Oak Hill Middle School

Choral Handbook

2016-2017



“The concert is the celebration of what has already happened.”

Amanda Jones, *Director*

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http://oakhillchorus.weebly.com

Oak Hill Middle School

356 Blandy Rd

Milledgeville, GA 31061

478-457-3370

*Welcome!*

Welcome to Oak Hill Middle School Chorus!

Welcome to an awesome new year for the Oak Hill Middle School Chorus family! The choral program here will be dedicated to helping students find their musical voice through a comprehensive, rigorous, student-centered environment. Students will work both individually and with their peers as they learn to read music, understand and apply music vocabulary, and perform quality choral repertoire. My aim is to provide your child with an experience in which he/she will grow not only as a musician, but as a successful young adult.

Your support will make all the difference in helping this to be an unforgettable and educational experience. I appreciate your commitment as a chorus parent to the Oak Hill Middle School choral program.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide an overview of what to expect from being in chorus, as well as the goals and requirements needed to succeed in the program. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. It is important that you read these papers and return the required forms to indicate that you and your child have:

1. Read and discussed this information together
2. Thoroughly examined and notated the calendar section
3. Completed the contract and signed up for Remind101

Thank you very much for allowing me the opportunity to work with your child. I look forward to seeing and meeting you at performances, conferences, and other events.

Sincerely,

**Amanda Jones, Director**

*Choral Classroom Procedures*

**Behavior**

All students are expected to follow the policies set forth by Oak Hill Middle School and the Baldwin County School system. With the number of students trying to rehearse and learn within a single class, all students are EXPECTED to follow the same code of conduct, which is as follows:

1. Be Respectful - Respect authority, respect others, respect yourself.
2. Be Responsible – Follow instructions the first time and always be prepared with folder, pencil and water!
3. No food or drink (except water). ­­­NO gum.
4. Make mistakes confidently.

**Consequences**

If a student has difficulty following the classroom rules, the following consequences will result:

1st Offense – Teacher acknowledgement and verbal warning

2nd Offense – Loss of daily participation points, behavior is noted

3rd Offense – Parent contacted, administration notified if necessary, may affect outside trips/performances eligibility

**Schedule Changes**

In order to create the most effective experience for your child, it is important to note that Chorus is a long-term commitment. There is much more to becoming a skilled singer and musician than simply belting out to a song on the radio. It is a rewarding, yet challenging activity, and from time to time, students may feel frustrated. As teachers, our job is to encourage students to work through those frustrations and strive for improvement. We hope each student will remain in the program through high school and beyond, but if he/she feels the need to drop music, it may be done at the end of the semester, unless special permission is given.

*Grading*

Chorus will be following the school-wide grading scale.

**Classwork (60%)**

This includes, but is not limited to: all work done in class, including preparation and class participation. assignments,

**Quizzes (20%)**

This includes, but is not limited to: Written quizzes and singing assessments.

🡪 Small group and individual singing assessments will take place periodically throughout the year. Any singing assessment (other than a sight-reading assessment) will be taken from material covered in class, and students will have time to prepare the material.

**Tests (20%)**

This includes, but is not limited to: Concerts, and LGPE (Large Group Performance Evaluation.)

🡪 Concerts are performance evaluations of classroom materials, and are the final exams of concepts studied. They are the culmination of weeks of hard work and practice, and give students the opportunity to display their musical skills and talents. Students are expected to attend all concerts, and are given concert dates very early in the year to assist in scheduling. A student who cannot attend a concert for any reason will need to submit an audio-tape, video, or CD of the student performing the music individually for a performance evaluation.

**Bonus (TBD)**

Students will be given opportunities to earn additional points by participating in outside ensembles, auditioning for State and Honor choruses, attending extra rehearsals, taking private lessons, attending music concerts, etc. The director may award extra points on an individual basis, and students wishing to earn extra points must have director approval BEFORE the event or assignment is completed.

\*\*\*Further important details regarding attendance and excused/unexcused absences can be found on the Attendance Policy page.

*Required Materials & Uniforms*

**Required Materials**

The following items are required of all chorus students *every day*, unless students are otherwise instructed.

MUSIC FOLDER

- all music and classwork to be kept in music folder (either binder or folder, MUST have pockets.) This folder will be kept in the Chorus room.

- students will be responsible for replacing lost sheet music

- lined loose-leaf paper

PENCIL

-sharpened

-no pens!

**Uniforms**

When the Oak Hill Choirs perform, either at the school or elsewhere, chorus students are representatives of our school, and our community. Uniforms are required for chorus members in order to present a more professional appearance as an ensemble.

All Choirs:

All black. Black shirt (no t-shirts with writing), black dress/pants/skirt, black socks, black shoes (no flip-flops or sandals, please.)

Other:

No flashy jewelry. Small earrings are allowed, but please refrain from wearing necklaces, and bracelets. Hair should be styled appropriately and out of the face. Look professional!

*Attendance Policy*

This is a performance-based class. As such, students are expected to be present at all called rehearsals and performances. Each voice is crucial to the ensemble’s overall sound, therefore each person is important to the success of a performance.

EXCUSED: *Only family emergencies or extreme illnesses will be accepted as excused absences from a performance or rehearsal.* Written notification from a parent/guardian is required to be excused. Students with an **excused** concert absence are required to make up the grade by recording/singing their vocal part on all performance repertoire, due one week after the performance date. Make-up assignments for **excused** rehearsal absences are at the director’s discretion. Unexcused absences may affect a student’s eligibility to participate in other activities, including trips.

*Georgia Choral Standards*

1*. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music*

*2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music*

*3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments*

*4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines*

*5. Reading and notating music*

*6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music*

*7. Evaluating music and music performance*

*8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines*

*outside the arts*

*9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture*

*Join Remind!*

It is highly recommended that you sign up to receive periodic messages from Oak Hill Middle School Chorus regarding all kinds of important deadlines, due dates, and events.

How to sign up for Oak Hill Chorus text messages:

Text this Message:  **@oakhill6**(for 6th Grade)

**@oakhill7** (for 7th Grade)

**@oakhill8** (for 8th Grade)

To: 81010

*You can opt-out of messages at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe @[the same phrase entered above]'.*

\*Standard text message rates apply.

OR...

How to sign up for Oak Hill Chorus email messages:

Send a blank email to: **oakhill6@mail.remind.com** (for 6th Grade)

**oakhill7@mail.remind.com** (for 7th Grade)

**oakhill8@mail.remind.com** (for 8th Grade)

*You can opt-out of emails at anytime by emailing the same address, with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.*

*Check out our blog!*

www.oakhillchorus.weebly.com

Handbook Contract

**Oak Hill Middle School Chorus**

I have read the 2016-2017 Oak Hill Middle School Choral Handbook and reviewed with my child the policies and procedures contained therein. I understand that there may be extra rehearsals for extra-curricular events outside of the school day. I agree to the uniform requirements as stated in the handbook. I understand my child has been encouraged to make a one-year commitment to the chorus program.

The policies set forth in this handbook are subject to change or amendment at the discretion of the principal or the choral director. I understand that I may contact Ms. Jones if any questions or concerns arise regarding the choral program.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to be contacted (via the email provided above) when the choral program needs volunteers for concerts, LGPE, day trips, and other events.