

# CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL SHOW CHOIRS

## 2011-12 Member Handbook

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### **The Golden Rule**

*“Treat other people just as you would want to be treated.”*

This is the critical rule upon which the show choir program is founded. Always remember that showing respect for someone else will earn respect back for yourself. Never show disrespect to anyone else in the group, other groups, or their property through words or actions. Following the Golden Rule creates a positive atmosphere for everyone.

### **Grade Point Average**

Each show choir member is expected to maintain a 2.0 or “C” G.P.A. each 9-week grading period. Report cards will be consistently examined by the directors the day they are issued. Tutoring is always available for those in need of assistance by people within the program who are capable and willing to help. A pattern of G.P.A. violations will jeopardize your chances of future involvement within the program.

### **Rehearsal Rules**

- Arrive and depart on time. Late arrival (after attendance is taken) **and/or** early departure (before President or Director dismissal) will result in a *minimum* 10-point deduction per offense. Any exceptions must be pre-approved by one of the directors.
- Notify the directors in writing in advance of known conflicts to be considered for excused absences. This notice must occur immediately upon receipt of monthly calendar. Non-emergency medical appointments and other non-school sponsored activities must be scheduled outside of regular rehearsal days (Monday and Wednesday for Knightingales; Tuesday and Thursday for Knight Sensations). Policies regarding unexcused absences will be strictly enforced with grade reductions (loss of all 50 points per rehearsal or performance) and/or performance penalties applied.
- Wear appropriate clothing and/or dance attire. *No jeans or khakis* (long or short) and *no skirts!*

- Wear appropriate shoes as instructed *for both dancing AND running* (tennis shoes, character heels, or dance shoes) during rehearsals, including class time if notified. *No bare feet or flip-flops. **There will be a 5-point deduction per item of incorrect clothing/shoes.***
- Do your part in helping set up and tear down risers and props at the beginning and end of rehearsals as assigned by the stage manager. *A 10-point deduction will apply for failure to help.*
- Pay attention during stretches and warm-ups.
- Once rehearsal begins **all talking stops!** *A 1-point penalty, without exception, will be assessed for each instance of talking. Additionally, physical consequences (running, push-ups, etc.) may be assessed as determined necessary by student or adult leadership.*
- Remain focused on the task at hand during rehearsals.
- Maintain a positive attitude at all times.
- Remain in the room at the end of rehearsal until the director or student board president dismisses the entire group.
- Do not bring food unless special permission has been granted.
- Refrain from playing any musical instruments which may be there.
- Absolutely no cell phone usage during rehearsals. Do not bring your phone into rehearsal in order to avoid distractions. Texting or talking on cell phones while rehearsal is in progress will result in confiscation by the director (returned at the end of rehearsal) and a 5-point deduction.
- You must have your music with you or in your assigned cabinet slot for all pre-announced extra vocal rehearsals (outside the school day).

### **Performance Appearance Rules**

- Have on all uniform pieces and proper undergarments.
- Wear appropriate travel apparel as assigned.
- Show choir Polo shirts, assigned pants (K.G. – black / K.S. – khaki), and dress shoes must be worn at all times before and after competition performances.
- Show choir track suits must be worn into and out of competition sites.
- Be dressed and ready at designated times.
- Failure to meet rules will result in a minimum grade reduction and/or ineligibility to perform.

#### *Ladies:*

- Have nails painted neatly in assigned color.

- Have on all assigned jewelry. *Do not wear unassigned jewelry on contest day.*
- Makeup should be on and done as directed.
- Hair should be done as directed, including hairpieces. *No hair color changes are allowed after your hairpiece is individually matched to you! This applies through the last competition of the season.*

*Gentlemen:*

- Hair cannot pass the collar of the suit or tuxedo jacket.
- No facial hair is allowed.
- No jewelry is allowed.

### **Competition and Performance Rules**

- We are **always** being judged, officially or unofficially.
- Be confident, friendly, and keep a smile on your face.
- Be careful, quiet, and quick with the set-up and tear-down of risers and props.
- Stay on schedule as directed by student board members.
- Stay out of the way of the next group.
- Remain as a group unless instructed otherwise by the directors or student board president.
- Members may not change clothes in the same room with the opposite sex unless a room divider is present.
- No one besides choir members and specified adults are allowed in homerooms and warm-up rooms before competitions.
- Show good sportsmanship to other schools.
- Do not speak negatively about anyone, whether in our program or another school's. Be respectful and quiet when other groups are performing.
- P.D.A. (Public Display of Affection) is inappropriate at all times. Hand-holding is the only allowable exception, per school policy. Please use common sense in this area.
- Stay out of other schools' homerooms and prop / staging areas.
- Bring personal valuables at your own risk and keep them out of sight.
- In order to be excused from riding home on the bus, your own parent or guardian must give a written note directly to one of the directors granting permission **prior** to competition day. This is the *optimum* scenario. In the event circumstances require a last-minute change of plans, on contest day itself your own parent or guardian must find Mrs. Chambliss to sign an official release statement. This can only be done exclusively through her cannot be secured from

Mr. Adcock, any chaperone, or booster club or student officer. Due to the interest of your safety and school legal liabilities, any infraction will result in the complete loss of all points for the weekend.

- No one in the program may leave a site (*regardless of parent permission*) until all eligible Castle groups have competed in evening finals and director permission has been granted.

### **Bus Rules**

- Keep the bus clean and pick up any trash.
- Ride ONLY the bus assigned to you both directions. Switching buses is not allowed due to attendance accountability.
- Everyone stays after the trip until jobs assigned by the student officers are finished.
- **Be polite** (i/e saying hello, thank you, etc.) to your bus driver and chaperones at all times and respect their instructions.
- No loud talking.
- Do not bother **anyone** who wishes to sleep.
- No singing.
- Be quiet over railroad crossings.
- Inappropriate P.D.A. is prohibited. *This applies to both opposite and same-gender scenarios.*
- Once attendance starts, **all talking stops!**
- Upon arrival at the hotel, remain on the bus until a director or chaperone releases you by room. Dismissal order will be staggered from week to week.
- At a competition, everyone must be silent and focused once we arrive on site.
- A portable DVD/CD player or iPod is allowed ONLY with headphones.

### **Hotel Rules**

- Members must follow the group's itinerary, *regardless of parental presence.*
- Be *quiet* upon arrival. We normally arrive late and there are already other people trying to sleep. If noise complaints from a specific room can be traced back to yours, you will pay for that room!
- Upon arrival, retrieve your bags and go quickly to your assigned room. Buying snacks, showing off new pajamas, visiting with parents, surfing hotel computers, etc. are not acceptable.
- Respect the hotel's property.

- No one allowed in a room occupied by a member of the opposite sex.
- Refrain from making any loud noises (yelling, radio, jumping, etc.)
- Do not run in the halls.
- Be in the room at announced curfew and stay there.
- **Go to sleep A.S.A.P.** – this is why we spend money for a hotel! This is a privilege which could be revoked.
- Be ready to go in the morning at the designated time.
- Leave your room neat and orderly – just as you found it. (Refer to the first point under “Competition & Performance Rules.”)

### **Staging**

- Stack risers as instructed.
- Do not step on or kick levers and connectors.
- Do not slide the risers as surface scratching will result.
- Take good care of any props assigned to you and only use those specific to your part of the show.
- Keep them in and return them to the correct place.
- If any assistance is needed by the stage crew in loading or unloading the equipment trailer, be willing to offer it without complaint.

### **Use of Controlled Substances**

In keeping with the classy and wholesome image of a C.H.S. show choir member, smoking, drugs, and alcohol do not have a place in our program. Therefore, regardless of your age, *if the director determines by a majority of the evidence that you have consumed or been in possession of the above items; or misused, sold, or distributed these items, you will be placed on probation for the first offense and declared INELIGIBLE for further participation for the second offense.*

## **Statement of Agreement**

I understand the high honor that comes along with my role as a member of the show choir program at Castle High School. I also know that there were many other students who would have loved to occupy the spot that I was privileged to earn. I pledge to the directors, my fellow members, and the entire school community that I will do everything in my power to uphold the high standards set forth over many years by previous members of our program, and that I will do my best to carry on the tradition of EXCELLENCE which has been established.

I will respect and abide by all the governing rules and policies set forth in this handbook, regardless of whether or not I personally agree with each of them, and I will let my director know if I feel someone else is not keeping his or her commitment as well.

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_