

The background of the entire page is a dense, repeating pattern of various musical notes, including eighth, quarter, and sixteenth notes, as well as treble and bass clefs, scattered across a light gray background. The notes are rendered in black and white, creating a rhythmic and melodic visual texture.

**JOHNSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL  
CHORAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT  
2020-2021 HANDBOOK**

*Brianna Warner, Director*

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This handbook has been prepared for your convenience to reference throughout the course of the school year. It contains almost everything that participating students and parents need to know to achieve success in the Johnstown-Monroe Choral Music Program. It is strongly recommended that you keep this handbook within reach so that it can be referred to if a question or issue should arise. Parents and students should read all items in the handbook before signing and returning the choir contract.

Hello and Welcome to the Johnstown High School Choral Music Department! I am so excited to see you all after a long hiatus from face-to-face learning - what a crazy time to be alive right now!

This school year is going to look different for us with new protocols and guidelines due to COVID-19. As we start the school year, please have patience, flexibility, and grace.

- **Patience** with administrators, teachers, students and their families as they all navigate these new protocols and guidelines for everyone's health, safety, and education.
- **Flexibility**, knowing that plans can change often as more information is made available.
- **Grace**, knowing that these circumstances are new and completely out of everyone's control; tough decisions are and will continue to be made while thinking about everyone's best interest, even if we don't agree; be kind.

We are doing everything we can to have some sense of normalcy while also adhering to these new protocols and guidelines. Our choir classroom routine will be different, but we will still create an environment where everyone feels safe and welcome. Our performances will look different, but you will still have your moment in the spotlight.

Although those specific things will look different, there are things that will NOT be different: our hard work, dedication, teamwork, respect for one another, and love of creating music together. **No matter what the circumstances are around us, we will ALWAYS have these things AND EACH OTHER.**

This school year will go down in history as the most unique and challenging, but **we will get through it and thrive TOGETHER.** We can make this year successful by working hard and remaining positive, starting today. I will expect 100% from each of you every day, and you can expect 100% from me every day.

Have patience, flexibility, and grace. This will be our mantra for the year.

I can't wait to sing and make beautiful music together, even during these unprecedented times! Thank you for choosing to be a member of our wonderful choir program - let's have a fun year!

Musically Yours,

*Miss Warner*

Brianna Warner  
Choral Music Director  
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# PHILOSOPHY OF CHORAL MUSIC

It is the philosophy of the Johnstown-Monroe Choral Music Department to provide students with a well-rounded choral music experience. Through participation in choir, students learn musical skills such as literacy, history and culture, vocabulary, improvisation, technology, and many more. These skills not only develop the student's musical competency, but help to shape the student non-musically as well by helping them to develop skills that they can reflect on and use in different situations throughout their lives. These include, but are not limited to, social skills, patience, teamwork, responsibility, accountability, risk-taking, leadership, pride, and self-respect. Through a variety of choral music experiences, students will receive a quality learning experience where student ownership of learning is stressed daily. It is the philosophy of the Johnstown-Monroe Choral Music Department to provide students with an outlet of expression through the singing and performance of choral music. The musical skills learned in the classroom are important; however, when those musical skills are combined with non-musical skills, the learning experience becomes holistic and helps to create a better, more knowledgeable child and society.

## STATE STANDARDS OF MUSIC EDUCATION

While at Johnstown, choir members learn a wide range of quality choral repertoire ranging from classical and jazz to spirituals and multicultural music, spanning from the Renaissance to contemporary pop. In addition to learning strong choral repertoire, choral rehearsals are centered on three academic content standards of music education as determined by the Ohio Department of Education:

- 1) Perceiving, Knowing, and creating
- 2) Producing/Performing
- 3) Responding/Reflecting.

To be able to teach these objectives well, I must select music of the highest caliber and representative of many styles and origins. Through selection, rehearsal, and performance of diverse repertoire, the choral music experience in Johnstown promotes diversity both inside and outside of the schools. By doing this, the students will be exploring music of other cultures and countries, which will involve singing music in other languages. We will also be singing music from different time periods, both sacred (religious) and secular (non-religious), to be able to explore how music has developed and has been an integral part of different cultures over time.

After much hard work, the students will display their musical achievements in concerts to be held in the Performing Arts Center at Johnstown Middle School. Chorale, Double Q, and Apogee students may be required to perform at other community and church venues.

## **SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST**

Participation in Solo & Ensemble Contest is optional, although highly encouraged. Music Selection will begin in December (this may change depending on the final date for Solo and Ensemble Contest).

### **Fees:**

Soloists must pay a registration fee of \$13.00 (due prior to Christmas break) in order to participate. Soloists who have not paid by the deadline will not be registered to perform. If a soloist does not perform on the day of contest, for whatever reason, the registration fee will not be refunded as it is paid to OMEA at the time of registration. The Johnstown Choir Boosters will pay for ensemble participation and there will be no extra charge for students.

### **Rehearsals:**

Soloists are responsible for rehearsing their piece at home on their own time. Soloists are also responsible for scheduling 2 required private vocal lessons with Miss Warner, and one rehearsal with their accompanist before the contest. Any student who fails to do so will not be permitted to participate. Soloists that take private voice lessons from an outside teacher should consult with Miss Warner regarding rehearsals.

Ensembles are also responsible for scheduling 3 ensemble rehearsals with Miss Warner and 1 rehearsal with the accompanist before the contest. Any ensemble who fails to do so will not be permitted to participate.

## **GRADING POLICY**

Your student's grades will reflect what s/he knows and can do in relation to the State of Ohio Content Standards. Grades based on standards help to improve students' achievement by driving educators to focus on four critical questions:

- 1) What do students need to know and be able to do?
- 2) How will we know that they have learned it?
- 3) What will we do when they have not learned it?
- 4) What will we do when they already know it?

Grades based on curriculum standards help me to plan on instruction so that I can challenge and support all of my students. They also help you, as parents, know the academic and performance areas in which your student meets or exceeds expectations, needs challenges, or needs support. There are 3 different types of assessment used in my classroom:

- Diagnostic Assessment (Pre-Test) takes place prior to instruction to determine a student's skills or prior knowledge in order to identify students' needs.
- Formative Assessment provides direction for review, re-teaching, and other adjustments for individual students or for the whole class. These assessments are for learning (class activities, quizzes, homework, questions during instruction, etc.)
- Summative Assessment provides information to use to judge a student's achievement at the end of a period of instruction. These tests, exams, final performances, projects, etc., are assessments of learning. Students will have the opportunity to improve their grades by reassessing and providing me with evidence of higher levels of performance.

Keeping progress on formative assessments separate from summative assessments gives a more precise picture of student achievement. While feedback on an assessment of a student's formative work are important, these scores will not be reflected in the student's grade. Also, student behaviors (effort, participation, adherence to school rules, etc.) will not be included in the student's grade. Grades will only reflect achievement toward Ohio Content Standards. Reporting achievement separately from behaviors means that everyone can know as accurately as possible what a grade means in terms of achievement.

### **Reassessment:**

Students scoring above 79% on the original summative assessment will not be able to reassess. Only students scoring 79% or lower will have the opportunity to reassess if they follow the procedure outlined in this section for reassessment. If reassessing, the highest score a student can receive on a summative reassessment will be 80%. (Note: During reassessment, the higher of the two scores will be used as the final grade for that assessment). Students must complete interventions assigned by Miss Warner before reassessment. Students will have one week and one

opportunity to reassess (Clarification: within one week of the date the original assessment was returned to the student.) It is at the discretion of the teacher as to whether all or part of the original assessment will be reassessed. Reassessment format (written, oral, etc.) will also be at the discretion of the teacher.

### **Using Zeros in Summative Assessments:**

Zeros will not be given for summative assessments. In the past, zeros were given when students missed a performance or another summative assessment. In standards-based grading, a grade of “incomplete” will be assigned until the assessment is completed. Students may be assigned to interventions before, during, or after school in order to make up the incomplete assignments.

### **Academic Dishonesty Policy:**

Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students will redo any assessment that involves academic dishonesty, which includes both plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism means submitting (as one’s own work) words, ideas, images, or data from another author/creator. Cheating can include, but is not limited to, possession of unauthorized material, submission of another student’s material (whether graded or not), false claims or fabricated references, copying someone else’s exam/test/quiz, or passing answers from an exam/test/quiz to another student. When an incident of cheating or plagiarism occurs, the student, along with parent/guardian, may meet as needed with a principal and the involved teachers. After discussion, one of the following sanctions will be imposed:

- The student will redo the assignment or complete another substitute assignment on his/her own time (lunch intervention, before or after school detention).
- The student may be denied participation and/or membership in academic and non-academic activities, groups, teams, and events. Offenses that occur in the final nine-week period of the school year will carry over into the next school year. Second offenses will warrant more severe consequences.
- The student may be suspended in school or out of school.
- The student may be expelled.

Students may appeal any academic dishonesty charge against them within one week of the charge. The appeal will be presented to the principal and Miss Warner.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

All performances are mandatory as they are the true summative assessment of each student's mastery in choir. If a student misses a performance, regardless of the reason, s/he **MUST** reassess their concert to earn any credit towards the summative grade. Excused and unexcused absences are not relevant to an achievement grade. Absences will be reported separately from grades.

Chorale, Double Q, and Apogee members are required to be at many additionally performances. If a student in Chorale, Double Q, or Apogee misses a performance, they may be removed from the ensemble completely. Students who are considered truant will be held accountable through disciplinary measures rather than through grades. All required dates for this school year are listed on the schedule that is attached to this handbook. By signing the choir contract at the end of the handbook, you are acknowledging that you have received these mandatory dates and understand the expectation of mandatory performance attendance.

## **DISCIPLINE POLICY**

Good behavior and model citizenship should be synonymous with the Johnstown High School Choirs. These behaviors are most certainly commonplace, but when a student breaks a classroom or school rule the following procedure will be implemented:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense - warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense - detention
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense - second detention/parent is called
- 4<sup>th</sup> offense - referral to office
- 5<sup>th</sup> offense - parent conference

Any violation of school rules will be dealt with not only by the director, but also by the appropriate school officials.

## **GENERAL CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

- 1) Follow instructions the first time they are given.
- 2) No gum, food, or drinks allowed in the classroom (water is the exception to this rule).

- 3) All choir students are required to adhere to all COVID-19 protocols and guidelines as determined by the Johnstown-Monroe Local School District.
  - **Students must wear a mask** unless told otherwise (this will only affect performances), and **keep a social distance at all times.**
- 4) Come prepared for rehearsal.
  - **You must provide your own choir folder and pencil!**
    - i. You are responsible for bringing these items with you every day.
    - ii. You will receive music for your choir folder in class, but you will not be able to store your folder in the classroom.
- 5) Be a good example for others and have a positive attitude!
- 6) Be responsible and show respect for others and their property.
  - Make responsible decisions all of the time; always do the right thing even when no one is watching.
  - Save your conversations for the hallway.
  - Be respectful of others and do not talk while someone else is talking or singing.
  - Respect the classroom equipment and materials.
- 7) Practice makes Permanent.
  - Learning good practice skills is critical to developing into an excellent musician. If you practice with poor technique (sloppy posture, inadequate breath support, etc.) you will make those habits permanent. Practice wisely. Memorize accurately and completely. Be a singer who is a musician.

**YOU CAN EXPECT ME TO FOLLOW THESE EXPECTATIONS AND TO GIVE 100% EVERY DAY. I ASK THAT YOU DO THE SAME, AND WE WILL HAVE A FABULOUS SCHOOL YEAR!**

PLEASE BE SURE TO BOOKMARK OUR WEBSITE SO THAT YOU ALWAYS HAVE ACCESS TO THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION FOR OUR CHOIR PROGRAM! [WWW.JHSCHOIR.ORG](http://WWW.JHSCHOIR.ORG)

SUPPORT OUR CHOIR PROGRAM THROUGH THE JOHNSTOWN CHOIR BOOSTERS! WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR IDEAS AT ANY OF OUR REGULAR MEETINGS. MEETING DATES AND TIMES WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE!

MISS WARNER WILL BE UTILIZING THE "REMIND" APP THIS YEAR TO COMMUNICATE WITH ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS. "REMIND" IS A TEXT MESSAGING AND EMAIL SYSTEM THAT KEEPS ALL PERSONAL INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL. TEACHERS WILL NEVER SEE YOUR PHONE NUMBER, NOR WILL YOU SEE THEIRS. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR STUDENT (OR YOU!) SIGNS UP FOR HIS/HER CLASS ON "REMIND" TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT REMINDERS FROM MISS WARNER DIRECTLY VIA EMAIL OR TEXT MESSAGE! TO SIGN UP FOR THE CORRECT CLASS, PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED SHEET.

# JOHNSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR CONTRACT

My student \_\_\_\_\_ and I have read the handbook for the Johnstown High School Choral Music Department and understand the policies, rules, and expectations. I have made note of all dates on the attached schedule and understand that student participation is mandatory for all events as it pertains to my child. I know that my child will be singing music that is both sacred (religious) and secular (non-religious), but that the music selected is used as a means of teaching the Ohio Academic Standards only. I also understand that my student may be required to perform in venues outside of our community such as churches, other schools, and competitions.

-----  
Parent/Guardian Signature

-----  
Student Signature

-----  
Parent/Guardian Phone Number

-----  
Parent/Guardian Email Address

\*The Parent/Guardian email address provided will be utilized for choir announcements and reminders throughout the school year\*

\*Student emails will also be utilized for choir announcements and reminders (graduation year, last name, first initial@s.jmk12.org)\*

EXAMPLE: 21warnerb@s.jmk12.org

Please check your preferred method of contact if Miss Warner must contact you regarding student behavior:

Phone Call

Email

# 1<sup>ST</sup> PERIOD CONCERT CHOIR – REMIND INFORMATION



## Sign up for important updates from Miss Warner.

Get information for Johnstown High School right on your phone—not on handouts.

Pick a way to receive messages for **Concert Choir**.

**A** If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

[rmd.at/jhschoir2](https://rmd.at/jhschoir2)

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



**B** If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @jhschoir2 to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @jhschoir2 to (267) 433-5891.

\* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to [rmd.at/jhschoir2](https://rmd.at/jhschoir2) on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> PERIOD CHORALE – REMIND INFORMATION



### Sign up for important updates from Miss Warner.

Get information for Johnstown High School right on your phone—not on handouts.

Pick a way to receive messages for **Chorale**:

**A** If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

[rmd.at/jhschorale](http://rmd.at/jhschorale)

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



**B** If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @jhschorale to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @jhschorale to (267) 433-5891.

\* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to [rmd.at/jhschorale](http://rmd.at/jhschorale) on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

# 3<sup>RD</sup> PERIOD APOGEE – REMIND INFORMATION



## Sign up for important updates from Miss Warner.

Get information for Johnstown High School right on your phone—not on handouts.

Pick a way to receive messages for **Apogee**:

**A** If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

[rmd.at/jhsapogee](https://rmd.at/jhsapogee)

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



**B** If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @jhsapogee to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @jhsapogee to (267) 433-5891.

\* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to [rmd.at/jhsapogee](https://rmd.at/jhsapogee) on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

# DOUBLE Q – REMIND INFORMATION



## Sign up for important updates from Miss Warner.

Get information for Johnstown High School right on your phone—not on handouts.

Pick a way to receive messages for **DoubleQ:**

**A** If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

[rmd.at/jhsdoubleq](http://rmd.at/jhsdoubleq)

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



**B** If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @jhsdoubleq to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @jhsdoubleq to (267) 433-5891.

\* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to [rmd.at/jhsdoubleq](http://rmd.at/jhsdoubleq) on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

# JOHNSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR CALENDAR

Typically, this section of the handbook is the list of rehearsal and performance dates for the school year. However, this school year is very unique - the uncertainty of the future makes it difficult to have a set calendar full of rehearsal and performance dates at this time. The last thing I want to do is create a calendar of choir dates, and then change it multiple times throughout the school year depending on any new protocols and guidelines that may be in place - this can be confusing for all. Instead, let's take each event one step at a time.

I have provided a list of performances that we will look forward to having this school year. I will give plenty of notice for each event. It is possible to add to and/or take away from this list, but we will start with these events for now. Stay tuned for more updates, and **please be patient and flexible!**

- ♪ CABARET \*
  - PERFORMANCE WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE 1<sup>ST</sup> NINE-WEEK PERIOD
- ♪ VETERAN'S DAY
- ♪ CHRISTMAS CONCERT
  - PERFORMANCE WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE 2<sup>ND</sup> NINE-WEEK PERIOD
- ♪ DISTRICT 10 SOLO AND ENSEMBLE CONTEST
  - VIRTUAL PERFORMANCES ARE IN CONSIDERATION BY OMEA
- ♪ OMEA LARGE GROUP CONTEST (DISTRICTS AND STATES) \*
- ♪ MUSICAL ~
  - PERFORMANCE DATES ARE CONFIRMED (FOR NOW..)!!
  - MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup> - 14<sup>TH</sup> (MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> - 11<sup>TH</sup> FOR DRESS REHEARSALS)
- ♪ SPRING CONCERT
  - PERFORMANCE WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE 4<sup>TH</sup> NINE-WEEK PERIOD
- ♪ GRADUATION

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\* DENOTES CHORALE & APOGEE PERFORMANCES ONLY  
~ DENOTES OPTIONAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES