

# Newsome High School



## Chorus Handbook 2017-2018

Thank you for choosing to be a part of the Newsome High School Choral department. It is my privilege to continue to see the Newsome High School Chorus grow and develop in its fourteenth year. I am excited to work with everyone to continue to build a strong program that maintains a standard of excellence.

Music classes are unique in that every student must work together to achieve a quality end product. Unlike a math class where if each student does their best, they will be rewarded, the reward in music comes when students not only do their best, but work to help others to achieve their best. This is also what a good leader does. I encourage every student to become a leader and regularly examine how their actions are benefiting themselves as well as the group.

One of my goals each year is to create many opportunities for the different choirs to perform together. We will be having the twelfth annual Newsome High School Choral Retreat. **The retreat will take place on Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup> in the music building at Newsome.** It will begin at 5pm and will finish that evening at 10pm. The retreat will include games, food, fun, and rehearsal of movement and music. Last year's retreat was a huge success and the kids really enjoyed themselves. They were able to show off their creativity while getting to know their fellow chorus students. I **strongly** encourage **all** students to attend this exciting event.

The purpose of this handbook is to help inform parents and students about the policies and procedures that will be in place, as well as dates to put on the calendar. I will be more than happy to discuss any issue, good or bad, which may arise throughout the year. Please feel free to contact me by phone at **740-4600 ext: 315**, or by email: **jeffry.bogue@sdhc.k12.fl.us** any time and if need be we can set up an appointment to meet.

For the most up to date information regarding concerts, trips, and other information please refer to the chorus website ([www.newsomechorus.net](http://www.newsomechorus.net)) or our **Facebook page** (search for Newsome Chorus and hit LIKE). Important information is also distributed via **email**, **Remind 101** text messaging, and **Edsby**. Additionally, **newsomechorus@gmail.com** should be utilized for any and all questions pertaining to chorus events, while financial questions should be sent to **JLA6130@aol.com**. Our website will contain this handbook as well as all the updated forms that will be used throughout the year. The majority of communication is done through email/Facebook. Emails will be sent to all parents regarding information on concerts, forms, trips, and events. Please ensure you provide your email address on all forms specified, as this is a **mandatory field**. **Check our website and Facebook page often.**

This year we will have a great time, learn many new things from each other, and create spectacular performances. I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you!

Sincerely,

Jeff Bogue  
Choral Director  
Newsome High School

# Newsome Chorus Syllabus

Instructor Jeff Bogue

Phone 813-740-4600 ext. 315

Office 205 A

E-mail Jeffrey.bogue@sdhc.k12.fl.us

Office Hours Scheduled by appointment

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this class is to foster the development of healthy vocal production, expressive performance, and rehearsal etiquette, as well as understand the value of working with other members of society to achieve a common goal.

## **Course Objectives:**

1. To develop a singing technique with students that is healthy, supported and beautiful.
2. To develop the skills needed to be expressive and dynamic performers.
3. To develop the self-discipline needed to be a contributing member of choral rehearsals and performances.
4. To have a knowledge and understanding of musical theory and sight singing, beyond just the basic "facts".
5. To begin to exist and contribute respectfully to a group.
6. To develop into strong leaders.

## **Materials:**

1. Pencil (not pen)
2. Folder
3. Uniform (see "Participation/Uniform Information Sheet" form)
4. Great Attitude!!

## **Grading Criteria:**

Grading Scale: A= 90-100%

B= 80-89%

C= 70-79%

D= 60-69%

F= below 60%

**15% Evaluations:** Evaluations may come in many forms and include: verbal responses, written quizzes, entries in the music journal, sight reading quizzes, song checks, and various other ways for me to assess comprehension.

**30% Class work grade:** The class work grade is a very important component because most of what is done in class involves rehearsal and group participation. Regular attendance in class is crucial to maintaining a passing grade. Absences from class affect not only the individual who is absent but also the entire ensemble. An absence necessitates repeating educational instruction when the student returns, as well as eliminating the opportunity to develop blend, balance, and precision with the other students in the ensemble. Class work grades will be given once a week and will range anywhere from 0- excessive absences or no participation, to 15- fully engaged participation and attendance every day of that week.

**40% Extra Rehearsals and Performance:** Because the nature of this class is that it is performance based, it is vital that students attend the concert properly dressed and prepared, as well as all rehearsals outside of class. As a co-curricular course, rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the educational process. Absences from rehearsals and performances affect not only the individual who is absent but also the entire ensemble. After school rehearsals are mandatory (necessary to coordinate the logistics of a concert /show) but infrequent and any student unable to attend will not be allowed to perform in the concert or show which will impact the final grade. If a student becomes suddenly ill and must miss a concert or a show, a doctor's note is required on the day of the students return. In rare circumstances, it may be necessary for a student to miss a performance (ie- wedding, funeral). In these cases, advanced notice should be given. Sports, concerts, work, vacations, etc. are not valid reasons to miss a performance. Students must be on time for all activities, especially performances. Learning to be early (on time) now will go a long way towards establishing a life skill that will help students to be successful adults. Please make every effort to consult the attached calendar when planning your year.

**15% Midterm/Exam:** The county provides the schools with a music exam that corresponds to the number of years a student has been involved in a high school music program. The exam will simply be a way for me to measure progress from year to year.

## **Classroom Rules and Expectations:**

- Students are expected to follow **all** school rules and policies while in class.
- No food or drinks (except water) are allowed in the classroom.
- Students will be in their seats with their folder working on the assignment when the bell rings.

## **Choral Handbook Student/Parent Statement of Agreement**

We have read the contents of this handbook and understand what is expected of students. We agree to comply with its policies and understand that its purpose is for the better organization and benefit of the choral program.

In addition, we agree to check the Newsome Chorus website and/or Facebook page on a regular basis, and/or we have provided a valid email address on the forms provided in the First Day Packet, so that we can receive email notification of event changes or updates.

**This form needs to be signed and turned in to Mr. Bogue by Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at Ready, Set, Sing!**

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Student Name (printed)

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Student Signature

Date

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Parent Signature

Date