

Riverwatch CHORUS

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK 2011 – 2012

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PURPOSE

The purpose of middle school chorus is to teach students music through vocal performance by learning the basic fundamentals of singing and music literacy. Each student should gain a lifelong interest in singing and an appreciation of music as an art form. Singing in the choir also helps improve mental discipline and enhance social interaction. A sense of teamwork and pride is developed through chorus.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Each student's skill, enjoyment and understanding of vocal music will be enhanced through active involvement in a singing ensemble. Guided by the Georgia Quality Core Curriculum, each of the following elements is taught on a daily basis and skills are built through continued practice.

1. Correct Vocal Skills
 - A. Pitch
 - B. Breath Support
 - C. Posture
 - D. Diction
2. Interpretation of the printed musical score
 - A. Pitch
 - B. Rhythm
 - C. Expressive Qualities
 - D. Musical Symbols
3. Recognition and performance of various styles of music
 - A. Historical Periods
 - B. Jazz, Rock, Pop, and folk
 - C. Music from other cultures
4. Sight Singing Skills
 - A. Reading steps and skips
 - B. Reading notes and rests



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

6th Grade Chorus—Introduction to Choral Music

This class will give 6th grade students an opportunity to experience the joys of choral singing on an introductory level. The basic concepts of sight-singing and tonal memory will be introduced. Choirs will sing in 2-part harmony on a consistent basis.

7th Grade Chorus—Intermediate Choral Music

This class provides 7th grade students with an intermediate level of choral singing to aid in the transition from 6th to 8th grade. The students will conduct more in-depth studies into sight-singing and tonal memory. Choirs will sing in 2 or 3-part harmony. 7th graders may audition for All-State Chorus.

8th Grade Choruses—Advanced Choral Music (Beginning Mixed Chorus I)

This class will give 8th grade students the chance to perform more advanced forms of choral singing into which the concept of musicality will be introduced and incorporated. Students will be able to further develop their skills in the areas of sight-singing and tonal memory. Choirs will sing in 2, 3 or 4-part harmony. 8th graders may audition for All-State Chorus and are considered for District Honor Chorus. 8th graders will receive 1 high school credit upon successful completion of this course.

CHORUS OUTFIT

In chorus, we work together as a team, and just like any other team we have to dress the same in order to be taken seriously and look professional. The uniform is kept through all of Middle School Chorus.

- GIRLS
 - ✓ Black velvet top (we order)
 - ✓ Black palazzo pants (we order)
 - ✓ Black knee highs
 - ✓ Plain, black, closed-toe shoes with either no heel or a small heel (to safely walk on the risers)
- BOYS
 - ✓ Black tuxedo shirt (we order)
 - ✓ Black slacks (we order)
 - ✓ Black socks
 - ✓ Plain, black dress shoes

A uniform fitting with a full run of sizes will be held the first couple weeks of school. If you have a uniform from the previous year – try it on to make sure it fits. If there are any major financial concerns, please speak to Mrs. Reynolds privately.

TRANSPORTATION

Students participating in chorus will have performances and rehearsals that require them to have transportation arrangements outside of regular school hours. The parent or guardian is responsible for getting the student to and from these rehearsals and performances. Those arrangements should be made prior to the day of the event since concerts are posted at the beginning of the year. Please make your arrangements early. The one exception is the ride to LHS and to LGPE.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Formative = 20%

Participation

Students will receive a weekly participation grade of 100 at the beginning of every week. Each violation of a classroom expectation will result in 5 points being removed from the weekly grade. Students will also submit self-evaluations several times a quarter.

Each 9-weeks, students will be assessed in small groups on his or her musical growth. However, a grade in chorus should not be completely based on how well a student sings. After all, middle school students have voices and bodies that are changing and there are times their voices will not work correctly.

- Scales
- Sight Reading
- Vocabulary

Summative = 80%

Concerts

There is no choir without performances. To miss a performance is the same as to miss a final exam in any regular class. All students are required to attend all scheduled performances and rehearsals, unless there is a substantial reason for a student's absence. Please see the attached schedule. If you have prior knowledge of an event that conflicts with a concert, please send in an excuse note. Recovery for a concert is held the morning following the concert at 7:45 a.m. in the chorus room where the music from the previous night will be performed for several teachers.

It cannot be stressed enough the importance of your child attending each concert. Each member is a vital part of the team and if a student is missing, the whole group suffers. Your child has chosen to be part of a performing organization. It is disappointing for a child to work diligently for weeks or months to learn the music and then not be able to perform it at the concert. Please refer to the attached performance schedule before planning any appointments or trips.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

It is important for every student, parent, and guardian to understand that being involved in chorus is a privilege because students choose to be in it. Failure to follow classroom procedures and instructions on a multiple offense basis may result in removal from chorus. It is the right of every musician to learn, and the right of every director to teach.

All policies and procedures of Riverwatch Middle School and Forsyth County Schools as published in the student agenda apply in chorus. These also apply to field trips, off-campus performances, and before or after school activities.

If a student fails to follow any of the CHORUS expectations, the following procedures apply:

1. Verbal warning
2. Parent contact
3. Detention
4. Office Referral

TECHNOLOGY

All information will be on Angel, and calendars will be on the Riverwatch Website – under Connections, then Chorus. We will use BYOT some – to listen to parts during sections. All books, phones, ipods, etc. will be left on the bookshelves upon entering class.

EXTRACURRICULAR EVENTS

ALL STATE CHORUS – OPEN TO ANY 7TH & 8TH GRADE STUDENT

All State Chorus is an elite state-wide event for skilled singers in grades 7 through 12. Students must pass a regional audition in October consisting of a solo, scales, sight reading and a knowledge test. The cost of the first audition is \$18. Those receiving high enough scores must then pay a \$30 acceptance fee and pass a second audition of selected music. Students are responsible for \$300 - \$400 in hotel fees and food during the 3-day event in February in Savannah. Participating students will miss 2 days of school in February.

DISTRICT 9 HONOR CHORUS – OPEN TO 8TH GRADE STUDENTS

Honor Chorus is an elite regional event for 4-6 skilled singers in grades 7 through 12. RMS representatives are based on All-State audition scores. There is a \$40 fee for participation the 2-day event at Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville. Participating students will miss one day of school in November.

FORSYTH COUNTY HONOR CHORUS – OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

Forsyth County Honor Chorus is a county event for skilled singers in grades 6 through 8. There is a \$40 fee for participation in the event, which includes transportation and food during the one-day event in Cumming, GA. Participating students will miss one day of school in February. Selection is made on growth in Chorus from the first Semester.

SPRING MUSICAL – OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

Chorus Calendar 2011-2012

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Info</i>
All-State Chorus Auditions fee <i>due</i>	September 9	By end of day	Chorus Room	There is an \$18.00 fee to audition for All-State
Sing National Anthem at the RMS Football Game	September 27	6:30 p.m.	LHS Stadium	We'll meet in the Chorus room after school, practice, and then ride buses to LHS. Parents pick up there.
Musical Auditions	October 10-14	After school	RMS	Check rmsdrama.wordpress.com for more info
All-State Chorus Auditions	October 15		Mountain View High School	
District Honor Chorus	November 18-19		Riverside Military Academy	Selection for this chorus will be based on All-State Auditions
Winter Choir Concert	December 14	6:45 p.m.	LHS Theater	More info to follow
Forsyth County Honor Chorus	February 3	9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Cumming United Methodist Church	Selection for this chorus will be made in January
GMEA LGPE	March	TBA	TBA	
<i>Seussical</i>	March 8-10	7:00 p.m.	LHS Theater	
Spring Concert	May 17	6:45	LHS Theater	

* Although not likely, these dates and times are subject to change. Any alterations or additions to this schedule will be sent out via e-mail at least one month in advance.

