

SeDoMoCha Singers Handbook 2017-2018



5th and 6th Grade Chorus

Rehearsals: Mondays and Thursdays from 1:37-2:15 PM

(In Mrs. Young's Room Stage/128S)

Sectional "Lesson" Time will be:

Part Ones: Mondays 2:15-2:35

Part Twos: Thursdays 2:15-2:35

"If you can walk you can dance, if you can talk you can sing"- Kenyan Proverb

Welcome to the SeDoMoCha Singers! We are really looking forward to another wonderful year. Last year we had approximately 150 students participating in the vocal music program! Our students put on several great performances throughout the community, and several of our students represented SeDoMoCha at district festivals throughout the state. We hope to continue to build the program and give students the opportunity to experience vocal music in a new way!

The main goal of the SeDoMoCha Singers is to promote **Singing!** Singing is a **skill**. Skills need to be practiced to improve. **Singers are also musicians.** Every aspect of the choral music program is designed to create energized singing, create awareness and understanding of singing styles, and create quality singers. As a choir we will work both individually and as a group to achieve our goals. We are also working to expand our musical horizons by singing music of different styles and genres. Most importantly we want to encourage any and all of our students to explore vocal music in a positive and safe learning environment in hopes to create life long musicians. Anyone can sing, it is just a matter of how hard you are willing to work at it.

We are excited to offer this ensemble **AS A GRADED CLASS** to students during the day, as well as offer them the opportunity to participate in various music activities and festivals throughout the state. This ensemble is open to anyone who wants to sing in a group, improve their individual vocal technique, and have a lot of fun making music!

Music, especially vocal music, is such a personal expression. I am looking forward to watching all of our students grow and develop throughout the year not only as musicians but as people. I have high expectations for all of my singers, and I am willing to meet before school, after school, or during recess to help any student who strives for success. (Please contact me and I can set up times for you!)

It is very important that every member of the choir is present at all scheduled rehearsals and performances, as we each play an integral role in this ensemble. Please make note and mark your

calendars with the performance dates and fill out, with your child, the SeDoMoCha Singers Agreement form.

One of our goals is to improve communication for all students, parents, teachers, and community members. The SeDoMoCha Singers website will be full of information for all of the music community, as well as learning resources for students and families. The website is: <https://sites.google.com/a/sedomocha.org/sedomocha-singers/> or you can reach it by finding Mrs. Young's name under staff directory on the SeDoMoCha Middle School page. Through the website there will also be a blog that you can subscribe to to receive email updates about what is happening throughout the year.

We are continuing to encourage parent/family support and interaction with our music program. The SeDoMoCha Music Boosters not only helps to raise money to support our music program, but works to provide opportunities for our students above and beyond our direct instruction to promote music as a part of their lives. **We would love to find ways to get more families involved in our music program and we hope that you are able to stop by at our first Music Boosters meeting Wednesday, September 27th from 6:30-7:30pm in Miss Griffin's music room.** We would love to hear your ideas and input as we will be discussing the music program goals for the year as well as our work to continue to promote music within our SeDoMoCha community!

Please contact me, drop in to observe rehearsals, come to concerts, have conferences, and continue your interest in your child's growth--musical or otherwise! I am looking forward to working with all of you this year!

Sincerely,

Kaitlin Young
SeDoMoCha Singers Director
kyoung@sedomocha.org
207-564-6535 ext. 1228

For More Information visit the SeDoMoCha Singers Website using the QR code below!



In this handbook you will find the following information:

- Rehearsal & Sectional Information
- Attendance Policies (Class and Performance)
- Grading Information
- Concert Information

Rehearsal & Sectional Information:

Full Group Rehearsals will be held on Mondays and Thursdays and will begin promptly at 1:37 PM.

Students are expected to be at rehearsals ON TIME, ready to sing. Students should be sitting in their assigned seat, prepared with all of their music and materials for rehearsal. Students are expected to bring a **PENCIL and their MUSIC FOLDER** with them to every rehearsal. Students may keep their folders in the music room in a designated area unless they really would like to bring them home to practice! Students may also want to bring a water bottle to class. These are the tools that every musician needs, just like text books for other classes.

Sectional “Lesson” Time will be:

Part One’s: Mondays 2:15-2:35

Part Two’s: Thursdays 2:15-2:35

We are excited to offer “lesson” time for vocal music students. During this time each section (i.e. Part Ones and Part Twos) will meet together in a smaller setting to work on specific parts or areas of the music that require extra attention. It also will allow time for each section to learn to work together and perform their individual part to the best of their ability which will facilitate full group rehearsals. **Sectionals are REQUIRED for each student, unless specified by a teacher in a special case.** The teachers are aware and will speak to Mrs. Young in advance about specific student needs. Students will need to present Mrs. Young with a pass EARLIER IN THE DAY before the rehearsal/sectional to be considered excused. The time for each week will be posted in Mrs. Young’s room, and announced on the announcements to remind students. There is also a rehearsal calendar on Mrs. Young’s website.

Attendance

The best way to demonstrate proficiency in a performance based ensemble is by being there! Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each rehearsal. If students are not in their seats when rehearsals begin, they are considered late. (This includes if I have to call them down from homeroom.) Students will receive a performance grade for each class based on the class observation rubric shown below. Attendance is factored into their daily score.

4 Points	<p>The student ALWAYS performs as an exemplary member of a choral ensemble.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrates proper posture for singing ● Demonstrates proper breath control for singing ● Sings with proper pitches and rhythms ● Follows and performs expressive elements based on the conductor's direction ● Arrives on time and prepared ● Follows directions and rules ● Pays attention and stays on task ● Works well with others ● Demonstrates a positive attitude, and strong effort ● Participates in all class activities and discussions
3 Points	<p>The student USUALLY performs as an exemplary member of a choral ensemble</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrates proper posture for singing ● Demonstrates proper breath control for singing ● Sings with proper pitches and rhythms ● Follows and performs expressive elements based on the conductor's direction ● Arrives on time and prepared ● Follows directions and rules ● Pays attention and stays on task ● Works well with others ● Demonstrates a positive attitude, and strong effort ● Participates in all class activities and discussions
2 Points	<p>The student OCCASIONALLY demonstrates qualities of a choral ensemble member, but requires occasional prompting and reminders in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrating proper posture for singing ● Demonstrating proper breath control for singing ● Singing with proper pitches and rhythms ● Following and performing expressive elements based on the conductor's direction ● Arrives on time and prepared (Including being late or having to be called from homeroom) ● Following directions and rules ● Paying attention and staying on task, and not distracting others ● Working well with others ● Demonstrating a positive attitude, and strong effort ● Participating in all class activities and discussions
1 Point	<p>The student RARELY demonstrates qualities of a choral ensemble member, and requires continual prompting and reminders in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrating proper posture for singing ● Demonstrating proper breath control for singing ● Singing with proper pitches and rhythms ● Following and performing expressive elements based on the conductor's direction ● Arrives on time and prepared ● Following directions and rules ● Paying attention and staying on task, and not distracting others ● Working well with others ● Demonstrating a positive attitude, and strong effort ● Participating in all class activities and discussions <p style="text-align: center;">**Specific incidents will be noted/communicated with office referral or parent contact</p>

If students are absent from school entirely, or during the class period (i.e. sick day, doctor's appointment, early dismissal) they are NOT charged with an absence.

Communication is key to the success of our students. Chorus is a graded class and good attendance is imperative to the success of the entire ensemble! If there are any academic issues for other classes students, parents, and teachers should communicate needs to Mrs. Young in order to make other arrangements for excused absences. I completely understand how busy our students are and we want them to be as successful as they can be in all of their classes. **Students will be allowed one academic related excusal pass per quarter unless other arrangements are made.** This can be used if the student is in need of extra help in a specific class. It is not a get-out-of-class free card. The need must be communicated to Mrs. Young in advance and a note must be signed by the specific teacher who is administering the extra help, and should only be used in extreme cases. (This is not for "I forgot to do my homework," or "I waited until the last minute to do a project.") The "Academic Excusal Pass" is also not valid within THREE WEEKS of a concert or performance. The performances are our "exams" and we need to have the entire group together in order to properly prepare. If there are any direct concerns please communicate them in advance!

4 or more unexcused absences or 5 or more tardies within a trimester may result in suspension or dismissal from the ensemble, and therefore will receive a failing grade. Students who "skip" rehearsal, or are chronically late may receive a detention at the discretion of the director. As the ensemble is a graded class students may not "quit" or just stop attending class without proper notification from the student and parents. If a student stops showing up without notification they will be considered skipping and therefore receive a failing grade for the class. Again, I understand that our students are incredibly busy, but they are making a commitment to all of the students in the group and we can work just about anything out with the proper communication!

Commitment to the ensemble is essential for the success of the entire group. Therefore, this year we will be continuing our policy as far as adding or dropping chorus.

There will be two, two-week add/drop periods during the school year. This policy is put place for a variety of reasons including making sure students are taking responsibility for their commitment and ensuring that the ensembles are able to perform at their highest potential.

The first will take place at the beginning of the year, and the second will be during the first two weeks of January (After the first concert). Students may join or decide to drop out during this period, but **no one will be allowed to join or drop chorus after the two-week add/drop period.** If a student decides to drop chorus during the second add/drop period, the student will still be receiving a grade for the second quarter due to the fact that January is in the middle of the quarter. The student's grade will reflect their efforts up until that point.

In order to **add chorus** during the two-week timeframe, students need to see Mrs. Young for a handbook and return the form in the back of the handbook during the two-week period.

In order to **drop chorus** during the two-week timeframe in January, students need to print the release form from Mrs. Young's website and return it during the two-week period.

***If a student transfers from another school and participated in chorus at the previous school, he/she may join the SeDoMoCha chorus outside the add/drop period at the discretion of the director.

Performance Attendance

You have put in the all of the time and effort, and performances/concerts are a chance to share all of that hard work with your friends, family, and community! Performances/Concerts for the SeDoMoCha singers are **MANDATORY** for all students. Concerts and performances are considered as exams for the class, and are graded as such. Concert dates will be set at the start of the year, allowing students and parents to plan accordingly.

Performance Attendance not only includes just showing up it also includes:

- Demonstrating proper performer etiquette and performing to the best of their ability
- Demonstrating proper audience etiquette, including staying for the entire performance
- Dressing in proper/appropriate performance attire, including following all school dress code rules
- Attending any/all dress rehearsals
- Helping Set up AND Tear Down for the concert
- Completing alternate assignments on time and with quality

If your student is ill, we understand, and they are excused from the concert. If your student stayed home from school, do not come to the concert unless you get permission from Mrs. Young to do so. Out of respect for the other performers, in case of an absence due to illness, a phone call is needed **before the performance**. A note from home is required by the next rehearsal day. However, any absence that is not based on severe illness (with a parent or doctor's note) or due to a death in the family will be deemed an unexcused absence. Unexcused absences are 55's in the grade book.

Please note that transportation or attire is not an excuse to miss a concert. We can make arrangements for transportation and attire for a student if we are notified at least a week in advance.

Please remember that the students work hard as a team to prepare for these performances and missing even one member of the ensemble could affect the whole group! Communication is key, and we can make arrangements if necessary in order for our whole ensemble to be successful.

There is good news for students who are absent from a concert for ANY reason! (including illness) Since the concert is considered a major exam, students who miss a performance will be required to complete and alternate assignment to be graded in place of a concert. To get full credit, students must provide a note from home stating the reason for the absence (ill, emergency), see Mrs. Young to receive the assignment, and complete the assignment no later than one week after the concert. However, if the student fails to bring in a note and/or complete/submit the alternate assignment within the quarter the concert occurred the grade will remain a 55.

Concert Attire

This year we are going to be trying something different for concert attire! We were able to budget for the purchase of SeDoMoCha Music polos. A numbered polo will be assigned to each student at the beginning of the year. Students will wear the polo for performance events, and then return the polo at the end of the year. Please be on the lookout for this information when it is available in the next few weeks.

For performances all students will be required to wear the following:

SeDoMoCha Music Polo, Jeans, and shoes of your choosing

If Concert Dress does not follow the school dress code, or the required dress above students may be asked to change before they perform in the concert. **If you need assistance in getting the proper concert dress please let us know in advance and we can make arrangements for you. Please remember that some people may have allergies so please do not wear excessive perfume or colognes.

Grading

We do not all learn things at the same rate, nor do we sing and/or read music with equal skill. However, YOUR grade is within YOUR control. If you come prepared and participate during class, put in effort to master your required music skills, and attend our concerts it will be reflected in your grade. It is up to YOU!

You will be assessed on 7 choral music standards and several more learning targets within the standards throughout the year. All assessments are equally weighted and based on the grade range outlined in the student handbook. Students may be required to demonstrate proficiency through class participation and discussion, written or performance assessment within rehearsals or sectionals, as well as through performance at the concerts.

The Choral Music Standards as as follows:

Vocal Production
Choral Ensemble Techniques
Performance
Music Literacy
Responding to Music
Connecting to Music
Academic Initiative

SeDoMoCha Singers Performance Dates **2017-2018**

SeDoMoCha Middle School Winter Concert **Featuring all of our 5-8 Band and Chorus Students**

Thursday, December 14th, 2017 in the **FOXCROFT ACADEMY**

Gymnasium Time: 6:30 P.M.

(Students should arrive at 6:00 P.M.)

Snow Date: Monday, December 18th same time/location

District Five 5th and 6th Grade Honors Festival:

Friday, April 27th, 2018 Location - Hermon High School, Hermon, ME

**The District Five 5th and 6th Grade Honors Festival is a chance for select students to sing in a choir with students from all over the district. It is an all day festival, so the students will be excused from school that day. It is an honor to be chosen to represent your school. Students will audition and be recommended by the teachers then selected by a committee of music teachers from across the district. The festival takes place all day, and the concert is in the evening. There will be more information as we get closer to the event.

SeDoMoCha Middle School Spring Concert **Featuring all of our 5-8 Band and Chorus Students**

Thursday, May 10th, 2018 in the **FOXCROFT ACADEMY** Gymnasium

Time: 6:30 P.M.

(Students should arrive at 6:00 P.M.)

If other performance opportunities arise we will try to communicate the information as soon as possible! Check the SeDoMoCha Singers website/blog for more information.

