

# Harris Road Middle School



## Choral Handbook

Director of Choirs: Ms. Rachel Juliano

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# HRMS Choir Students

## Welcome!

Dear Choir Students and Parents,

WELCOME to the 2022-2023 school year! I hope you are looking forward to a wonderful school year. I have created this handbook so that parents and students can be aware of the policies in my classroom as well as how much time, practice and effort goes into being a part of a choral program. Please read the following carefully. Feel free to contact me Monday thru Friday via email at any time.

I look forward to working with your students this year and I look forward to meeting you!

Thank you for your support this year!

Sincerely,

*Ms. Rachel Juliano*

# **Choirs Offered at HRMS**

There are 3 choirs at Harris Road Middle School. All the choirs offered are built into the school day. Those choirs are 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Mixed Chorus, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Mixed Chorus, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mixed Chorus.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Mixed Choir** – This choir is offered to all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students interested in studying the art of choral singing. This choir will consist of two voice parts. Soprano and Alto. This choir will help students begin to expand their voices through exploring different types of music literature.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Mixed Choir** – This choir is offered to any 7<sup>th</sup> grade student that wishes to continue their study in the art of choral singing. This choir will consist of two voice parts. Soprano and Alto. In this choir we will possibly start to try to sing three-part music but that depends on the student's voices. This choir will continue to expand upon the knowledge established in 6<sup>th</sup> grade choir.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mixed Choir** – This choir is offered to any 8<sup>th</sup> grade student that wishes to continue their study in the art of choral singing. This choir will consist of three voice parts. Soprano, Alto and Baritone. This choir will continue to expand upon the knowledge established in previous choirs but will prepare students for singing at the high school level.

# **Chorus Student Expectations**

- Be respectful, polite, and kind to Ms. Juliano
- Be respectful, polite, and kind to other chorus students
- Participate in class every day with your best effort
- Exhibit appropriate behavior and language
- Be present at every performance, with the appropriate concert attire
  
- Take care of your voice and body
- Stand or sit with correct posture when singing
- Sing and perform with exceptional technique and expression
  
- Have all materials needed for class
- Take care of sheet music, the piano and chorus risers
- Dispose of all food, gum, and drinks other than water before rehearsal
- Cell phone use is prohibited during rehearsal

## **Consequences**

If a student does not follow the student expectations listed above at any time the following is possible in no particular order.

- Student – Teacher Conference
- Behavior Slip
- Parent Contact
- Redirect to IDEAL
- Office Referral

# **Grading Policies**

Grades are based on total points earned by the student. The biggest portion being performance attendance (see section below). Students will be assigned singing quizzes which will be completed at home. Students will record themselves singing an assigned section of music that they have learned in class. Students will have the opportunity to resubmit the assignment up until the due date. Singing quizzes will be posted 1 week before the due date. Once the due date has passed then 1 point per day will be taken off the grade until the assignment has been submitted.

All students will be given the opportunity to turn in any assignment, for at least partial credit, from the assigned date until 1 week prior to the end of the grading quarter. Once, the date has passed no exceptions will be made for late submissions. Below are the final submission dates for the school year.

Quarter 1 – Friday, October 21, 2022

Quarter 2 – Friday, January 13, 2023

Quarter 3 – Friday, March 17, 2023

Quarter 4 – Friday, May 26, 2023

# Performance Attendance

**PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY!** However, I know that conflicts do arise. If a conflict does arise, I will require communication from a parent or guardian explaining the conflict *one week prior to the performance*. Then the student will be required to complete an assignment to make up the missing grade. Any conflict brought to my attention after the deadline or an absence from the performance will result in a zero. This is a case-by-case basis and is at the discretion of Ms. Juliano.

**Performance Attire:** Performance attire should be professional and is required for all performances. All grades are required to wear one of the below options. Pants should NOT have holes or be faded. No leggings, sweatpants, or athletic attire will be accepted.

## **Outfit Options:**

- **Option #1**
  - Black Dress Pants or Long Skirt
  - Black Panty Hose
  - Plain White Shirt
  - Closed Toed Black Dress Shoes
- **Option #2**
  - Black Dress Pants
  - Plain White Button-Down Long Sleeve Shirt
  - Long Black Tie (No Bow Ties)
  - Black Dress Socks
  - Black Dress Shoes

## **Required School Performance Dates:**

**Wednesday, December 14, 2022**

**Thursday, May 25, 2023**

# Required Classroom Items

Students will be required to bring to class on a daily basis the following items:

- **1-inch 3-ring binder:** This binder will be used to hold music used for rehearsals. Students will be responsible for bringing this to class every day.
- **Pencils:** We will be using pencils (NOT PENS) to do our daily classroom work. Make sure these pencils have good erasers. I recommend the plastic mechanical pencils. Students will be required to have a pencil every day.

## Choir Fees

Please pay this fee via k12payments. If you need to pay a different way, please contact Ms. Juliano.

- **Required** - \$10 Class Fee
  - This fee covers general upkeep of the equipment, facilities, music and other costs. Fundraising money cannot be used. All Cabarrus County Schools require this fee.



## **All-County Choir**

In February students will have an opportunity to participate in the Cabarrus County Schools Middle School All-County Choir. Students will learn extra music for this event. There will be extra rehearsals that are mandatory for students to attend. More information will be made available closer to the event.

## **Honors Chorus**

Students that wish to audition for the North Carolina High School Honors Chorus will be required to audition for Ms. Juliano. If the student passes the audition, they will work with Ms. Juliano before school to learn the audition piece and practice sight-reading. At the audition, students will be asked to sing a section the piece that they learned. If the student is chosen to sing with the Middle School Honor's Chorus, they perform at the NCMEA Conference in Winston-Salem in November 2021. More Information will be available closer to the time of the event.

## **MPA**

Students will travel to Wingate University to perform at the NCMEA Music Performance Adjudication (MPA). At this event students will perform 2 selected pieces of music for 3 judges and receive ratings and feedback based on their performance. They will also participate in a judged sight-reading session. More information will be available closer to the time of the event.

# Field Trips

Students will be given the opportunity to take extra outings with the choir. Students will be given the option to raise money for these trips through fundraising or the student can pay out of pocket for the trip cost. Field Trips are not a required part of the course; they are used as something fun that the students can work towards.

For a student to be eligible for field trips they need to be passing chorus with a **75% or higher**. If behavior in the classroom or school becomes an issue Ms. Juliano holds the right to not allow a student to accompany the choir on the trip. If during the performance period, a student receives 2 or more days of in-school suspension or any out-of-school suspension they will not be eligible for the trip.

*Fall Performance Period – August – December*

*Spring Performance Period – January - June*

If a student has paid to attend a field trip and does not attend or becomes ineligible to attend, they will not receive a refund. A refund will only be given if the student suffers an unexpected medical emergency or death in the family.

# Fundraising Agreement

1. Students' involvement in any fundraiser is voluntary, unless otherwise stated.
2. If a student chooses to participate in the fundraiser, they are financially responsible for any materials that are included with that particular fundraiser. When the fundraiser is over students are responsible for:
  - a. All unsold items, in the condition that they were received.
  - b. All money that was raised through the sale of fundraiser items.
3. If students fail to return unsold items or money that was raised:
  1. They will owe the choral program the full value of the items that were in their possession.
  2. They will not be permitted to participate in future fundraising activities.
  3. They may lose privilege to participate in choral performances and events.
  4. Their report card will be held, and they will not be allowed to graduate.
4. Once the student's items have been accounted for and money has been received for the sold fundraising items the student **WILL** be given the opportunity to participate in choral performances, events, future fundraising activities (i.e. Steal money, misrepresent the nature of the fundraiser, etc.) will be prevented from participation in any future fundraising activities and will be punished to the full extent of the school's disciplinary policy.
5. Students who are dishonest in any fundraiser (i.e. Steal money, misrepresent the nature of the fundraiser, etc.) will be prevented from participating in any future fundraising activities and will be punished to the full extent of the school's disciplinary policy.