

## 2009 - 2010 HANDBOOK

### PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK

This handbook is designed with the following objectives in mind...

- To serve as an operational guide for the students, parents, and director
- To develop a systematic approach to the teaching and organization of the middle school choral program
- To help avoid misunderstandings due to a lack of awareness of policies and procedures

### SKILLS AND CONCEPTS

The following skills and concepts will be introduced and/or developed by means of choral literature appropriate to the needs and abilities of the student.

- Correct singing posture
- Tone production
- Rhythm and precision with the ensemble
- Pitch perception
- Scales and related techniques
- Diction and pronunciation
- Tempo, dynamics, and articulation
- Balance, blend, and musical expression
- Basic concepts of music theory and history

### EXPECTATIONS

Chestatee Middle School has high expectations for all students. With hard work, cooperation, and a good attitude, our program will be a success. The following are minimum requirements for each chorus member.

Chorus members should...

- Be responsible for my own actions and materials
- Only take items pertaining to the class into the chorus room
- Only enter the director's office upon request
- Not take food, gum, or drinks into the chorus room at any time
- Participate at all times during class, rehearsals, and performances
- Use correct posture while singing
- **Always** have a pencil and a notebook
- Participate in **ALL** choral concerts and required activities
- Not whine or complain
- Show respect and earn respect

### RESPECT

One of the most important character traits an individual can possess is **RESPECT**. I have listed some definitions of respect below. Please look over these definitions and think about them as you participate, not only in choral activities, but all activities. Remember, if you give respect, you get respect.

1. To have an attitude of esteem towards others (ex. Respect one's elders)
2. To pay proper attention to; not violate (ex. Respect your teachers and their requests)
3. To show consideration for; treat courteously and kindly (ex. Respect your peers)

## **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Each chorus member is required to have a choral notebook and pencil during each class meeting. Students without these materials will receive a lowered participation grade for each day he/she does not have them.

## **GRADING**

The grading procedure for each choral student will be consistent within his/her performance level. All areas graded include, but may not be limited to the following:

### **Vocal Assessments (30%)**

Vocal assessments will be given throughout each grading period. These assessments will be simplistic and short in length. Each student will be given a singing assignment and will be required to perform the assessment in front of the class.

### **Concert Participation (30%)**

This year's planned concert dates are printed on the "CMS Chorus Calendar." On occasion, an ensemble may be asked to participate in a function that wasn't planned at the time the calendar was printed. In these cases, you will be notified as soon as possible.

### **Classroom Participation (20%)**

Classroom participation is very important for a performing organization. We must work as a team to be successful. This includes attendance, behavior, attitude, timeliness, preparedness, and respect.

### **Tests and Quizzes (20%)**

Tests and quizzes are a great way to measure the knowledge of a student. Tests and quizzes will be given periodically throughout each grading period and will assess the student's knowledge of music theory fundamentals.

**CHAMBER CHOIR (Beginning Choral Ensemble)** – Provides opportunities to develop performance skills and knowledge in ensemble singing. May include choral literature from any style period. Covers performance and production, analysis and theoretical studies, historical and cultural influences, creative aspects of music and appreciation of music.

**CHAMBER CHOIR GRADING\*** - *Vocal assessments, concert participation, classroom participation, tests, and quizzes will make up 85% of the students final grade. A final exam will be given at the conclusion of the school year with an overall weight of 15%.*

*\*Note: The grade from this class will contribute to the high school grade point average (GPA) but will NOT contribute to the HOPE average.*

## **CONCERT ETTIQUETTE**

As a musician, performing is very important. Likewise, it is important for musicians to respect other performers. As an audience member, you should...

- Remain seated during performances. If you must leave during a performance, please exit quietly between selections.
- Not talk during performances. Talking is extremely distracting to both the performer and the audience.
- Applaud appropriately.

## **ISSUED MUSIC**

Music issued to students belongs to the Chestatee Middle School Choral Program. It should be returned in good condition. Any pencil marks made in the music should be erased before it is returned to the director. Students will be charged for lost or damaged music.

## **MAKE-UP WORK**

Make-up work will be assigned to students who do not attend a performance and have been granted an excused absence. All make-up work must be completed within one week of its assigned date in order to receive full credit for the assignment. Exceptions will be made for emergency situations, sickness, or a death in the family, provided there is a doctor's excuse or a note from a parent or guardian.

## **PERMISSION FORMS**

Students must have a permission form on file in order to perform off-campus. A permission form is available online at cmschorus.com or students may request one from the choral director. This form should be signed and returned as soon as possible. Students without permission forms on file will not be allowed to attend off-campus events.

## **UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS**

Students participating in any choral performance will be representing Chestatee Middle School, and the chorus uniform is required for the majority of those performances. The uniform costs \$70.00\* and consists of...

### **GIRLS**

Black formal dress (*purchased through the CMS choral department*)  
Black flat shoes (*purchased separately*)  
Black hose (*purchased separately*)

### **BOYS**

Black pants (*purchased through the CMS choral department*)  
White tux shirt (*purchased through the CMS choral department*)  
Black vest (*purchased through the CMS choral department*)  
Black shoes (*purchased separately*)  
Black socks (*purchased separately*)

*\*If you are unable to provide the appropriate funds, please feel free to contact the director privately.*

Please follow these guidelines when dressing for performances.

1. Wear the uniform described above in its entirety at performances
2. Have your uniform on when you arrive
3. Shirts and pants should be ironed (guys)
4. Shirts should be tucked in (guys)
5. Do not take the uniform off until leaving the performance
6. No jewelry will be allowed that is visible to the audience (girls may wear small earrings)
7. Hair may be worn up or down without accessories.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Eric Elliott, Choral Director

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Planning Time - 8:30AM – 9:30AM