

John Hersey High School
CHORAL DEPARTMENT GRADING POLICY

The following grading policy will be in effect for the school year and represents a general policy for the Choral Department at John Hersey High School including **all** vocal ensembles. The following has been approved by the choral director and the JHHS administration.

PARTICIPATION - 40 %

"Participation" is a broad idea that includes such criteria as student punctuality, preparedness and remaining on task during class. Students are expected to make daily improvements in their abilities and participation. Twelve points will be assigned to each of the daily rehearsals with the following items being taken into consideration:

Punctuality	3pts	(being "on time" to class)
Preparedness	3pts	(demonstrating correct singing posture/not chewing gum having music folder and pencil at every rehearsal)
On Task:	6pts	(positively contributing to class - not talking)

This system will go into effect beginning Monday, August 31. By the end of the first quarter (Friday, October 30) each student will have had the opportunity to earn a total of 540 points. Failure to meet any of the above expectations will result in a lowering of the participation points. **Ten absences from a class (excused/unexcused) during a given nine-week grading period would result in the loss of 120 points.** This would lower the student's quarter grade by one letter grade unless arrangements are made to make up the rehearsal time with the director.

The penalty for an **unexcused class absence** will be a two-hour detention served with the director **in addition to** any penalty imposed by school policy.

TESTING - 30 %

Written tests on music theory related topics will be given periodically and will cover note reading, rhythmic understanding, dynamic and expressive indications, etc. In addition, the students will also perform voice tests on the concert music that has been practiced in the daily rehearsals.

PERFORMANCES - 30 %

This portion of the grade is based on attendance. It is expected that every student be prepared, both technically and mentally, for each performance. The primary focus of daily rehearsals is to prepare for performances. Therefore, the consequence for an unexcused absence from a performance will be significant and appropriate. Each musical organization's performance is judged by our school, community, our families and, in some cases, judges. One person's absence affects the entire ensemble's performance. A schedule of events will be provided to each student well in advance of every event. Conflicts or problems should be handled before they become an issue!! **Unexcused absence from a performance - loss of 30% of grade.**

EXCUSED ABSENCES

*In order for an absence from a rehearsal or performance to be excused, a note or phone call from a parent/guardian must be received, reviewed and approved by the director **as soon as the student knows of the conflict.** In the case of an unavoidable emergency, a note or phone call must be received on the student's first day back to school or rehearsal. Notification as early as possible allows the ensemble to make adjustments so that every other student, and the program, is not affected. You will have a schedule of events well in advance; take care of problems before they happen!! Students who are employed outside of school may **NOT** use work as an excuse to miss a performance.*

The only excuses that will be accepted after performances will be those involving unavoidable emergencies and sickness.

In the event of an excused absence from a performance, an alternative assignment may be issued at the discretion of the director.

***Percentages above will be adjusted to incorporate Final Exam grades each semester.**

