***J. P. Case Middle School***

***Choral Department Syllabus***

***Rosemary Nagy & Heather Faherty***

***Directors***

***“Music can name the unnamable and***

***communicate the unknowable.”***

**~Leonard Bernstein**

Welcome to Choir!! We hope to have an incredible year and grow in both our musical capabilities and as a class! We will work hard, have fun and experience the joy of making music. Below is a list of expectations and things you need to know to make this a successful year:

**Our Mission Statement**

1. To respect all people, appreciating the beauty of our differences.
2. To become independent musicians.
3. To realize (through singing and performing) our potential as an ensemble and individually.

Our goal this year is to live out our mission everyday in class, through our music and our performances.

Contact Information and Conductors

We can be reached through J. P. Case Voice Mail 284-5100, or email. Email is the quickest way to reach us during the school day.

**Rose Nagy** - ext. 4049 [rnagy@frsd.k12.nj.us](mailto:rnagy@frsd.k12.nj.us)

Tigerettes, 7th & 8th Grade Chorus

**Heather Faherty** - ext 4107 [hfaherty@frsd.k12.nj.us](mailto:hfaherty@frsd.k12.nj.us)

Chorale, 7th & 8th Grade Chorus

**Chorus Rehearsal and Lesson Schedule**

Students who choose to be in chorus *must* attend rehearsals and a scheduled lesson. Lessons meet in room B129 during the DEAR Program. Students meet in small groups for vocal lessons on a rotating basis once every week. During your lesson the conductors will go over music and group vocal techniques. Chorus rehearsals are also in room B129.

## Block 1 - Teams 8-1 & 8-2 A Day / Teams 7-1 & 7-2 B Day

# Block 4 - Teams 7-3 & 7-4 A Day / Teams 8-3 & 8-4 B Day

**Behavior**:

Each student is expected to exhibit the following traits:

* **R**espect
* **R**esponsibility- folders, music and pencils
* **P**articipation
* **P**ositive Attitude

As a choir member, you are expected to always put forth your best effort. In addition to the above mentioned, students are expected to display the following positive behaviors:

1. Working as a team. We are a community that supports each other.
2. Student should be in their assigned seat at the start of class.
3. You must raise your hand in class to speak.
4. NO GUM or CANDY, NO FOOD, NO DRINKS. Cough drops are permitted with a note from the nurse or parent. Students who disregard this rule will be given a lunch detention for the first time. Any additional times will result in a before or after school detention.
5. Students should have music at ALL rehearsals especially if you are in a select ensemble.

Your success in these behaviors will be reflected in your DAILY PARTICIPATION GRADE. In addition the level of your focus and involvement will be noted.

**Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior**

1. Warning
2. Phone call home
3. Before/After school detention and possible conference with parents or administrator.

**Drop Date**

Any student who no longer wishes to participate in chorus must contact the guidance department with written notification from a parent no later than

**Friday, September, 13th.** Students are not permitted to drop chorus after that date and will remain in the ensemble for the rest of the school year.

**Grading**

Students in chorus receive a Pass / Fail grade at each interim and at the end of each trimester. Daily Participation grades are based on the following five categories.

1. Lesson attendance. Student lessons are once a week.
2. Responsibility – Students are required to bring their folder with ALL music and a sharpened pencil to every rehearsal. If you are missing a piece of music you should report it immediately to Mrs. Faherty or Mrs. Nagy, otherwise you will be considered unprepared.
3. Rehearsal Attentiveness – Singing during rehearsal, paying attention to the directors.
4. Individual Assessment – Students are assessed on their knowledge of their music and voice part.
5. Posture – Using proper body alignment when sitting or standing during rehearsal.

### Attendance

* Students are expected to arrive on time for rehearsals. Late students should have a pass signed by the detaining teacher.
* Students in the library during tutorial are expected to be on time for rehearsal.

### Music

* You are responsible for any music that is issued to you at the beginning of the school year. If the music that is assigned to you is lost or damaged, then you will be responsible for replacement or repair. The average cost to replace a folder and music is $16.00 for regular chorus members, $28.00 for select ensemble members. Each music folder is approximately $4.00. Each piece of sheet music is $2.00. Financial obligations not met by the end of the year will cause grades and/or promotion certificates to be withheld.
* Folders should be kept in the chorus room and placed in the student’s assigned storage slot at the end of every rehearsal. Students in select ensembles should bring their folder home to practice their music.

**Concert Dress**

Appropriate, performance attire is necessary for all concerts. This will greatly enhance the performance and it will give the choir a more professional, unified, and polished look.

**GIRLS** - White collared blouse, black full length pants or ankle length skirt, no Capris! Girls must also wear black pantyhose and black dress shoes. We will have pantyhose available for $2.00 at every concert.

**BOYS-**White collared long sleeved shirt, tie, black dress pants. Jeans are not considered appropriate formal concert attire. Boys must also wear dark dress shoes and dark socks.

**FORMAL CONCERT DRESS** – Students participating in Chorale & Tigerettes will wear a uniform. Girls will wear a black cocktail length dress with an empire waist. The approximate cost is $60 dollars for the dress with shipping. Boys will wear a white tuxedo shirt with a bow tie. The approximate cost for these items will be $25 with shipping. Students may be able to reduce costs with the Ashley Farms fall fundraiser.

###### Concert Information & Performance Schedule

Concerts are the culminating activity for each chorus: therefore, each student’s participation is critical. ***There are no excuses for missing a performance except death in the family or a serious medical situation. Another evening activity is NOT a valid excuse.*** This is a graded class that is part of your education at the middle school. All of the concert dates are given below so you can plan in advance. Performing is an integral part of this class. Quality performances emphasize friendship, artistic development, and community involvement. Please reserve the dates for our concerts on your calendar after reading this packet.

* Every student **must** participate in the Winter and Spring concerts. If a student is absent from a concert, the directors must be contacted before or immediately after the concert.
* The teacher has the discretion in deciding if an absence is excusable.
* If the absence is not excused, the student will not be allowed to participate in any of the scheduled music festivals and will be in jeopardy of failing for the Second or Third Trimester.
* Students sitting in the auditorium are expected to be courteous while watching other ensembles performs.

***Concert Information 2013- 2014***

**Winter Concert\* Tuesday, December 17, 2013 7 PM**

**Spring Concert\* Wednesday, June 4, 2014 7 PM**

**Music in the Parks Festival\* Friday, May 16, 2014**

***(Chorale & Tigerettes only)***

**\**Indicates formal concert dress for all students.***

** “*STUDENT CONTRACT”***

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have read the Chorus Handbook. I understand the expectations to participate as a member of the J.P. Case Choral Department.

Please check the following

\_\_\_\_\_ I will bring my music to all rehearsals

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand I am responsible for my folder and will pay to replace my folder or music if it is lost or damaged.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that attending a festival is an earned privilege.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand attendance at the winter and spring concerts are mandatory. Failure to attend may prevent me from attending or participating in the Spring Music Festivals

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand what is proper concert dress attire.

Signed (Student Signature),

Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Team \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ HR Teacher \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT PERMISSION SLIP**

I give my child permission to participate in chorus for the 2013–14 school year. I haveread the “J. P. Case Choral Handbook” and I understand the concert and attendance policies of the J. P. Case Vocal Department.

Mr./Mrs./Ms.

Daytime contact number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Evening / Home contact number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_