

Union Grove Middle School Handbook



2013-2014

Union Grove Middle School Chorus Handbook

General Information

210 East Lake Road
Sarah Hart- Choral Department
McDonough, GA 30252

School Phone:
678-583-8978
Email: sarah.hart@henry.k12.ga.us

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Welcome to Chorus!

Dear Chorus Member and Parents,

Welcome to the Union Grove Middle School Choral Program. As director, I am anticipating a very exciting year full of educational and enriching experiences through learning about and performing quality choral music.

I am very excited to be returning to UGMS this year. This is my eighth year as a chorus director in Henry County. Previously I taught choral/general music in the state of Indiana. I am looking forward to getting to know our new students and parents and continuing to develop relationships with our returning students and parents.

This handbook states the guidelines and organizational policies of the choral department. Chorus members and their families are expected to be familiar with the contents herein. Please read the handbook thoroughly. Please return the acknowledgement form given to students and note that it needs to be signed by both student and parent. Pay special attention to the tentative calendar and be sure and mark the dates that involve all chorus students.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Ms. Sarah Hart

Choral Department Philosophy Statement
Enriching Lives through Music

It is the philosophy of the Union Grove Middle School Choral Department to provide students with learning experiences in music that will contribute to a meaningful life. Students will be provided with a positive and reinforcing learning environment while rehearsing and performing high quality music literature. Students will learn the basics of note reading, proper singing technique and music theory through written and sung exercises and assessments.

Students in the chorus program will be provided the opportunity to grow in self-motivation by participating fully in all class activities, rehearsals, and concerts. Character building will play an important role in the development of singers and ensemble members.

The Union Grove Middle School Choruses contribute to the school community by performing at various concerts, events, and contests. Chorus students will represent UGMS in an exemplary manner in performance, conduct, and attitude.

Course Description

All Chorus classes are designed to instruct the student in the art of singing. The emphasis is on vocal technique development and performance. We will also build a foundation of music theory knowledge. **This is a CO-CURRICULAR course that requires in-class commitment as well as isolated after-school commitments from parents and students.**

Class Rules and Expectations

1. Be Prompt, Prepared, and Positive!
2. NO gum or candy unless given permission or given by teacher.
3. Get permission before talking or leaving your seat.
4. Respect teacher, students, and yourself.
5. Give 100%!

Chorus Discipline Procedures

The following is a list of consequences if one of the above expectations are not met.

- 1st ✓ - Verbal warning
- 2nd ✓ - Citation , Parent Contact, deduction from weekly participation grade
- 3rd ✓ - Citation, Parent Contact, deduction from weekly participation grade
- 4th ✓ -Citation, Parent Contact, deduction from weekly participation grade
- 5th ✓ - All of the above and office referral

* Please note that in all Connections Classes, four citations result in an office referral.

Grading Policy

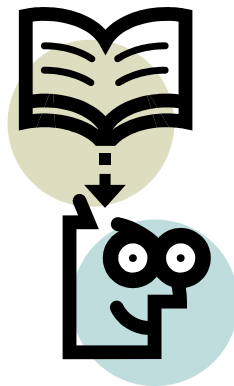
Chorus grades will be based on the following criteria:

Daily Class Work (participation), Concert attendance-70%

Written work, assessments both written and performance-based (singing tests)-30%

Grading Scale

90-100	A
80-89	B
74-79	C
70-73	D
Below 70	F



Chorus Attendance Policy
(Excused, Unexcused, Tardies, Make-Up Procedure)

The UGMS Chorus Program's Attendance Policy supports that of the Henry County Schools' Secondary (Grades 6-12) Student Handbook.

Excused

In order for a missed performance to be excused, the director must have received a parental note in writing/email at least 2 weeks in advance in order for absence to be considered for excusal.

Excused absences will have the opportunity to make up work missed for partial credit. Since an actual performance can not be made up, a written assignment will be assigned. Make-up work is assigned at the director's discretion.

Unexcused

Unexcused absences will not have the opportunity to make up work missed.

Tardies

Student tardies show disrespect to their performing group and cause rehearsal delays and disruptions. Please make sure to have your student to all rehearsals and performances on time.

Attire and Fees

All attire fees are payable to UGMS Chorus by cash, check or money order.

6th, 7th, 8th Grade Mixed and Treble Chorus

All choruses will be wearing the black chorus polo. In addition to the chorus polo, all Chorus students will wear black dress pants with black belt, and closed-toe black shoes for all performances. **Black pants must be dress slacks, no capris, jeans, or athletic pants will be permitted. It is extremely important for students to look as professional as they will sound at performances so please adhere to the attire requirements.** Students will also have a Chorus t-shirt to wear on school spirit days and other designated times. **Sixth Grade students must purchase the polo shirt and t-shirt. Seventh and Eighth Grade students will only need to purchase the black polo if they have misplaced, outgrown, or never initially purchased.** Pricing information will be sent home the first week of school. The black pants and shoes are to be purchased on your own **well in advance of the first scheduled performance.**

Fundraising

Fundraising is an opportunity for the program to raise funds to enhance students' musical experiences. We will be participating in a cookie dough fundraiser in the fall and candle sales in the spring. More details will be sent home as the dates draw closer. Profits from fundraising will go directly to the chorus.

Chorus Calendar 2013-2014

This is a tentative calendar of Chorus events. As the year progresses additional performances will be added. Please remember that performances are mandatory, so mark your calendars accordingly. **HCPAC stands for Henry County Performing Arts Center which is located next to Henry County High School. Commons and Gym locations are at UGMS.**

- | | |
|---|--|
| September 16-17 | Chorus Cookie Dough Fundraiser
Kick-off |
| *Tuesday, October 15, 2013 | Sixth and Seventh Grade Fall Choral Concert-Commons 6th @ 6:00 p.m.
7th @ 7:30 p.m. |
| *Thursday, October 17, 2013 | 8th Grade Fall Choral Concert Commons-6:30 p.m. |
| Saturday, October 12, 2013 | First All State Chorus Auditions
Woodland High School-Stockbridge
*selected students only |
| Friday-Saturday
November 8-9 , 2013 | District VI Middle School Honors Chorus
*selected students only |
| *Thursday, December 5, 2013 | Winter Choral Concert 6/7-HCPAC
6th Grade 6:30 p.m./ 7th Grade 7:30 p.m. |
| *Thursday, December 12, 2013 | Winter Choral Concert for 8th Grade Commons-7:00 p.m. |
| February 14-15, 2014 | Sixth Grade Honors Chorus-Tifton, GA
*selected students only |
| March 17-22, 2014
Specific dates and times TBA | Large Group Performance Evaluation
Harps Crossing Church-Fayetteville |
| *Tuesday, May 20, 2014 | Spring Choral Concert HCPAC
6th Grade 6:30 p.m./7th Grade 7:30 p.m. |
| *Thursday, May 15, 2014 | 8th Grade Chorus, Band, and
Orchestra Fine Arts Extravaganza
7:00 p.m.-Gym |

PLEASE KEEP THIS COPY FOR YOUR REFERENCE

2013-2014 Choral Department Contract

The choral handbook can be viewed online at schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/ugm, click on teachers, Sarah Hart, then the Choral Handbook link. If you need a hard copy of the handbook, please let me know.

We have read the entire Chorus Handbook and understand its contents. We understand no set of rules and regulations can cover every situation or problem that may arise during chorus activities. It is hoped that the tone set by these policies will serve to act as a guide in any circumstances not covered within.

We understand that chorus is a unique, performance-based, educational experience. We will be sure the chorus member is at all concerts and events, be on time, and in the correct attire.

I, as a student, will be sure to give 100% each day. The UGMS Chorus Program strives for excellence in everything we do.

Date _____

PRINT STUDENT'S FULL NAME _____

Student's Signature _____

Parent Contact Information

Please fill out email and phone contact info below so that we can create a distribution list and keep you up to date on all events involving the choruses throughout the year.

_____ Yes! I would love to volunteer at various times throughout the year. The following times are best for me:

Parent Signature _____

Parent Phone Number _____

Parent Email _____

PLEASE RETURN TO MS. HART BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 2013.