

MANSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS 2008-2009 School Year

WELCOME! Choirs play an important role in the music program here at MHS. Available to all students, the choral organizations provide a release from the regular academic schedule, develop group discipline and responsibility, and open the door to a deeper involvement in school and community.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: As taken from the Southern Tioga Curriculum Offerings and Course Description Guide: "Chorus is a performance ensemble open to all students in grades 7-12. From this ensemble, select groups are organized. Usually two concerts a year are prepared and performed. Attendance at all concerts is mandatory. Students participating in chorus come to understand and are able to perform music in a variety of styles from various periods of music history. Selections may be sung in Latin, African, German, Spanish, French, and English"

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- To provide an opportunity for students to experience and develop creativity, sensitivity, cooperation, organization, responsibility, discipline, and self esteem
- To develop good vocal technique
- To gain an appreciation for different styles and genres of choral music
- To learn the basic elements of music (rhythm, melody, harmony, note names, texture, dynamics, expression)

REHEARSAL RULES:

1. Be on time. If you arrive late to chorus, you will be sent to the office for a late pass. You will also receive a deduction in your grade for negative participation (see 'grading' section) An accumulation of 3 tardies will result in a detention.
2. No Gum! Also, no food in the auditorium with the exception of a water bottle. If you are caught with gum, food, or drink in the auditorium, you will be sent to the office and/or be required to come to a re-teaching session during your lunch time or after school. You will also receive a deduction in your grade for negative participation (see 'grading' section)
3. Come to chorus with the right attitude. Be positive and productive. This group is only as good as you make it!
4. Be responsible and careful with your music; Your music is your responsibility. **Any damage to your folder or your music will be paid for by YOU. Report cards or grades will be withheld until music is returned.**

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

REHEARSALS: Students are expected to attend all rehearsals. Students who must be excused from a rehearsal must provide a school pass prior to leaving rehearsal. Passes from other teachers will be honored at the discretion of Mr. Faust.

TARDINESS: Tardiness is unacceptable in any class. My expectation is that you are in your assigned seat with your folder in your hand, ready to sing when the bell rings (or at the time assigned if there is no bell). Failure to adhere to this rule will result in a trip to the office for tardiness, as well as a deduction in your chorus grade for the day.

REHEARSAL ABSENCE: Any student who is absent from a rehearsal for **any** reason must make up the rehearsal to receive the points for the day. A number of alternative assignments will be available, including written assignments, singing during an office hour, or another assignment that will enrich the chorus experience. Students have 5 days to schedule a make-up assignment before the rehearsal points change to 0%.

PERFORMANCES: Chorus is a performing ensemble which requires the participation of all its members in order

to achieve the highest degree of success. ***Attendance at all performances is mandatory for a passing grade. Students who work are expected to notify their employers of performance dates well in advance of all performances. Work excuses will not be accepted. Not having a ride to the concert is not a legitimate excuse either.*** Students missing performances due to illness, death in the family, or unique circumstances must provide a documented excuse upon their return. **If you have a trip scheduled for the time of the concert, you must notify Mr. Faust before the end of the second week of school** so that an alternative to the concert may be made. **After the second week of school, other scheduled trips/vacations will not be excused. DO NOT ASK!** In the event of a missed performance for any excused reason, an alternative assignment will be given in order to make up for the concert. Any unexcused, missed concerts will also result in exclusion from music department field trips.

PERFORMANCE DATES: Mark your calendar TODAY!

WINTER DATES:

Sun, Oct 26, All Day, District Chorus Tryouts (10-12 Senior High)
Sat, Sept 27, 6:00-?? Miss 1890's (Jubilation)
Mon, Nov 17, TBA Dallas Brass Concert, ALL INVITED!
Sat, Nov 29, Morning, Home for the Holidays (Jubilation)
Mon, Dec.8, 7:00, Jr Chorus/Band Concert (Junior High)
Thu, Dec.17, 7:00, Senior High Chorus Concert (Senior High)
To Be Announced, Jubilation Caroling/Party (Jubilation)

SPRING DATES:

Jan 14-17, District Chorus (Select H.S.)
Feb 18-21, Regional Chorus (Select H.S.)
April 16-18, District Jazz (Select H.S.)
April 22-25, PMEA All State Chorus (Select H.S.)
Friday, May 1, PMEA Songfest (Select Junior High)
Mon, May 11, 7:00, Jubilation/Jazz Band Concert
Wed, May 13, 7:00, Senior High Chorus Concert
Tue, May 19, 5:00, Music in the park ALL INVITED!
Wed, May 20, 7:00, Jr. Band/Chorus Spring Concert
Sun, May 31, 2:30, Baccalaureate, (Jubilation)
Sat, June 6, 11:30, Graduation, (Jubilation)

additional performance dates will be discussed among the members of pertaining groups and will be agreed upon by the members of the group with advance notice to all members

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE:

Appropriate female attire:

Appropriate length dress or skirt for stage seating (**over the knees**)
Dress slacks and blouse, shirt, or jacket, **NO SNEAKERS**

Appropriate male attire:

Dress shirt (front buttoning) and necktie
Dress slacks, **NO SNEAKERS**

****If you are unable to obtain appropriate attire for concerts, please see me at the beginning of the school year and we can work something out.****

GRADING: All students begin with a 93%. The rest of the grade will be based on the following:

1. Participation in class:

Students will be graded daily on a 10 point/day rubric. Points are based on participation and preparation. If a student shows positive contributions to chorus, points will be added. If a student shows negative contributions, points will be deducted. Students start with 9.3 points each day when they walk into the classroom. This score will add up to a 93% if the student shows no noticeable negative or positive contributions towards the chorus during the school year (otherwise known as just showing up and kind of singing). This 10 point/day rubric will make up the greatest percent of the student's grade.

Points will be added for (up to 2 extra points per day for any combination):

Showing extra energy, preparedness, and concentration

Exhibiting exemplary behavior and positive attitude

Good posture/vocal technique

Demonstrating a desire to learn and improve

Raising hands and asking/answering questions

Being a contributing member to the group by making your voice heard, both in singing and commenting

Demonstrating knowledge of musical subject matter including memorization of music, use of editing marks (dynamic, accent, breath, etc...)

Participation in extra non-required assignments (points vary based on time commitment):

- Extra choral ensembles: Jubilation, dancers, instrumentalists for concerts
- Trying out for solos/festivals
- Attendance & evaluation of outside concerts (marked on the auditorium door)
- Other extra credit opportunities (marked on the auditorium door and announced)
- Stage setting for MHS concerts

Points will be subtracted for:

Tardiness (2 points for the day)

Absence which has not been made up (0% for the day)

Unexcused absence from concert: **-35% of term grade per concert**

Negative contribution to the choir:

- Disobeying the rules as stated on previous page
- Inappropriate, distracting behavior in class
- Forgetting music or pencil
- Not demonstrating knowledge of musical subject matter including not memorizing music, not using the editing marks (dynamic, accent, breath, etc...)

Grading Rubric for Negative Contributions (calculated on a per-day basis)

1. First offense- Verbal or written warning and 2 point deduction
2. Second offense- Written warning and 5 point deduction
3. Third offense- Office write-up or removed from the group for the day and 0%

Severe Negative Contribution Clause

If a student chooses to blatantly and/or maliciously cause a serious classroom disruption, the student may immediately be penalized on a third offense scale.

2. Quizzes/Assignments:

Written:

- Signed acknowledgement form by Friday of first week. (10 points) Deduction of 1 point per day after due
- Written music assignments (up to 30 points per assignment)
- Musical knowledge quizzes (note id., articulation, rhythm, dynamics, editing marks, score knowledge, etc...) (up to 20 points each)

Singing:

- Memorization quiz (20 points each)
- Solo/group graded recordings (10 points each)

NOTE: These rules may seem strict, but they are in place so that we can all enjoy chorus and have a good time making music with our “team”. These rules are also good guidelines so that you can know what is expected of you as well as the positive and negative consequence of your actions. I am sure we are going to have a fantastic year!!! Thank you for choosing to be here, and I look forward to an outstanding year with you!

MHS Chorus Acknowledgement Form

Due by August 29, 2008

In an effort to conserve our natural resources, the MHS music department has chosen to post our syllabi on our website rather than handing out a paper version. Please visit www.mhstigermusic.com and click on the 'syllabus' link in the Junior or Senior High Chorus section to see the whole syllabus. If you are unable to access the site, or would like a paper copy of the syllabus for your records, please have your son/daughter ask me for a copy.

You can also access a full and updated schedule of music dates in the 'calendar' link of the site. We will post pictures, class projects, and many other great items in the site throughout the year, so please bookmark us!

LEGAL STUFF:

I have read and understand all of the rules and regulations for chorus. I am aware that chorus concert attendance is mandatory, and that the concert is worth 35% of the final grade for each term. I have been made aware of all performance dates and times, as well as the proper attire for chorus concerts. I know that if I cannot acquire the proper attire, or will be unable to make it to the scheduled concert for a pre-planned reason, I have until the end of the second week of school to make Mr. Faust aware of this in writing so that arrangements can be made. I also understand that failure to participate in the chorus concerts for any unexcused reason, or an excess of negative contributions to the group will result in exclusion from any music department field trips AND the removal of the student below from chorus for the next academic semester or year

Student Name (Printed): _____ **Signature:** _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____ **Signature:** _____

Consent for student to be video/audio taped

By signing this form, I give consent for my child to be video and/or audio taped during class and concerts (in accordance with the Southern Tioga's video consent policy) for purposes of teaching, critiquing and archiving performances.

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Consent for Photo to be posted on the Internet

This is a new consent so that we can post pictures of your students in a small group or individual setting on our music department website. This year we plan to catalogue our events online so that we may share our memories with you! By signing below, you allow us to post pictures of your student online at www.mhstigermusic.com.

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

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