



Dear Moultrie Chorus Parent/Grandparent/Guardian,

Welcome! I am so happy to have your child in the Moultrie Middle School Chorus, and I can't WAIT to teach them. I have MISSED having students so much!!!!!!

This year is, of course, going to be subject to change as we remain in unprecedented times. In this document, you will find important information about the choral program and a **calendar of performances** throughout the year. Please complete the google form: [Handbook Acknowledgement](#), which will clarify some policies and expectations. This form is due Wednesday September 16th. Please read each section carefully. Please know that I am 100% here for you and your child. As a parent of a middle schooler, I can certainly relate! **The students that complete more than one year of chorus have a distinct reputation in our building for low discipline problems, school involvement, and academic achievement.** I know you are glad to hear that! I look forward to a great year!

Most sincerely, Alysia Lambert  
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For most students, chorus is an all year exploratory class. It is not like elementary school where it is a "special area" and you are guaranteed a grade of an A. There are assessments and required components to complete, therefore, this class should be treated with the same care and concern as your four core classes. Chorus classes are open to all students at Moultrie Middle School. Students will study and perform a diverse repertoire of choral music, improve skills needed for reading music, gain an appreciation for music from other cultures and historical time periods, learn the anatomy and physiology of the voice, and how to work towards a shared goal as a group.

**Participation in the Chorus program at Moultrie helps to fulfill the goals of the *Profile of a South Carolina Graduate* by providing world class knowledge, world class skills, and life and career characteristics in the following ways:**

- **Creativity and Innovation** - Much of the music we study has been around for a long time. Our challenge is to make it new again through our performance and interpretation.
- **Critical Thinking and Problem Solving** - In a performance class, we are constantly evaluating our performance, identifying the problems, and working hard to determine multiple solutions.
- **Collaboration and Teamwork** - Chorus is the ultimate team sport. No one sits on the bench. Choral performance is impossible without collaboration.
- **Integrity** - In chorus class, we operate under the idea that Character is what you do when no one is watching. Kindness and Truth count in our classroom.
- **Global Perspective** - We will enjoy studying music from many genres and areas of the world to give us a deeper appreciation for diversity.
- **Perseverance** - Learning new music is not easy. We may not even like a piece of music that we are studying even when it has been chosen for its overall benefits. Students learn to work for the delayed gratification of a performance and through that, many challenges must be overcome.
- **Work Ethic** - The difference is in the details. In music, precision is key which means everyone doing the exact same thing at the exact same time in the exact same manner. This level of excellence requires a hardworking mindset.

## **Fees**

The choral program has a provided budget of \$250.00 for the entire year to cover all costs. Therefore, participation in this class requires a fee. The fee is \$25 and can be accessed on [Revttrak](#). This fee includes a one year subscription to Sight Reading Factory , a chorus t-shirt, and the cost of concert music and other supplies.

## **Uniforms**

The chorus fee includes a t-shirt which we will order for your child. For the fall and spring concert, they must wear dress code approved shorts or jeans, no leggings. Any reasonable type of footwear will be acceptable. For the formal uniform this year, students can choose an outfit made up of dresses or skirts (please mind the length!), pants (no jeans and no leggings unless worn under a long tunic or dress), shirt with a collar or a nice blouse for (no-tshirts), in ANY COMBINATION of these basic colors: black, white, red, green. NO GYM SHOES, please.

## Grading Policy

### 1. Daily Instruction and Formative Assessments = 25%

Students must complete the daily BELLRINGER in Canvas. Formal and Informal assessments will be given weekly to measure student progress over time.

### 2. Performances = 25%

Chorus is a performing arts program; therefore, students are expected to attend **ALL** performances and rehearsals. Attending these events is part of every student's grade. The performance calendar is included in this handbook.

To receive full credit for concerts, each student must:

- a. Attend all scheduled performances and arrive on time.
- b. Demonstrate appropriate behavior as a performer and audience member.
- c. Wear the uniform as instructed

**It is best to avoid scheduling family events, appointments, etc. during the time students are expected to be with the chorus.** If a student misses a performance/rehearsal unexpectedly due to illness or an emergency, a separate note explaining the situation should be sent to the director and signed by the parent.

### 3. Summative Assessments (Tests and Projects) = 25%

Students will be evaluated on the musicianship content once a quarter. The weekly formative assessments will be designed to equip the student with the necessary knowledge and skills for a successful performance.

### 4. Vocal Assessments = 25%

These will be assigned in Canvas and Sight Reading Factory.

**Please consider signing up as an observer in Canvas.** This will link to your child's assignments, due dates, announcements, etc. This is **in addition to the parent portal** for PowerSchool. Here is a helpful link:

<https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Observer-Guide/How-do-I-sign-up-for-a-Canvas-account-as-a-parent/ta-p/540>

## Behavior Philosophy

### 1. Be Kind.

Chorus students are encouraging, uplifting, and kind. We do not speak poorly about others and we look for ways to "fill each others' buckets".

### 2. Be respectful.

Chorus students are on time. We listen when someone is speaking. We do not interrupt. We treat school property with care.

### 3. Be Responsible.

Chorus students are prepared for class, trips, and concerts. We set an example in the school. We complete our work and study for tests.

## **Common Behavior Expectations**

1. Be quiet the first time you are asked.
2. Follow all directions, especially with regard to social distancing and mask wearing, and most especially at performances.
3. No gum! Automatic teacher managed referral
4. Have your device and agenda everyday. Automatic teacher managed referral
5. No bathroom passes without an agenda.

## **Rules as posted in the Classroom**

*Leave belongings at the Boards- including **PHONES!** You only need your Chromebook & water bottle. (Chorus students also need music and a pencil.)*

*No agenda? Then, it has to wait.*

*No eating. Please don't be **sneaky.***

**PARTICIPATE! DO SOMETHING!**

*Do not move the furniture. please remain in your assigned seat.*

The following issues may also result in a **teacher managed referral**: Dishonesty, Disrupting Class, Dress Code Violation, Failure to Complete Work, Hall Pass Violation, Horseplay, Identification Violation, Inappropriate Affection, Inappropriate Behavior, Inappropriate Language, Inappropriate Materials, Littering, Phone Violation, Running, Tardy, Throwing Objects

*These teacher managed referrals are cumulative SCHOOL WIDE. We believe in addressing the minor discipline problems so we prevent the major ones.*

1-5 infractions = parent notification

6 infractions = parent notification and BIC lunch/recess

7 infractions = parent notification and guidance intervention

8 infractions = student-parent-teacher conference, office referral

# **Chorus Calendar 2021-22**

**Bold items are for a grade.** sections that meet at different class times.

**9/16** Required Parent Meeting 6 pm in person (chorus room) or on Zoom

**9/24-10/7** Optional Chorus Fundraiser for Carowinds

**10/7/21** All grades Fall Concert at Mount Pleasant Farmers Market

6th grade @ 6:00pm (students arrive at 5:45 pm),

7th grade @ 6:45pm (students arrive by 6:30 pm),

8th grade @ 7:30pm (students arrive by 7:15 pm)

**12/9/21** All grades Holiday Concert at East Cooper Baptist Church OR Hibben UMC

6th grade @ 6:00pm (students arrive at 5:45 pm),

7th grade @ 6:45pm (students arrive by 6:30 pm),

8th grade @ 7:30pm (students arrive by 7:15 pm)

**5/12/22** All grades Fall Concert at Mount Pleasant Farmers Market

6th grade @ 6:00pm (students arrive at 5:45 pm),

7th grade @ 6:45pm (students arrive by 6:30 pm),

8th grade @ 7:30pm (students arrive by 7:15 pm)