

Hilliard Memorial Middle School
Choral Department

**Choral Handbook
2018-19
August 22, 2018**

Ms. Kelsey D. Burkett, Director 7th & 8th Grade
Women's Choirs
Mr. Jeremy Witt, Director 7th & 8th Grade
Men's Choir



@JagChoirs



"Like" Hilliard Memorial
Middle School Choirs



Email is the easiest way to contact us!
Please feel free to contact us with any
questions or concerns.

Welcome to the Memorial Middle School Choirs!

We are thrilled you have chosen to be a part of the MMS Choirs and we are very excited to be your directors! We know we will get the opportunity to work with so many talented students throughout the upcoming school year. Enclosed is valuable information detailing performances, events, procedures, and opportunities for music making.

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He who sings scares away his woes ~ Cervantes

Concert Information

Think of concerts as a unit test or a final exam. Every member's contribution is a vital part of the concert experience. It is imperative that all singers attend.

*Excused absences via written note will only be accepted **TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE** and must be approved by the director. Only illness (school absence) or emergency situations (death, car accident) will excuse a student. In these cases, a note must be brought to the director the day after the concert or as soon as the student returns to school. The director is not obligated to accept late notes, and these absences will be considered unexcused. **An unexcused concert absence will result in the deduction of one letter grade.***

*For missed concerts with appropriate notification, a **written assignment** will be given and will be due within 5 school days of the missed concert.*

Concert Uniform

The uniform for concerts and all performance events (unless otherwise specified) consists of the following: MMS Music Polo Shirt*, black dress pants (no denim, leggings, or sweatpants), black socks, and black dress shoes (ladies, no heel), black belts for the men. Hair must be *completely* up and pulled back from the face. Men with longer hair will need to have it combed back or secured. Stud earrings are permitted, but no necklaces (unless of a religious nature), no watches, bracelets, or rings. Please refrain from using perfume, cologne, or scented hairspray as to not aggravate the allergies of your director or others around you. If necessary, students are asked to wear BLACK head coverings.

While the uniform policy may seem strict, MMS Choirs are known for singing AND look fantastic! Let's continue to maintain this tradition!

*Shirts are \$15 and payment is due **Friday, September 7** Payment can be made in money order or check (made payable to *Hilliard Music Boosters*.)

Grades

Choir members earn points by attending concerts, daily participation, music checks, voice tests, quartet performances, extra credit, etc.

◆ Weekly Classroom Participation (50 Points, weekly)

*Students will be graded weekly based on the Jag Choirs Rubric Grading System, which includes all expectations and procedures. Points will be tallied based on the Rubric System. (See attached).

◆ Solfege Assignments Journal (25 Points Each, Quarterly)

*Each student is responsible for completing their own solfege within their music and uploading into Canvas by the given due date (ON TIME.). Late assignments receive an automatic 5 point deduction. The max amount of solfege assignments per nine weeks is four songs.

◆ Tests and/or Sight singing (Various points)

*singers will have periodic score quizzes on their music, singing tests, musical terms, etc.

◆ Concerts (100 Points per 9 Weeks)

*As previously stated, concerts are a key part of the choir experience. Please see first page for further details. Students should also be aware of *concert etiquette*. Etiquette as a choir member and audience member will be assessed as part of your concert grade. Singers are expected to conduct themselves in a mannerly fashion and control themselves at all performances. 50 Points will be for concert attendance and participation. The other 50 Points includes proper concert uniform, behavior, arriving on time, proper audience etiquette, etc.

Traveling

The MMS Choirs travel occasionally. This year we will go to King's Island with the MMS Bands and Orchestras. This trip is not mandatory. Students who achieve an A- or higher throughout each nine weeks period in choir will be eligible to go.

EXTRA PERFORMANCES

The MMS Choirs have a reputation for excellence, and therefore, may be invited to sing for outside opportunities. It is the expectation that all singers perform for these outside performances. Advance notice will be given.

BLUE NOTES

The Blue Notes are our extra-curricular acapella group. Membership is by audition only. They will rehearse on Tuesdays from 2:45-4 PM. Auditions will be held at the beginning of the school year. Additional information will be provided.



MMS JAG CHOIRS RUBRIC GRADING CHART

Student Name _____

Choir/Period _____

Week of _____

	Excellent 10 Pts	Satisfactory 8 Pts	Showing Improvement 6 Pts	Needs Improvement 4 Pts	Unsatisfactory 0-2 Pts
Rules/Procedures <i>Shows respect for the choir room, class, and choir materials. Refrains from gum chewing and device use during rehearsal.</i>	Arrives on time. Follows rules/procedures when entering, during, and while exiting class in a positive way. Tries to help others to do the same.	Mostly arrives on time. Generally, follows rules/procedures when entering, during, and while exiting class. Needs a few reminders.	Makes a conscious effort to follow rules/procedures when entering, during, and exiting class. Is showing signs of continued tardiness.	Continually needs reminders to follow rules/procedures entering, during, and exiting class. Excessive tardiness. Makes little effort to change behaviors.	Shows blatant disregard for the rules and procedures of the classroom after continued intervention and reminders.
Supports Class Learning <i>Is kind towards others and contributes in a positive way.</i>	Always supports class learning with positive behavior and self-control; is an elite role model for others.	Generally supports class learning with positive behaviors and self-control; offers to help others.	Sometimes shows consistent improvement in supporting class learning and self-control.	Needs reminders to support class learning and self-control. Does not make an effort to help others.	Does not support class learning. Does not listen to the instructor and does not stay on task.
Active Involvement <i>Is on task; participates willingly and watches/is attentive to the conductor.</i>	Willingly participates in class with a positive attitude. Listens to directions from the instructor and always follows them.	Generally participates in class; follows choir music and usually follows directions from the instructor.	Makes effort to improve participation and to follow directions from the instructor.	Participates very little during class. Poor attitude. Rarely follows choir music and directions from the instructor.	Does not participate appropriately during class. Does not listen to the instructor. Does not stay on task.
Singing Posture and Expression Sings with appropriate vocal production, physical cues, energy, and emotion.	Sits up straight/stands with outstanding posture for singing. Always exhibits appropriate mouth shape, breath support, and choral tone. Communicates energy and emotion when singing.	Generally sits/stands up straight and is ready to sing. Attempts to show energy and motion when singing. Mostly exhibits appropriate mouth shape, breath support, and choral tone.	Usually shows appropriate posture for singing. Needs prompting to stand up properly. Sometimes shows energy and emotion when singing.	Occasionally sits up straight and is ready to sing. Needs continuous re-direction and prompting. Sometimes does not sing or sings with improper technique.	Does not use appropriate posture or technique. Unwilling to follow in directives given. Rarely sings.
Written Solfege and Assignments Written solfege and assignments are completed on time, successfully uploaded into Canvas, and with outstanding effort.	Written assignments are up to date with complete, accurate entries, uploaded into Canvas, with outstanding effort.	Written assignments have most entries up to date; student has made an effort to keep up with assignments. Upload into Canvas was one-to two days late.	Written assignments are mostly up to date with accurate and complete entries. Upload into Canvas was three-four days late.	Written assignments are somewhat completed. Student has made some attempts to complete assignments. Upload into Canvas was a week late or student needs reminding.	Written assignments have limited or no entries. Student has made little attempt to complete assignments. No uploads into Canvas.

Memorial Middle School Choir Department
2018-19

August 28: Blue Notes Auditions (2:45-5 PM, Choir Room)

September 29: Blue Notes Retreat 11 AM-4 PM

October 11 :**Fall Choir Concert**** MMS Cafetorium 7 PM (call time 6:15)

December 3: **Holiday Festival**** MMS Gym 6-9 PM
*Staggered Concert Times TBD

March 19: **World Music Concert**** MMS Cafetorium 7 PM (call time 6:15)

March 21-24 OAKE National Choir Conference Honor Choirs (Selected Students) Hyatt Regency, Columbus OH

May 16: **Choir Awards & Finale Concert**** MMS Cafetorium 7 PM
(call time 6:15)

May 18: Band, Choir, & Orchestra King's Island Trip ALL DAY

May 31: MMS Talent Show (During School)

****Events are Mandatory for Choir Members**

Hilliard Memorial Middle School Choral Department
Handbook Return Packet 2018-19

Please list any possible conflicts with mandatory events you may have (please be advised that club sports will not be considered an excused absence):

HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Please return to Ms. Burkett or Mr. Witt no later than Friday, September 7, 2018

We have read and understand the policies and procedures governing the ensembles and activities of the Memorial Middle School Choral Department. We have recorded all scheduled performances and deadlines on the family calendar.

Student Name (Print)

Student (Signature)

Parent Name (Print)

Parent (Signature)

Parent Email Address:



MMS Choirs
Behavior Contract

The MMS JAG CHOIRS are offered as an elective at Memorial Middle School. The MMS Choirs have established a reputation of excellence both as performers and ambassadors of the Hilliard City Schools. Members of the MMS Choirs will be held to the highest standard both in and out of the classroom. These are the expectations for those who wish to be a part of the MMS JAG CHOIRS.

MMS Choirs. Creativity. Character. Community.

1. The student will fully participate during rehearsal and performance, since it is their choice and privilege to be a part of choir.
2. The student must strive to act with class and integrity at all times.
3. No profanity in the classroom or during any activity involving choir.
4. The student will refrain from chewing gum during rehearsal. Only water is permitted in the performance and rehearsal spaces.
5. Rehearsals and performances are a red zone at all times, with the exception of the iPad, which is to be used for music only, unless otherwise indicated by the director.
6. The student may use the restroom upon politely asking the director.
7. The student must keep their hands and feet to themselves at all times.
8. Rehearsal begins promptly at the bell. The student is to be finished with all conversations, snacks, and have all materials ready when the director begins warm ups.
9. The student will follow directions the first time they are given.
10. At **ALL** times the student will show through their behavior that they are a **positive choir member.** (RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, INTEGRITY).

*Failure to adhere to these expectations may result in the following:

*Lunch Detention

*Parent Email/Contact

*Office Referral

*Removal from Choir as your elective

I, the choir member, have read the following contract and understand the rules and their consequences.

Printed name _____ Signature _____

I, the parent/guardian, have read the following contract and will help and support my child to abide by the contract. Printed name _____ Signature _____

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