

Mansfield High School

Choral Handbook

2009-2010

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"Do you think this is the right place James?"

Mr. Faust
Vocal Music Teacher

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

“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”

INTRODUCTION

This purpose of this handbook is:

- for students to be clear of their responsibilities in the MHS Vocal Music program
- for students to commit to the performance dates of their respective choir
- to ensure that all students are held by the same standards and are graded equally
- to promote a positive education and classroom experience
- to give all students the opportunity to have an awesome spring semester!

GOALS OF THE VOCAL PROGRAM

1. To make music!
2. To establish a comfortable learning environment for everyone
3. To promote creativity, cooperation, respect, and self-esteem
4. To refine the essential skills of music (melody, rhythm, harmony, reading, note names, dynamics, expression, etc.)
5. To educate about proper vocal technique including intonation, vowel formation, and diction
6. To encourage musical performance throughout life regardless of alternate career paths

SPECIAL NEEDS

Mansfield High School is equipped with many helpful aids for students requiring special needs considerations. If there are any considerations I can incorporate please inform me immediately.

IMPORTANT WINTER DATES

* Required concerts for the appropriate full MHS choirs are bolded

October

23 – Friday All Day Young Men’s Choral Fest at MU (Select Junior High)
25 – Sunday All Day District Chorus Try-outs at Williamsport High School

November

19 – Thursday All Day Tioga County Music Festival (Select Junior High)

December

12 - Saturday ??? Home for the Holidays, Caroling, Party (Jubilation)
15 – Tuesday 7:00 Jr. Band/Chorus Winter Concert
16 – Wed. 7:00 Senior High Chorus Winter Concert

IMPORTANT SPRING DATES

May

10 - Mon 7:00 Jubilation/Jazz Band Concert
12 - Wed 7:00 Senior High Chorus Spring Concert
18 - Tues 5:00 Music In the Park (All invited!!)
19 - Wed 7:00 Junior. Band/Chorus Spring Concert
30 - Sun 2:00 Baccalaureate (Jubilation)

June

5 - Sat 5:00 Graduation at Straughn Auditorium (Jubilation)

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Rehearsals:

You are expected to attend all rehearsals for the entire duration. If necessary you may be excused with a pass only if approved by Mr. Faust. Anyone absent for **any** reason will receive 0 points for the day and will be responsible for making up the points within five school days of their absence by completing an alternative assignment (see **GRADING**)

Tardiness:

Choir at MHS is a **class** and should be treated as such. Be in your seat when the bell rings (or at assigned time). You will be marked absent if you arrive late without a pass. Any unexcused tardiness will not be accepted and will result in the loss of two points (see **GRADING**). In addition, three tardies will result in a detention

Concerts

The concert schedule has not changed and is listed in this handbook (see **IMPORTANT DATES**). Attendance at the concerts is **MANDATORY** for students enrolled in choir and an unexcused absence will result in a loss of **35%** of your final course 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.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

1. Be Positive!
 - Any performance opportunity (and rehearsals are performances) is a chance to improve yourself both as a musician and a person.
 - Express yourself through music and leave the rest at the door.
2. **Be in your seat when the bell rings** (or at assigned time)
 - Attendance takes too long with so many people. It is important that you are in YOUR seat when the bell rings.
 - You will not be marked present if you arrive late without a pass
 - **Three tardies will result in a detention**
3. Absolutely no food, gum, or liquids (other than water)
 - Each time you are asked to dispose of something you will lose one point (see **GRADING**)
4. Bring your music and a pencil
 - You will be responsible for your own music. Each day you do not have your music or a pencil you will lose one point (see **GRADING**)
 - **RANDOM CHECKS FOR PENCILS WILL OCCUR!**
 - Any damaged or lost music is your responsibility (see **MUSIC CONTRACT**)
5. Do not speak out of turn.
 - You will be expected to raise your hand at all times.
 - **Talking with a neighbor WILL NOT be tolerated**
 - There are nearly 100 members of each chorus so it is not acceptable to talk out of turn
6. Be positive and participate!
 - We are here to make music and each of you has wonderful contributions to bring so do it. YOU make this group possible!

CELL PHONES

CELL PHONES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN ANY REHEARSALS REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT SCHOOL IS GOING ON. **THEY WILL BE CONFISCATED!!**

GRADING

All students begin the year with a 93%. This is an automatic 'A' to start out with. The rest of the grade will be based on the following:

Daily Points

Students begin each day with 9.3 points. 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% for daily points if the student shows no noticeable negative or positive contributions towards the chorus during the school year (otherwise known as show up and sing). This 10 point/day rubric will make up the greatest percent of the student's grade.

Concert Attendance

It is essential to attend performances outlined in the **IMPORTANT DATES** section. Any concerts missed will result in the full loss of this portion of your grade.

Quizzes

Written:

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

Singing:

1. Memorization quiz (20 points each)
2. Solo/group graded recordings (10 points each)

BONUSES: 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 extra positive attitude

Demonstrating 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

DEDUCTIONS: 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 removal from the group for the day and 0%. You will contact your parent or guardian and tell them why you are receiving a 0% for the day.

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.

Absence

- Absences will result in a complete loss of points (4) for the day. Excused absences may be made up by completing other tasks (see **Making Up Points**)

Tardiness

- Arriving late without a pass (loss of two points)
- Arriving late with less than 10 minutes of the class period remaining (loss of three points)

Preparation

- Forgetting pencil (loss of one point). Random pencil checks will happen!
- Forgetting music (loss of one point)
- Not knowing music that has been well rehearsed (loss of one point)

MAKING UP POINTS

- All make-up points must be pre-approved by Mr. Faust.
- You may make up **excused absence** or **quiz** points by completing any of the following (no more than two points per quiz): Stage setup and teardown, practice points, concert reports, singing for Mr. Faust, trying out for solos, or other written assignments.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

It is expected that all students come to all concerts dressed appropriately. Appropriate dress is as follows:

- Complies with all Mansfield High School and Southern Tioga School District Dress codes
- Female – **BLACK AND WHITE**
 - Dress or skirt with length over the knees
 - Dress slacks with blouse, shirt, or jacket
 - Black shoes with black socks (if wearing socks)
 - **If you wear sneakers they must be all black**
- Male – **WHITE SHIRT AND BLACK PANTS**
 - Front buttoning dress shirt with necktie (not bowtie)
 - Dress pants
 - Black shoes with black socks
 - **If you wear sneakers they must be all black**

****If you are unable to obtain these items please contact me IMMEDIATELY and we will work it out****

THANK YOU

Let's all follow the rules so we can focus on having an exceptional class. Please contact me by email with any questions, comments, or concerns. This is an exciting semester so get ready to make some excellent music!

MHS Chorus Acknowledgement Form

Due by August 28, 2009

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: _____ **Signature:** _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ **Signature:** _____

Consent for student to be video/audio taped

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.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Consent for Photo to be posted on the Internet

This is a new consent so that we can post pictures of our 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.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

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