



Farmington High School **FHS** CHOIR - Fall 2023

Director: Ms. Patton

Phone: (505) 599-8612

Email: kpatton@fms.k12.nm.us

Google Calendar Link: [Choir Events](#)

There is also this same calendar linked to Schoology

Band App QR Code:



Click me!

Helpful Links:

[Google Calendar-Choir Events](#), [Choir Facebook page](#), [Practice Folder](#), [Schoolpay/Donation Link](#), [Make-up assignment](#), [Band App invite](#), [Commitment Contract Form](#), [Syllabus Acknowledgement Form](#), [Letter point-tracking sheet](#), [FHS handbook](#), [athletic handbook](#).

Mission Statement:

*"Harmonizing **Effort**, Elevating **Respect**, Building **Community**, and Nurturing **Musical Excellence**"*

At Farmington High School's Choir Program, we come together to create exceptional music. Through our shared dedication, respect for one another, and collaborative effort, we build a tight-knit community. Our journey is one of continuous learning, where each voice contributes to our harmonious whole. We value growth, respect differences, and create lasting connections. As we raise our voices, we uplift not only our melodies but also the lives we touch. Our legacy is one of unity, musical excellence, and unwavering commitment.

Vision:

"A harmonious community where every voice is celebrated, and musical excellence is achieved through collaborative effort, mutual respect, and unwavering dedication."

Values:

Excellence: We relentlessly pursue the highest standards of musicianship, striving to create music that not only resonates with our audience but also brings a sense of fulfillment and pride to each member of our choir.

Effort: We believe that greatness is achieved through consistent effort, practice, and the willingness to embrace challenges. We approach each rehearsal and performance with a dedication to continuous improvement.

Respect: We treat every voice, opinion, and background with respect and empathy. We recognize that our diversity enriches our musical journey and that by valuing each other, we create a supportive and safe environment.

Community: We foster a sense of belonging and camaraderie, creating a space where all members feel welcomed and supported. Our choir family extends beyond rehearsals and performances, building lasting friendships through shared experiences.

Collaboration: We understand that the most beautiful harmonies arise from working together. By actively collaborating, listening to one another, and blending our voices, we create music that transcends individual contributions.

Growth: We embrace challenges as opportunities for growth and learning. We encourage the exploration of new musical genres, techniques, and styles, allowing each member to expand their horizons and develop as a versatile musician.

Leadership: We cultivate leadership skills by encouraging every member to take initiative, inspire others, and contribute their unique strengths to the group. Through leadership, we empower each individual to make a meaningful impact on the choir and beyond.

Integrity: We uphold honesty, integrity, and ethical behavior in all our interactions. Our commitment to integrity extends to our dedication to practicing and performing with authenticity and genuine emotion.

Innovation: We embrace innovation in our musical interpretations and performances. By pushing creative boundaries and embracing new ideas, we keep our choir program vibrant and relevant.

Empowerment: We empower each member to find their voice, express themselves artistically, and contribute to the choir's success. We recognize that every individual's unique talents contribute to the richness of our musical tapestry.

Gratitude: We cultivate an attitude of gratitude, recognizing the privilege of creating music together. We express appreciation for the opportunities we have, the growth we experience, and the joy we share through our performances.

Legacy: We recognize that our actions today shape the legacy we leave for future choir members. We aspire to create a positive impact on the program, enriching its traditions and contributing to its ongoing success.

Rules and Expectations:

RESPECT - Yourself, others, and the property around you.

BE PREPARED - Music, lined (or staff) paper and pencil. Both should be in a black 3-ring binder. Water bottle filled before class starts.

-And your best singing voice... ALWAYS!

NO GUM and **NO EATING** in class. Only water in a clear bottle with a screw-tight lid will be allowed in class.

NO CELL PHONES - they do not belong in class. If a parent needs to contact you they can call the office to get you a note. They belong in your bag.

BE ON TIME! - A huge part of your grade is based on attendance, so show up on time!

PRACTICE ETIQUETTE - Practice happens at home or outside of class time. Practice is crucial to being successful in this class. Whatever method you use to practice, it should be undisturbed and productive. Practice what you're bad at. Use a metronome. Use your resources all the time. This is not the time to chit-chat with friends. Sectionals in class are considered rehearsals which means you need to come to class with your part prepared to contribute to a group setting.
[Practice Folder](#)

Philosophy: Embrace the journey of learning, where not knowing is just a stepping stone. Remember, effort is essential, even when the answers aren't clear. AKA: It's okay to not know, it's not ok to not try!

Class Description:

CHOIR- The core curriculum of this course will examine the basics of vocal technique, sight-reading, music theory, and music history. The goal of this course is to develop the singer's personal comfort in their own voice while receiving constructive feedback on their singing. Due to the nature of this course, students may be recording themselves as well as reading and

discussing musical topics. There is a minimum of four concerts all students must participate in; fall, winter (potentially combined), Pre-MPA concert, and spring. All concerts are a grade unless otherwise specified. Students must attend dress rehearsals to participate in the concert! If there is, for any reason a student will miss a concert there is a make-up [assignment/paper](#) in schoology alongside this syllabus. Please do your absolute best to make it to these concerts as we don't get another time to perform as a group for an audience.

THE CHOIRS:

Mixed Choir - This ensemble welcomes students of all grade levels, who have been in choir for at least a year, have been vocally assessed by Ms. Patton, and/or are tenor-bass singers. This is a more advanced group, so I will need to do a vocal assessment before joining. This group will be singing the majority in four-part harmony: soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. This group should have a base knowledge of reading music and singing in solfege and will further grow their sight singing skills. This is also the ensemble that does a lot of community outreach so there will be more time required of them outside of class designated hours.

Treble Choir - This choir is for students who can sing Soprano and Alto parts (higher vocal range). This group will focus on the fundamentals of singing and music reading to be able to add their voice to a more complex group in the future.

CHOIR JOBS:

Section Leaders: Students have an opportunity and are incentivized to become a choir section leader. There will be a simple interview with Ms. Patton for each section (SATB) of each choir. Students who earn this position gain incentives such as; personal and leadership development, musical growth, recognition, resume building, looks great on college applications, mentorship opportunities, artistic expression, a sense of belonging, the trust of the conductor, potential for scholarships, networking prospects, and the fulfillment of their passion for music. These incentives collectively offer students a rewarding experience that goes beyond the typical choir membership, enhancing their musical skills and personal growth.

Certainly, a choir section leader takes on the responsibility of guiding and supporting a group of singers within a choir. Their primary role is to ensure vocal excellence, foster teamwork, and maintain the overall quality and cohesion of their section. This includes duties such as rehearsal preparation, attendance management, communication with the conductor and section members, and serving as a musical and behavioral role model in and outside of class times! Section leaders will be in charge of sectionals in and outside of class. Show initiative to grow your group of singers! If I am not available to have the choir room available for you, where else can you go? Someone's house, the park, Applebee's! Etc. Do sectionals always have to be musical in nature? NO! You can build your section through team-building activities, games, and hangouts! This is your family within the choir family! Take care of each other and help our program grow!

Singing Opportunities!

Youth All-State, All-State, District Honor Choir, and District Solo/Ensemble Festival are optional. You may audition for one or more of these opportunities. These activities are how you earn above and beyond grades in this class. [Commitment Contract Form](#)

Youth All-State - Scheduled for January 25th-27th, 2024 at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, NM. Auditions will be similar to years past: a cappella *My Country 'Tis of Thee* and the audition song, singing your own part against the other parts. The audition due date is TBA. Visit nmacda.com for more information. When winning the audition to participate in this event you will need to MEMORIZE the music you are given to perform before the event.

District Solo/Ensemble Festival: Students will perform a classic art song in front of a judge at FHS. There will be a small fee of \$10 associated with this Festival. This is a great opportunity to practice for Allstate auditions or get yourself out there! This event is required if you are planning on trying out for All-State. (*Please refer to the google calendar for dates and times)

All State - Is the cream of the crop of New Mexico Musicians! Individuals will audition in October to be a part of a 3-day event at UNM in Albuquerque to sing with the best of the best in the Mixed or Treble Choirs. The audition consists of a solo of your choice (Ms. Patton can help you pick an appropriate art song), singing your voice part with a group piece, and sight singing. If you win this audition the district will help pay your way! (*Please refer to the Google calendar for dates and times.)

District Honor Choir - Based on director-selected auditions 7th-9th grade students have an opportunity to prepare and perform a concert in ONE DAY! This event will typically be held in November. This is a fun opportunity for students to sing and get to know other singers in the area and make lasting friendships amongst a rewardingly packed musical day. There is a fee of \$25 that comes with a shirt you get to keep!

FLC Honor Choir - This event will have more information as I am informed. One-day event. (*Please refer to the Google calendar for dates and times.)

ENMU Men's Choir Festival - This traveling event is in Portales, New Mexico, and is for changed voice members singing Tenor and Bass. (*Please refer to the Google calendar for dates and times.)

MPA (Music Performance Assessment): Students will perform in the 3rd quarter for a panel of judges who will grade us based on a set rubric. This rubric will determine a grade of 1 - 5, 1

being the highest (superior) score and 5 being the lowest (unprepared) score. These numbers are assigned based on points earned out of 100. If the choir scores an average of 88 out of 100 they qualify to go to state competition in Albuquerque! (I reserve this honor specifically for one of the advanced choir groups.) A student must be eligible to participate in this performance and must participate in this event to travel with us to State Competition. This event is typically held in March. (*Please refer to the Google calendar for dates and times)

NMAA State Choir Contest: This competition happens in April, our MPA scores will determine if we qualify to participate in this event. If a choir qualifies, it will be in Albuquerque, typically at Cleveland High School. The same judging rubric will be used that was implemented for MPA but we will compete against other middle schools across the state! (*Please refer to the Google calendar for dates and times.)

Princess Tea Party: This is a fundraiser for the choir that reaches out to the children in our community! Auditioned members sing Disney songs (audience highly encouraged to sing along!) and dress up in our best prince or princess attire! Snacking on goodies, face painting, chalk drawings, and tiara making while listening and singing along to your favorite Disney prince or princess singing your favorite tunes! High school students and 8th graders are welcome to audition for an opportunity to solo and win the Golden Barbie! Those who are in the advanced choirs are required to participate in this event even if they do not have a solo. There are plenty of jobs to go around and I need everyone to bring or make a goodie to sell at the event! (*Please refer to the Google calendar for dates and times.)

*Eligibility: This class does a fair amount of events and activities outside of class. We travel and have after-school concerts! Therefore, we follow the eligibility requirements of the Farmington High School [handbook](#) and the FMS district [athletic handbook](#) as well! If you are ineligible you cannot participate in MPA, State Competition, or any other extracurricular outside of class activity with the choir. This means your attendance and grades in ALL classes is extremely important!

Lettering:

It is possible, and encouraged, that you try to letter in Choir here and FHS! A letter can be a source of recognition on a resume as well as an asset to you as a musician: it shows your dedication and hard work involving the choir.

Each event throughout the year is awarded a point value. It is up to the student to keep track of their accumulation of points and bring their lettering sheet in for the director's signature. Students must bring in their sheets after each event, on their own time (not class time), to

acquire the director's signature. All events will NOT be signed at the end of the year, keep track as the year progresses.

Students need to accumulate 300 points to receive an FHS letter. For each year after a letter has been received, an authentic FHS Music pin will be awarded to the students upon completion of their points. Each year the points start over.

- New Mexico All-State Ensemble (75 pts.)
- State Competition (50 pts.)
- District Festival (30 pts.)
- Concerts (excluding All-State, State Comp., festival) (25 pts.)
- Auditioning for elite groups! (Youth All-State and State) (10 pts.)
- Solo Preparation (Solo & Ensemble, solos for concerts) (10 pts.)
- President/Vice President/Section Leaders/Librarian (all year requirement) (5 pts.)
- Other outside performances (Anthem, gigs, singing Valentine's, Graduation, etc.) (5 pts.)
- Voice Lessons (5 pts.)
- Above and beyond! (planning events, extra practice, set-up, break down concerts, etc. WITHOUT BEING ASKED!) (2 pts.)

Make a copy of [this sheet](#) if you've lost yours for filling out lettering points.

Class Requirements:

Attendance - Attendance is required for both virtual and in-person environments. Attendance will be reflected in the student's overall grade. *See the eligibility section for further details.

Text/Materials/Equipment - Sheet music will be handed out during each concert preparation. Each student is responsible for their own sheet music and will be charged the current list price if it is lost or damaged. Sheet music should be kept in a standard pocket folder, along with a pencil. This policy also goes for materials and equipment. Risers, dresses, roses (accessories), chairs, music stands, etc. You break it, you buy it. Thank you.

Supplies - The class fee for this class is \$40, which includes a choir t-shirt that you get to keep! Please have in your wardrobe a clean nice pair of jeans with NO HOLES and a pair of all-black long pants (preferably slacks) also with NO HOLES. Black long socks/stockings and black closed-toe shoes. If acquiring any of these items is an issue please feel free to come ask or email me about any issues I can help with, in advance please!

REQUIRED CHOIR FORMS:

[Syllabus Acknowledgement Form](#)

[Commitment Contract Form](#)

Grading Scale Breakdown

Assessments (Concerts and assignments) = 80%

Daily Work (Rehearsals) = 20%

Non-Discrimination Clause:

FMS Policy: "The Farmington Municipal Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age or disability in its programs and activities." If you feel you need accommodations due to the facility or the delivery method in the classroom, please communicate this with the instructor, your guidance counselor, or with the high school administration. See the Student Handbook for more information regarding the FMS Policy. <http://fms.k12.nm.us/FHS-StudentHandbook.pdf>