

# Hickory Creek Elementary School Chorus Handbook 2021-2022

Mrs. Rhonda Gauger, Director

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*The most important outcome of participation in the Chorus program is for each student to feel successful, gain confidence and enjoy making music together with their peers as a result of being a part of the Hickory Creek Elementary School Chorus!*

The curriculum for the Chorus includes sight-reading, warm ups and a variety of musical styles from folk songs to Jazz.

Students entering the third, fourth or fifth grade are eligible to participate in the Elementary Chorus. No audition is necessary for this group. Rehearsals are on **Tuesday afternoons from 2:45-3:45 pm**. Chorus students are dismissed from their classroom to report to the music room prior to starting the afternoon Dismissal process.

Since these rehearsals are after school activities, you will be responsible for transportation home for your child following the rehearsal. For your child's safety, if you are more than 10 minutes late picking up your child, he/she will be waiting for you in the front office and you will need to come inside and check him/her out. Students who are already enrolled in the Extended Day program at HCES will be returned to their class following rehearsal.

The Chorus performances will take place several times throughout the school year, at school events as well as at community events such as the Jacksonville Sister Cities Annual Peace Concert, Westminster Woods on Julington Creek Fall Festival and Spring Fling, Relay for Life, etc. In addition to these performances, the HCES Chorus will perform a "Holiday Lights" concert in December as well as a Spring Concert in March.

We try to communicate via frequent email updates. At some points there may be one or more emails a day (before the Holiday concert) but when things are slower you might not hear anything for 2-3 weeks (January-February are some of the slow periods). If you do not have an E-mail account, please notify us and a hard copy of the e-mails will be sent home with your child. You may need to adjust your email settings to include emails from my school email ([Rhonda.Gauger@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Rhonda.Gauger@stjohns.k12.fl.us)) since they come in bulk.

***The most important outcome of participation in the Chorus program is for each student to feel successful, gain confidence and enjoy making music together with their peers as a result of being a part of the Hickory Creek Elementary School Chorus!***

## **Attendance for Rehearsals/Performances - Expectations**

Participation in musical performing groups is similar to participation in sports activities. The group is dependent on each member working alongside each other in order for the group to be successful. To encourage discipline in the group, each Chorus student will be on a point system allowing them to participate in performance field trips. Each member begins with 100 points. They may lose points for:

- \*behavior problems – excessive talking or not participating during rehearsals
- \*missing rehearsals for unexcused reasons (see below)
- \*missing required performances (see below)

Points necessary to participate in the Holiday field trip and performance at Westminster Woods = 95

Points necessary to participate in the End-of-the-Year celebration = 90

1. Students are expected to attend and participate in all rehearsals to the best of their ability. If they do not participate in rehearsal, they lose 1 point for that day.

NOTE: If a student is ill – has a fever or just doesn't feel well, please keep them at home for the safety and health of the group as a whole. Many times children are contagious even before a fever becomes evident. Absences are excused for illness, death in the family, medical emergency, etc. Absences due to parties or shopping trips, busy schedules etc. will be considered unexcused and will result in a loss of 5 points. Any **student with 3 or more unexcused rehearsals in chorus will be dismissed from the program**

2. **Students are required to participate in the Holiday Lights concerts in December and the Spring Concerts in March (9:00 am and 7:00 pm). See calendar in this packet**
3. As per St. Johns County School District policy, students who are not in attendance at school the day of a field trip, afternoon rehearsal or evening performance will not be allowed to participate. Students should not stay home to “rest” so they are ready for the evening performance or field trip!
4. Students who have missed an excessive amount of school days (15 days or more) will not be allowed to attend the field trip/performances or the end of year celebratopn in the spring.
5. Students are encouraged to maintain excellence in the classroom as they participate in Music activities. Please try to help your child budget his/her time to be able to stay on top of their classroom requirements. Participation in Chorus will be beneficial to your child's educational success and should not be a distraction with advanced planning.

## Uniforms

All students are required to wear the following uniform for performances:

### **Formal Uniform:**

White oxford shirt, short-sleeved – **provided by the school**

No necklaces, rings, bracelets, watches, or glitter. Small, stud earrings may be worn.

Hair pulled back from face, and natural hair color only.

***Pants should be black slacks – no jeans, capris, or leggings allowed.*** We recommend you purchase the pants in a larger size than is needed at this time of year. By the time the Spring Concert comes around, the chances are very high that they will be too short and/or too tight to wear!

Shoes: **black dress shoes** and black socks. Belts should be worn if the pants have belt loops.

### **Casual Uniform:**

Jeans – **full-length blue jeans** (no holes, please) and the **2021-2022 Hickory Creek Music t-shirt** (provided as part of the \$25 Chorus Fair Share fee described below)

NOTE: Adult t-shirts may be ordered at an additional cost of \$15.00 per shirt.

Shoes – sneakers (for your child's safety)

The formal uniform will be used for required concerts at school, performances in the community that are more formal in nature (such as the appearance at Westminster Woods in December and the Spring Concert in March).

The casual uniform will be used for our community concerts (where students might be staying to participate in games and riding rides), some public appearances (fundraisers, e.g.), and for some relaxed daytime performances. Students are asked to wear their HCES CHORUS tshirt on Tuesdays as a way to inspire a sense of community within our group.

***NOTE:*** Any student who has financial need should let Mrs. Gauger know so that a scholarship can be given to take care of those needs! No child should be left out for financial reasons!

## Fair Share:

The school district does not budget for Band and Chorus programs at any grade level. These fees are also a part of the Middle and High school Band and Choral programs, as well as athletic teams. Our Fair Share fees for participation in Chorus are considerably less and we try to be flexible for families who have more than one child in a performing group

***The Chorus Fair Share fee at Hickory Creek is \$25.***

**NOTE:** Any student who has financial need should let Mrs. Gauger know so that other arrangements can be made! ***No child should be left out for financial reasons!*** This donation is not to exclude any child or place a hardship on **any** family!!

The fees cover a variety of expenses that are a part of the success of our program, such as buses for field trips, lighting and sound equipment, props and scenery for concerts, printed music, etc.

***Please note that no student will be excluded from participation in Chorus due to inability to pay the fees!***

## Parent Involvement

We have a great group of students to work with in our Chorus program but we have a huge need for parent volunteers!! The success of our performance groups in the past has been largely due to a great group of parents who volunteered to help us out!! Due to our recent past with the COVID19 pandemic we haven't been able to use volunteers. But...

**Parents are needed desperately to assist with a wide variety of tasks that require no musical training of any kind!** If you would like to volunteer with our Chorus program, please follow these directions:

### Website Directions for Becoming a St. Johns County Approved Volunteer

\*\*\* You may go to our school's website and access the link, "School Access Form," -OR

1) Online: go to St. Johns County school's website: stjohns.k12.fl.us 2) In the red banner at the top of the page click on: Visitors & Volunteers 3) Read and complete school access form Please remember to always have your acceptable form of I.D. with you. ☺

#### Here are a few of the needs we have:

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Uniforms; fitting, distribution, organizing donated uniforms**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Supervising Parent Pickup after Chorus rehearsals on Tuesday after school**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Chaperoning field trips/concerts**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Organizing chaperones**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Refreshments before/after performances; coordinate donations of food items**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Media & publicity; serving as liaison to newspapers & other media**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Videotaping concerts**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Sound/lighting, technical assistance**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Art work: for concert programs**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Decorating for concerts**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Carpentry/set design**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Other skills for musicals – hair, makeup, costuming, sewing etc.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Other \_\_\_\_\_**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent of: \_\_\_\_\_

The days/hours which I am most available are (ex., Mon. 3-6 pm) \_\_\_\_\_

## HCES Chorus Calendar -2021-2022

*Chorus Rehearsals: every Tuesday, 2:45-3:45 pm*

### August, 2021:

**\*\*08/31 – CHORUS REHEARSALS BEGIN**

### September, 2021:

**09/07 - Rehearsal**

**\*\*09/11 – Jacksonville Sister Cities annual PEACE CONCERT**

**Location: St John’s Episcopal Cathedral**

**256 East Church Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202**

**1:00 pm - Students arrive at the cathedral.**

**1:30 pm - Sound check and run through of our songs and “Give Us Hope,” the finale of the concert.**

**A snack will be provided between the practice and the beginning of the concert.**

**3:00 pm – Concert begins.**

**Our group is 2<sup>nd</sup> on the program and “Give Us Hope,” the finale of the concert.**

**Concert should be over @ 4:30 pm.**

**Since this is a weekend event, parents will be transporting their**

**own child to the concert venue. There is parking available at the Cathedral and car pooling is encouraged.**

**09/14 – Rehearsal**

**09/21 – Rehearsal**

**09/28 - Rehearsal**

### October, 2021:

**10/05 – Rehearsal**

**10/12 – Rehearsal**

**10/15– – Fair Share Fee (\$25) due.**

**10/19 – Rehearsal**

**10/26 - Rehearsal**

**TBA – Chorus performs at the FALL FESTIVAL at Westminster Woods on  
Julington Creek – Time: TBA (Arrive 15 minutes prior to event.)**

### November, 2021:

**11/2 - Rehearsal**

**11/9 - Rehearsal**

**11/10 - Chorus performs at the HCES Veterans Day Celebration  
during the school day**

**11/16 - Rehearsal**

11/23 - Rehearsal  
11/30 - Rehearsal

**December, 2021:**

12/7 – Rehearsal  
12/14 - Rehearsal

**Wednesday, 12/15: DRESS REHEARSAL FOR HOLIDAY LIGHTS \*Required!  
Dismissal – 3:30 pm**

**Thursday, 12/16 @ 9:00-9:45 – Performance for HCES students  
Thursday, 12/16 @ 6:30 pm – Performance for Parents and community  
Friday, 12/17 @ 9:00 am – Performance for HCES students**

**TBA – Daytime Performance at Westminster Woods on Julington Creek – TBA - Followed by a  
Pizza Party Celebration for their hard work on the HOLIDAY LIGHTS performances!!**

**January, 2022:**

**01/12- 01/15 – Florida Music Educators Association Clinic/Conference, Tampa, FL  
NO CHORUS REHEARSALS UNTIL TUESDAY, 01/18<sup>TH</sup>**

01/18 - Rehearsal  
01/25 – Rehearsal

**February, 2022:**

02/01 – Rehearsal  
02/08 – Rehearsal  
02/15 – Rehearsal  
02/22 - Rehearsal

**March, 2022:**

03/01 – Rehearsal  
03/08 – Spring Concert –  
9:00 AM for HCES students  
\*\*6:30 pm – Evening Performance for parents\*\* **REQUIRED**  
03/09 – Spring Concert –  
9:00 AM for HCES students

**April, 2022 - TBA - Westminster Woods Spring Fling  
May, 2022 – TBA – end of year celebration**

# 2021-2022 HCES Chorus Registration Form

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Classroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Please print legibly. ☺)

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please place a + next to the primary phone for communication.)

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**Student Commitment:** I have read the 2021-2022 Hickory Creek Elementary School Chorus Handbook.

By signing this form, I agree to the following commitment:

1. I am making a one-year commitment. I will not “drop out” before the end of the school year.
2. I will arrive on time.
3. I will listen for directions and follow the director.
4. I will attend all rehearsals and performances unless excused for illness or family emergency.
5. I will wear the required performance uniform as required for the performances.
6. I will follow the rules stated in the handbook.
7. I WILL ENJOY MYSELF and MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC!

**Parent Commitment:** I have read the 2021-2022 Hickory Creek Elementary School Chorus Handbook. By signing this form, I agree to the following commitment:

1. I understand this is a one-year commitment. My child will not “drop out” before the end of the school year.
2. I will check my e-mail for information regarding rehearsals and performances.
3. I will have my child attend all rehearsals and performances unless excused for illness or family emergency. In the case of illness or family emergency, I will communicate with Mrs. Gauger as soon as possible.
4. I will provide my child with the required performance uniform for the performances.
5. I will encourage my child to enjoy the rehearsals and the performances and MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC.
6. I will review and discuss the rules with my child.

I have gone through this handbook with my child and feel we both understand the commitment being made to the Hickory Creek Elementary School Chorus.

\_\_\_\_\_ I give permission for my child’s picture to be included in photos on the school website, newspaper, or other media.)  
(No names will be posted unless given written permission by parent.)

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not give permission for my child’s picture to be used in publicity photos in school website, newspaper or other media.

**Please sign below and return to Mrs. Gauger. Keep the rest of the handbook for reference during the year.**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent name Printed \_\_\_\_\_

**SHIRTS:**

**White oxford shirt with HCES Music logo embroidered:**

**Please indicate what size shirt your child needs to wear. One of our white oxford shirts will be assigned to your child and delivered prior to the Peace Concert on September 11<sup>th</sup>.**

Youth Sizes: \_\_\_\_ S (6-8) \_\_\_\_ M (10-12) \_\_\_\_ L (14-16) \_\_\_\_ XL (18-20)

Adult Sizes: \_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_ XL

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**Shirt #/size assigned to this student:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Music T-Shirt Size - Due by 10/15**

Reminder: The t-shirt is purchased with funds from the \$25 Fair Share fees which are due October 15th.

Youth Sizes: \_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_ XL

Adult Sizes: \_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_ XL

**If you wish to order a Chorus tshirt for adults in your family, please indicate the number of EXTRA t-shirts ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$15.00 each = Total Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_**

**Size of extra t-shirts #1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Size of extra t-shirts #2:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Fair Share– \$25.00**

**Due 10/15:**

**Date paid:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cash** \_\_\_\_ **or Check #** \_\_\_\_\_

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Thank you for your support of the HCES Chorus program!!