

2024-2025

# McQueen Choir Handbook



*McQ Choir*

# McQueen High School Choral Music Handbook

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**\*DENOTES PARENT SIGNATURE REQUIRED**

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To expose the students to many different and exciting types of music.
2. To engender and nourish an appreciation for that music.
3. To teach and practice singing in tune using healthy vocal technique in all of our vocal production: warm - ups to performances
4. To teach music theory in order to create musically “literate” students and to use these techniques in class communication.
5. To develop self-discipline, confidence, commitment, responsibility, good decision making, and personal pride in a student.
6. To create an atmosphere of honest work and fair discipline in the classroom to insure an uninterrupted, unhindered study and enjoyment of our art.
7. To create an atmosphere of affirmation in our class experiences wherein it is safe to try new things and learn from experience.
8. To expose the students to a variety of cultures through research and travel experience.
9. To support our Lancer Community through service and performance.
10. To encourage students to work together as a team to produce an excellent product – something to be proud of.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**Bass Choir** is designed for the tenor / bass voice wishing to earn an elective credit by participating in choir. It is an introductory class and there are no prerequisites. Concert performances are required.

**Treble Choir** is designed for the soprano / alto voice wishing to earn an elective credit by participating in choir. It is an introductory class and there are no prerequisites. This is required for all incoming 9th graders who sing soprano and/or alto. Concert performances are required.

**Bel Canto Choir** is a more difficult, faster moving curriculum that is an audition only, treble - voice ensemble. Auditions are open to students who have had at least one year of a McQueen Choir or by director's approval. Auditions are held in the spring for the following year. This class is designed to prepare students for intense performance through a rapidly moving curriculum. Students are expected to be at their very best at all times – in rehearsals as well as on stage. Concert performances are required. This class may be taken for Honors Credit.

**Vox Cantare Choir** is an auditioned ensemble. This class is designed for the advanced vocal student. It is designed to enable students to rehearse and perform in a very small, tightly constructed ensemble with the major emphasis on a cappella selections. Performance and competition at festivals is part of the curriculum, and the students will perform without a conductor as much as possible. This experience will prepare students for performance in a self-directed, professional vocal ensemble. Concert performances are required. This class may be taken for Honors Credit

**Vocal Knights** is McQueen High School's premiere contemporary a cappella group and is an auditioned vocal ensemble that rehearses before the school day. It is a fast-paced curriculum designed to train students in contemporary singing, small group rehearsal, microphone technique and choreography/movement. Students are required to perform at festivals and concerts throughout the year, and must be enrolled in the McQueen Choir program to participate.

**McQ Gig Group** is an auditioned ensemble that often performs at local elementary and middle schools, community events, and dinner parties around the greater Reno / Sparks area. These students are held to the highest musical and academic standards. They are required to maintain a minimum 2.75 GPA with no D's or F's to maintain travel eligibility. This experience will prepare students for performance in a self-directed, professional vocal ensemble. Students currently enrolled in the Bel Canto or Vox Cantare choirs are eligible to audition for this ensemble.

## EXPECTATIONS

### ACADEMIC – Grading Policies

Your semester grades will be a combination of your performance in the following areas:

- 40% Performance (All performance opportunities)
- 25% Connecting (Community Service Project)
- 25% Creating (Daily Rehearsal Skills)
- 10% Responding (Final Project)

### Tests & Quizzes

In-class tests and quizzes will be given with adequate notice. We intend for you to become musically literate (i.e.: you will be able to read, interpret and perform new music.) Tests and quizzes will be written and oral, covering reading assignments, worksheets, class notes and activities, and your music.

### Performances & Rehearsals – Class & Extra Curricular

Concert participation is a heavily weighted part of your grade because performing is the truest test of this class.

All absences must be excused in advance by the directors only. Any student who has an unexcused absence from a scheduled performance or rehearsal will receive a zero for that grade. Only cases of extreme emergency or personal illness will be excused after the fact.

Extra rehearsals will often be called during lunchtime, during Lancers Excel Intervention, after school or in the evening to prepare for performances. These rehearsals will be mandatory and will count toward the final grade.

#### **The following will NOT be considered excused:**

<b>Work</b>	<b>Homework</b>	<b>No Transportation</b>
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### PERFORMANCES – Etiquette & Attendance

1. All students will be given a “call time” for each performance. This call time is usually 30-45 minutes prior to the beginning of the concert or “downbeat.” Do not be late for your call time! Roll will be taken, and the directors will take you through warm-ups and any last-minute changes or instructions.
2. All performing students are to arrive at the call **fully dressed** and groomed for performance.
3. Attendance at your performances is required. You will receive no credit for unexcused absences.

4. Uniforms should be returned to the choir room within 2 school days after a performance. Credit for the performance will not be recorded until the uniform has been properly returned.
5. Every student in McQueen's Music Dept. is required to perform at Graduation. This concert & its dress rehearsal are considered part of your final exam!

**\*Note: Graduation is AFTER the last day of school\***

### **Class Lab Fee:**

1. Fees:  
Students and parents will be required to pay a lab fee that helps to cover a student's annual choir t-shirt, transportation to district performances, a dry-cleaned fitted uniform, and choir binder for the 2023 - 2024 school year.  
Choir Lab Fee..... \$75

### **MUSIC REPLACEMENT PRICE LIST**

Borrowed Folder - \$20.00  
Octavos - \$3.00

### **UNIFORMS – Care, Purchase, Rental & Replacement**

1. Each student enrolled in Bass, Treble, Bel Canto, and Vox Cantare will need a McQueen Choir Formal Uniform (provided by the school) and a McQueen Choir t-shirt for casual performances.
2. Hair should be styled conservatively and out of the eyes.
3. Jewelry should be VERY DISCREET – no dangling earrings, nose/lip rings, large necklaces, or heavy bracelets.
4. Uniforms should be hung neatly and returned to the choir room *within 2 school days after a performance*. Credit for the performance will not be recorded until the uniform has been properly returned.
5. Students will rent their uniforms and will need to pay for replacement of lost or damaged items again.

### **UNIFORM REPLACEMENT PRICE LIST**

Jacket - \$30.00  
Pants - \$25.00  
Shirt - \$20.00

## **FUNDRAISING**

### Chocolate Sales- Ongoing

Students may choose to participate in the Choir's long-standing tradition of selling the "World's Finest Chocolate" bars. This lucrative fundraiser requires the student to sell 1 box (60 \$1 chocolate bars). Once sold, 45% of the proceeds will go into the student's account. This money can be used to pay for Lab Fees, Choir Trips, Uniform Costs, etc.

### Gig Group – Ongoing

Students in the Vox Cantare and Bel Canto Choirs may audition to be a member of the McQueen Gig Group where students will sing at different community events throughout the year. This will require extra rehearsal outside of class-time but can be a fun way to earn money for the choir.

### Driven Fundraising – Late Fall

The quickest fundraiser ever! Designed to help assist students with school and travel fees for the upcoming school year. As a group, each student will send out 20 text messages to their family and friends with a specific link asking for a simple donation. This process is safe, simple, and has proven to be quite effective!

### Craft Faire – October

A traditional fundraiser where students AND parents help to create tasteful treats during McQueen High School's renown "Craft Faire". Making money will never taste sweeter!

## McQueen Choir Staff

**Mr. Brandon Pierce** will be serving his 5th year as Co - Director for McQueen High School Choir. He earned his undergraduate degree in Music Education with an emphasis in Choral Studies from the University of Nevada, Reno. During his time at the university, he founded and directed the AACT Alinea Choir, founded and was President of the UNR collegiate chapter of the American Choral Directors Association, and upon graduating was the Director of Bands and Choirs at Fernley High School. He currently serves as the Co-Editor of the Nevada ACDA newsletter, the Professional Learning Facilitator for WCSD choral educators, the Alumni Relations Officer for the UNR RenoACDA Chapter, and serves on the Nevada All-State Committee. Mr. Pierce is a member of the American Choral Directors Association, the National Association for Music Education, and of Phi Mu Alpha Men's Music Fraternity. When not adventuring with his wife and cat, Momo, he will be in his office in room 507. You may also reach him by email at: [Brandon.Pierce@washoeschools.net](mailto:Brandon.Pierce@washoeschools.net)

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**Ms. Kimberly Li** will be entering her 4th year teaching, and will be serving as the inaugural Co-Director of McQueen High School's Choir Program. Ms. Li has taught choir in Las Vegas since 2021, and holds a bachelor's degree in Music Education from the University of Nevada, Reno. She has previously directed the Durango High School Choirs, Alinea Choir at the Academy of Arts, Careers and Technology (AACT), was the Assistant Music Director for the Sierra School of Performing Arts, the Conducting Intern for Bella Voce of Reno, and served as the President of the UNR RenoACDA Chapter. She is a current member of the American Choral Directors Association and the National Association for Music Education. She also serves on Nevada's Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) as the newsletter Co-Editor and on the All-State Choir Committee. As a Reno native and a proud McQueen alumna, Ms. Li is incredibly privileged to work with a supportive community and is looking forward to creating memorable experiences through music making.

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**Mrs. Lisa Dameron** will be serving her 4<sup>th</sup> year as collaborative pianist and accompanist for the McQueen High School Choir. She has extensive experience accompanying choral ensembles, student soloists, and teaching private lessons. Her past appointments include Dodge City High School in Dodge City, Kansas, Dessert Hills High School in St. George, Utah, and Highland High School in Gilbert, Arizona. She is now privileged to be accompanying the McQueen High School choir and the Billingshurst Middle School choir in Reno, NV. "Music is life, and I hope to always have it close by."



## **CHOIR OFFICERS AND STUDENT LEADERS**

### **President: Nora Morrison**

- Prepare typed agenda for each officer meeting - share with officers in advance so executive board can input information; give completed agenda to all officers at meeting
- Supervise and conduct meetings every other Monday during lunch
- Organize and guide officers throughout the year for all activities
- Organize volunteers for large activities
- Organize and supervise training of the President-Elect
- Meet with Mr. Pierce / Ms. Li at the end of the week to plan out the coming week
- Be the face of the choral organization – helping everyone, everywhere

### **President - Elect: Ruby Woodward**

- Must be a Junior for the 2023-2024 school year and remain in McQueen Choir through graduation of their senior year
- Shadow the President for all activities at all times
- Take over the responsibilities of the President if they are absent
- Must have strong work ethic, love for choir, and love for people
- Must be organized and well spoken, think ahead and plan ahead
- Must be able to take the initiative: know what needs to be done, make decisions on how to accomplish tasks, and delegate to other officers and members of Choir

### **Secretary: Emma Supencheck**

- Attend all meetings, take attendance, and take minutes (or find replacement in the event the Secretary is absent)
- Receive, organize, and communicate all absences from meetings, activities, and notify teachers and Presidents when need arises
- Post minutes to Google Drive and collect contact information for all officers
- Remind all members using “Band” of meetings and other activities
- Organize sign-in sheets for all events; keep track of who attends which events

### **Uniform Officer: Liz Colletti & Kami Lish**

- Assist with disbursing uniforms at the beginning of the year
- Help collect and organize uniforms at the end of the year
- Make sure all students have all uniform pieces at all concerts and events; carry extra uniform parts in case anyone is missing them - keep track of who borrows and make sure they return them

### **Social and Event Coordinator: Olivia Martin & Megan Smith**

- Organize all school events in which Choir participates
- Assist President Elects with organizing events
- Organize regular social events for the McQ Choir Members
- Update the birthday and event calendar in the Choir Room weekly

### **Recruitment Coordinator: Audrey Baumgardner, Viv Kinnamon, and Jaxx Waltz**

- Organize regular trips to Billingshurst and Clayton Middle Schools
- Constantly find McQueen students to join Choir; encourage other Choir members to do the same
- Attend and serve as Choir Ambassador at recruitment nights, back to school, 8th grade nights, etc.

**Historian and Social Media: Addie Colletti & Sophie Drake**

- Regularly update McQ Choir Instagram with choir news and photos, and make sure they are approved before posting
- Take pictures at all events
- Collect pictures from students in all classes
- Put together slideshow for the end of the year awards night
- Coordinate with Yearbook to put together a yearbook page with photos that represent all classes
- Work with the Social and Event Coordinator to keep the website updated.
- Put together Senior Slideshow for Spring Concert and Banquet

**Librarian: Eabha O'Brien & Ollie Paschall**

- Keep extra copies of all music organized and available
- Keep organization of music library consistently updated
- Recycle all old music and stamp all new music
- Organize music library spreadsheet (perhaps over summer)
- Anticipate music needs for the different classes and have copies ready, hole-punched, etc.

**Community Outreach Coordinator: Liana Fowler & Angelo Giammona Wilber**

- Promote Choir Concerts throughout the community (radio, television, posters, ect.)
- Promote Choir Concerts in Northwest community with posters, marquees, and other outreach tactics
- Organize regular community service projects for choir students to participate in
- Organize spirit nights at local restaurants (one / semester)

**Stage Manager: Boston "Bee" Muir**

- Organize with other choir officers at large to help set-up and break down all concerts, including middle school choir concerts
- Get the performance schedule and plan well in advance

**Members At Large: John Bingham, Kira Gallimore, Bryce Hurley, Eabha O'Brien, and Kiana Pursel**

- Attend officer meetings every other Monday during lunches
- Promote the Choir Program within the school and community
- Assist with all Choir events throughout the year
- Serve as an example for other Choir students in and out of class, all the time

**Student Conductors (assistants):****Neptune Bitney, Liz Colletti, and Ollie Paschall**

These students will help to run the choir for which they are an assistant, including but not limited to: taking attendance, leading warm-ups, helping teach music, keeping students accountable, singing with the choir, organizing permission slips, etc. Applicants must demonstrate leadership skills as well as musical ability such that they can teach certain aspects of the class (warm-ups, sight-reading, etc.).

# McQUEEN FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT VALUES



In the McQueen Fine Arts Department,  
**We are Respectful.**

In the McQueen Fine Arts Department,  
**We are Considerate.**

In the McQueen Fine Arts Department,  
**We are Professional.**

**As a member of the McQueen Fine Arts Community, I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the handbook in its entirety and agree to be responsible for the information contained within it. I will uphold the values of our program by being respectful, considerate, and professional—understanding that I always represent the McQueen Music Department.”**

**CONSEQUENCES:**

1. First violation will result in a teacher’s meeting with the student.
2. Second violation will result in a referral to the discipline office and counseling offices with a parent conference to follow.
3. Third violation will result in removal from class with loss of credit.

Signature of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of  
Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Administrative Form 1541

**STUDENT MEDIA CONSENT AND RELEASE FORM –  
SPECIFIC EVENT/ACTIVITY**

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From time to time, a student's name, photo, and/or video is considered for publication and/or display as we publicize programs in the District or upon request by the media. Generally, students may only be videotaped, photographed, and/or interviewed with your written consent.

☐ The District is requesting to videotape, photograph and/or interview your student for the event/activity listed below:

☒ The District has received a request from Brandon Pierce, McQueen HS Choir to videotape, photograph, and/or interview your student for the event/activity listed below:

- Performance: Photos, names in promotional material
- Trips: Photos

Please return this form to: Brandon Pierce, McQueen HS Choir

Please review and sign this Student Media Consent and Release Form. If you have any other questions, please contact the school before signing. Note, this media consent and release form should not be confused with the Opt Out of Student Information document.

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I (*initial one*) ☒ give my permission ☐ do not give my permission for my student, \_\_\_\_\_, to be recorded, filmed, photographed, interviewed and/or for such recordings, films, photographs and/or interviews to be publicly exhibited, distributed, or published along with my student's name, whether undertaken by District staff, a student (as part of a school-approved project), or the media. I understand that information posted on the internet will be available to anyone and for an unspecified amount of time beyond the current school year. I agree that the District may use, or allow others to use, those works without limitation or compensation. I grant permission for the right to edit, use and reuse such recordings, films, photographs and/or interviews for non-profit purposes including use in print, on the internet, and all other forms of media. I release the Washoe County School District and its agents and employees from all claims, demands, and liabilities whatsoever in connect with the above.

By signing below, I verify that I understand the above release.

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_