## Appearance Guidelines:

- Hair should be pulled away from face. Hair accessories should be the same color as your hair so as not to attract attention.
- Make-up is permitted so long as it remains conservative and tasteful
- NO JEWELRY shall be worn at performances. This includes earrings, tongue rings, nose rings, any face rings, rings worn on hands, bracelets, and necklaces. The only exception to this rule are stud earrings and engagement/wedding rings.
- Nail polish should be tasteful and ideally, for the concerts, clear.
- Do not wear cologne, perfume, sprays, or scented lotions. Some ensemble members may have allergic reactions to these substances.
- WEAR DEODORANT!

# Discipline Procedures

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I do not expect that there will be any discipline problems in the chorus classroom or at any chorus-related function/concert. However, when a rule or procedure is broken or a student behaves inappropriately, the following consequences will be enforced (in order from least to most severe):

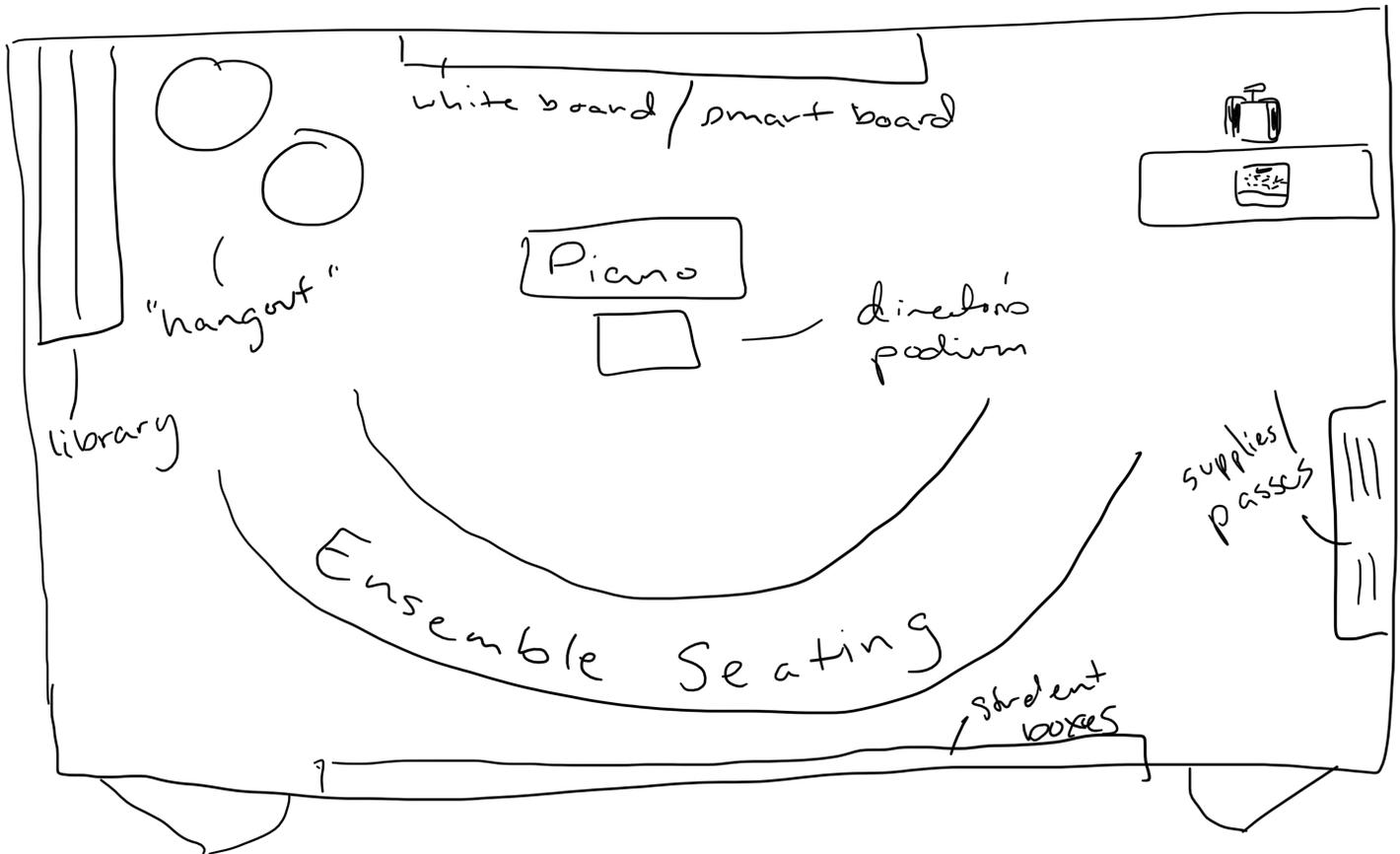
1. Speak with student
2. Put cellphone/devices away and detention
3. Change of seat assignment
4. Teacher Classroom Detention
5. Contact parent/guardian
6. Work in the classroom
7. Loss of performance opportunity
8. Administrative Referral

## Cellphone/Electronic Devices:

- If the teacher sees you with a cellphone/electronic device, other than those permitted at the time, you will receive a disciplinary warning.
- There is also school policy for cellphone/electronic device use which will also be enforced

NOTE - SERIOUS OFFENSES MAY WARRANT AN IMMEDIATE OFFICE REFERRAL

# Optimal Classroom Layout



This proposed layout was designed for a high school choir classroom and is the most optimal for a few reasons:

1. The teacher is always in front of the classroom and has a clear view of everything
2. The ensemble is facing the white/smart board and away from the doors. This lessens the distraction of opening doors
3. There is a library and hangout space in the room to make it feel welcoming
4. Supplies/passes are located near the doors for easy visual reminders