

Chorus, Vocal Ensemble, Music Techniques, and Music Appreciation

Grading Policies for Music

In compliance with District and State Standards



Introduction

Surfside Middle School Chorus Our Grading Policy 70% of your child's grade is summative (concerts 35% and tests 35%) and 30% of your child's grade will be based upon rehearsal techniques in the classroom (both formal and informal).

PERFORMANCE BASED CLASS (formal performances 70%)

Students will demonstrate mastery of the standards through live performance, written tests and special projects. These assessments will represent 70% of their quarterly average. Note that performances and other assessment opportunities will take place both during and **after school hours**.

UNAVOIDABLE CIRCUMSTANCES

Unavoidable circumstances do arise. The death of family or close friend, extreme illness or injury of student, or any unavoidable circumstance (that would keep a student from being in attendance at a performance) will be decided upon by the principal and the director.

Since live choral or dramatic performances cannot be reproduced, a performance may be reassessed in an alternate format to show mastery. Reassessment may replace the original concert/test grade at the director's discretion. Students will only be eligible for reassessment if they have successfully demonstrated the rehearsal techniques prior to assessment. Since a concert or performance cannot be "made up", students who are absent from a concert will need to perform the material and standards from the concert with an ensemble and in front of an audience that the director will assemble. **There is no longer a "paper" to substitute for a missed concert.** The director will use a scoring rubric to assess each child absent from a concert. *Remember: we would rather have each student at the concert! We are proud to demonstrate what we have learned and rehearsed together.*

Director's Informal and Formal Observations (Weekly and Daily - 30%)

30% of your child's grade is from the director's informal and formal observation in the choir room (average of 9 weekly rehearsal grades, checks, and formative assessments (quizzes). Assessments will take place through daily or weekly skills practice and/or rehearsal. Students will practice and receive feedback through a variety of methods in order to demonstrate progress toward the Sunshine State Standards goals. At Surfside, each student will receive a rehearsal grade derived from the choral standards outlined in the *Weekly Rehearsal Rubric*. Attendance and behavior do not affect a child's grade; **however**, if a student is chronically absent from rehearsals, they will not have the knowledge to execute the standards *effectively*. In addition, students are not assessed based upon behavior; **however**, if a student is off task (or disruptive) they are not focused on the standards, which will affect their ability to execute the standards accurately. Students are not assessed on attendance; **however**, the student's attendance has a direct and positive correlation on a musician's performance. Students who miss

rehearsals for extended periods of time (family leave, illness or ISS, OSS or combination of these) will need to refer to their practice CD recording (given to each student upon request). They can also access MP3 recordings through the choir website, under the practice tab, and rehearse their part. Upon return to school, the student will have to be sensitive, attentive and quick to respond to the director in order to catch up. *All grading opportunities will assess the Florida Sunshine State Standards for Musical Arts Grades 6-8.

Posting Grades

How can I find out my child's grades before report card comes home? Know PARENT PORTAL. Go to the parent tab at [our district website](#) and follow the instructions. This is a confidential on-line experience that allows parents access to their child's grades and averages in real time in ALL of their classes. If you are registered on parent portal and in chorus, you should receive a weekly rehearsal grade and updated average in chorus as an e-mail. Usually posted on Fridays. You should receive grade notices (e-mail) any time a teacher enters a grade into their grade book. You will need to come to the SMS Guidance Office for your "password" and then you'll be set!!!