

AUSTIN MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS

CHORUS HANDBOOK AND SYLLABUS

2018-2019

INSTRUCTOR: SHELLEY PATRICK

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Course Description:

Chorus participation offers the student instruction in musicianship, vocal tone production, music reading, sight-reading, ear training, singing posture, foreign language, scales, vocalization, music terms and symbols, ensemble repertoire and singing techniques, solo repertoire and performance techniques, and concert etiquette. The skills learned in class will culminate in a performance of choral music literature appropriate for the voicing and level of each ensemble. Choir members will be required to attend all concerts and after school rehearsals. Chorus is a year long class and will last from August 1, 2018 through May 25, 2018.

Grading Policy:

Summative Assessments	60%
concerts, concert reflections, unit vocal/written tests	
Formative Assessments	40%
writing/reading assignments, vocal/written quizzes, daily class performance, after school rehearsals	

Rehearsal Techniques Grade (daily class performance):

Student performance is evaluated daily during class rehearsal. Students will receive a rehearsal techniques grade every two weeks. This grade will be based on their ability to demonstrate appropriate rehearsal techniques across the two weeks. A rubric (attached) will be used to determine how well the student mastered these techniques. There may be a specific focus, or it may be based on appropriate techniques for the specific grade level. This grade will be a formative grade.

Concert Performance Grades:

Each concert is a summative test grade. Students are expected to be present for the full concert, not just their choir. Points will be deducted for tardy arrival, inappropriate stage behavior, inappropriate audience etiquette, leaving early, inappropriate behavior/dress, and any other questionable issues/behaviors observed by the director. These expectations are not intended to be punitive, but to support and enhance quality of the Austin Middle School Chorus. *Please see the attached concert schedule for dates and times.

County Policy for Performance Grades:

The Paulding County Board of Education policy classifies Choral and Band Programs as co-curricular. This policy means that participation in all practices and performances both during and after the school day are included as a major part of the class grade.

Paulding County School Board Policy Regarding Co-Curricular Programs Music Education

Marching band, concert bands, and chorus programs in grades 6 through 12 are co-curricular in nature. Students enrolled in band and chorus classes shall be expected to participate in all practices and performances, including those practices and performances conducted outside of normal school hours. Students will receive class grades for co-curricular practices and performances. Attendance and disciplinary policies, rules and regulations for students and school personnel are expected to be adhered to during all co-curricular activities. The principal has the authority to waive any of these criteria due to mitigating circumstances.

ADOPTED: 8/24/01 REVISED: 2/24/09 PAULDING COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Make-up Policy:

Rehearsal techniques and performances cannot be “made-up” due to the nature of performance activities. Written assignments and tests must be made up within five days of a student’s return to school after an **excused** absence. An unforeseen illness or extenuating circumstances must be communicated **by the parent prior to missing the rehearsal/performance** to Mrs. Patrick to be considered for exemption or alternate assignment. It is at the discretion of the director to exempt a grade, allow a make-up assignment, or to allow extra time to complete work. These will be handled on a case by case basis.

Materials:

Students are asked to provide a **2 pocket folder (8th – blue, 7th – green, 6th – red), a composition book, and a pencil**. Students are to have their folder, composition book and a in hand during class each day.

- Students are responsible for replacing lost or damaged music. Be careful with the music to avoid damage and loss.
- Students are expected to write musical markings in their music as guided by the director during rehearsal. All markings are to be made in **PENCIL ONLY**. Use of a pen will lead to damage fees.

CHORAL TEXTBOOKS: Typically, the choral textbooks will be used as a class set and not issued to individual students. Students are responsible for fines should he/she harm the book during class use. If a book is issued to an individual student for a period of time, the student is responsible for any damage or loss.

COMMUNICATION:

There are many ways that information will be communicated to students and parents.

My website will be maintained on Canvas.

Email: spatrick@paulding.k12.ga.us

Facebook: Austin Middle School Chorus

Remind: @chorus6ams (6th grade)
 @chorus7ams (7th grade)
 @chorus8ams (8th grade)
 Text your class code to 81010

A weekly newsletter called a SMORE will be emailed on Friday. Archived links for the Smore will be found on my Canvas page. Email addresses in Infinite Campus will be used. Please make sure your email address is up to date with the school.

FUNDRAISING: Students will be asked to participate in multiple fundraisers. The funds from these fundraisers will be used to purchase supplies for the chorus, sheet music, transportation, registration fees, and other items deemed necessary to run the choral program at AMS. Students are not required to participate in fundraising, however, when all students participate, the funds that can benefit all students are greater.

This year's fundraisers are: Otis Spunkmeyer and Tervis Tumblers (fall), Simply Sheets (mid year), Chick-Fil-A Spirit Nights in Dallas, and spirit wear sales.

CHORUS CONCERT ATTIRE:

How we look on stage when we perform is just as important as what we sound like when we sing.

Therefore, there are specific guidelines for student attire in the AMS Chorus. If participating in the chorus program, **all students are required to have the following items:**

- **LADIES** will be required to purchase a pre-selected choral dress. The dress will be purchased through the school. Ladies are to wear black shoes that completely encompass the foot and black stockings (no bare skin should show below the hem of the dress). **Final payment for a dress is due no later than Monday, September 10th. Payment for the dress is \$60.**
- **GENTLEMEN** will wear a white, long sleeved button up shirt or tuxedo shirt, black bowtie, black pants, black socks and black shoes that completely encompass the foot. A white undershirt should also be worn under the dress shirt. Students may not wear t-shirts with pictures or writing that is visible under the white shirt. Please have all attire prior to the first concert, October 4th.
- On a first come, first serve basis, there will be dress rentals. These are dresses of former students who have donated their dress back to the program. The rental fee is \$25. Students are expected to return the dress in the condition in which it was rented (no stains, rips, tears). An additional \$25 will be required if there is damage to the dress or it is not returned. There is not a dress in every size, so a rental may not be possible if we do not have the size needed.
 - The following is how priority for dress rentals will be determined:
 - Any 8th grade student who has previously purchased a dress and their dress no longer fits.
 - Any 8th grade student who is NEW to the AMS chorus.
 - Any 6th or 7th grade students

A deadline will be determined, and the rentals are first come, first serve. A dress will not be held for a student without the rental fee. The rental fee can be paid by cash, check, or on Revtrak with a credit/debit card.

SPIRIT WEAR:

Spirit wear is available for purchase but is not required as part of the chorus program. One order will be placed in August. Additional orders may be placed if there is enough interest to meet minimum order requirements. Payment is due at time of order. Any extras ordered will be available on a first come, first serve basis. Payments can be made for spirit wear by cash, check, or on Revtrak with a credit/debit card.

REQUIREMENTS FOR AN AUSTIN MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS AWARD:

At the end of each school year, the Outstanding Chorus Student Award is given to a student in each grade level. To be eligible for the award, a student must meet the following criteria. The student must be enrolled in the Austin Chorus for the entire year and remain in good standing.

“In Good Standing” is defined as:

- Attends all major concerts (plus festival if their choir is involved)
- Maintains and “A” average in Chorus
- Demonstrates exemplary character and behavior in his or her involvement in the choral program and is a role model for students in their class and in the school. The director has the right to deny the award to a student with disciplinary issues, even if all other requirements have been met.
- All financial fines and fees for the program must have been met.

One student from each grade level (6, 7, 8) will be chosen for this award. Awards will be given at the conclusion of the final concert of the school year.

HONOR CHORUS OPPORTUNITIES:

There are many opportunities to be involved in other chorus events throughout the year. Each year, auditions will be held to determine who will be selected for these events. A panel of judges will judge the auditions with a rubric. Mrs. Patrick will only provide feedback in the case of a tie. The decision of the judges is final.

There will be additional fees and rehearsals if a student is selected for an honor chorus as well as additional time at home that will be needed to prepare. Honor chorus opportunities are above and beyond the regular classroom work and require additional monetary and time commitments. Please consider these factors when applying to audition for honor chorus. If the rehearsal and monetary commitments are not met for honor chorus, students will not be permitted to participate.

7th & 8th GRADE ONLY

Honor Chorus Application to Audition is Due: Friday, August 17th

Honor Chorus Auditions: Thursday, August 29th

District 7 Honor Chorus (7th/8th only): Monday, October 29th Woodland HS Cartersville, GA

GMEA All-State Application & Payment due: Tuesday, September 11th

GMEA All-State Chorus: Thursday-Saturday, February 14-16 Athens, GA (Parents are responsible for transportation and accommodations and is the first weekend of Winter Break)

6th GRADE ONLY

Honor Chorus Application to Audition is due : Friday, September 7th

Honor Chorus Auditions: Wednesday, September 19th

GMEA Sixth Grade Statewide Honor Chorus: Friday-Saturday, February 22-23, 2018 Athens, GA (This is an overnight trip and is during Winter Break)

Paulding County Sixth Grade Spring Sing: Monday, March 4th 7:30PM EPHS

Water

Students are encouraged to have water during rehearsals. Being hydrated is important to maintaining good vocal health. If students choose to have water during class, it should be filled prior to the beginning of class to avoid disruptions to rehearsals. Students may keep their water at their seat.

Chorus Leadership

Students will be given the opportunity for leadership roles within the chorus. In 8th grade, elections will be held for President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Librarian. Section leaders will be assigned. These students will have roles and responsibilities that assist the director and that will help them lead their peers.

6th and 7th grade students will be assigned various jobs throughout the year. These jobs and responsibilities will be on a rotating basis allowing for many students the opportunity to build their leadership abilities.

Behavior Management System

Across the entire choir (6-8), students will be divided into “houses”. These will be modeled after the houses in the popular series, Harry Potter. The houses are: Slytherin, Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, and Ravenclaw. Students will be divided into the four houses and will compete throughout the school year for points. Points can be earned for, but not limited to: being on task, acts of kindness, cleaning up the classroom, house perfect attendance, outstanding classwork, whole house on task, receiving an A on a test, or whole house receives an A on a test. Students may also earn additional points for their house with “the golden snitch”. This is reserved and only given out by the teacher for outstanding initiative, critical thinking, and going above and beyond to help a classmate. Points will be deducted from a house when any house member chooses not to follow the school and classroom expectations. Points will also be taken away when any student shows negative or disrespectful behavior towards another student or adult. Points will be awarded/taken away during class and will be kept up with by the class prefect. This position will be voted on by the house members in each class. This person should be trustworthy, organized, and able to take on additional responsibilities while also maintaining their classwork. At the end of class each day, the house prefect will tally the teams points and deposit “coins” into their house jar. Once coins have been added to the jar, they cannot be taken away.

At the end of each month, the house with the highest total will earn a reward (eagle bucks, homework passes, patio passes, etc.) At the end of the school year, the two houses with the most points will go head to head in a competition for the House Cup. The winner of the House Cup will be announced at the end of the school year.

Chorus Student’s Guide To Being A GREAT Chorus Student!

1. Students are expected to be prompt for class and all choral events. “Early is on time; on time is late!”
2. Be respectful of Mrs. Patrick, guest conductors, the accompanist, your peers, the rehearsal room and equipment.
3. Come to class ready to **fully perform** daily.
 - Be prepared to sing, have music/pencil in hand, stand and perform as requested in all class activities.
 - Bring a smile and a positive attitude to class each day 😊
4. Each day: Dispose of your gum when you come to class, put book bags and purses against the wall, and get your music, pencil, and water and be in your assigned seat when class begins. No cell phones should be out unless directed to do so for instructional purposes. If you are off task when technology is being used, Mrs. Patrick reserves the right to have you put it away and not participate in the technology portion of the lesson.

5. During rehearsal, you will often be instructed to write score notes in your music. Score notes reinforce the learning skills covered in rehearsal. Mark as instructed and do it in **PENCIL**.

6. Students are expected to consistently display behavior that reflects favorably upon AMS and the AMS Chorus. Profanity is **never** tolerated. Show dignity and respect for yourself, your choir and school by your character and conduct. Don't settle for less than this in choir or in your life!

8. **EVERY DAY IS AN AUDITION!!** Membership in any quality organization requires commitment, sacrifice, responsibility and effort. Students who exemplify such qualities are the backbone of the AMS Chorus. Students who demonstrate excellence will earn consideration when auditioning for special groups, solos, ensembles, and All-State and Honor Chorus. **"Excellence" includes outstanding performance, effort, attitude, responsibility, cooperation, attendance and punctuality.**

10. It is the responsibility of the student **and** the parent to notify Mrs. Patrick in writing, PRIOR to an absence from an after- school rehearsal or concert if you wish to be considered for an exemption. I am happy to work with you; however, **prior notification is required**. These will be handled on a case by case basis. If absences from performances or rehearsals become habitual, you will no longer be eligible for exemptions, (causing a negative effect to your grade), and may be removed from chorus.

**AUSTIN MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS
2018-2019**

STUDENT, PARENT, TEACHER CONTRACT

Student's Name _____ I have been given a copy of the AMS Chorus Syllabus and Handbook. I understand that joining the chorus is a commitment. I agree to be at all rehearsals and performances and to do my best in all choral situations. I understand that I am a role model for other students at AMS and my behavior and appearance reflect the group. I agree to work hard and follow all the expectations outlined in the syllabus and handbook. I understand that the consequences of not meeting these expectations are, but are not limited to: losing an auditioned solo or speaking part, rehearsal grades being affected, being removed from a performance, parent(s) contacted, or discipline referral. By signing below, I agree to meet these expectations and help to make the AMS chorus the best that it can be! I will come to rehearsal daily with a smile on my face and a positive attitude. ☺

Student Signature _____ Date _____

As the parent/guardian I have read the AMS Chorus Syllabus and Handbook. I understand that middle school chorus is a co-curricular subject and rehearsals and the performances (that may occur outside the regular school day) are a required part of my child's grade. (Please see the attached calendar for the entire 2018-2019 school year.) If there are extenuating circumstances, I will contact Mrs. Patrick within a reasonable amount of time prior to the rehearsal or performance. I understand that joining the chorus is a commitment, not just for my child, but our family, as I must provide transportation to and from rehearsals and performances. By signing below, I agree to work with Mrs. Patrick and my child in supporting the expectations and guidelines of the AMS Chorus.

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

As the director of the AMS Chorus, I agree to provide an appropriate choral experience for the students of the AMS Chorus. I promise to give adequate notice for all rehearsals and performances that will be occurring after school. As the director, I promise to teach the Georgia Standards of Excellence for choral music and prepare students for success in the AMS chorus and beyond. I promise to treat all students with dignity and respect and to uphold the learning environment in the classroom. I promise to work with all students and their parents to create an exceptional choral program and experience.

Director's Name__ Shelley Patrick _____

Director's Signature _____ Date__ August 1, 2018 _____