

# **Barr-Reeve Middle School Chorus Handbook 2016-2017**

**Director:** Mrs. Leah Cochren

**Room #:** 36

**School Phone:** 486-3265 (ext. 271)

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## **MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS CLASSROOM GUIDELINES**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

- A. It is the student's responsibility to have good attendance.
- B. Zero participation points will be given for an unexcused absence.
- C. See student handbook for attendance policy.

### **TARDINESS:**

- A. Each student is expected to be in the room and in their seat when the last passing period bell rings.
- B. If you know you are going to be late for chorus, only passes, phone calls, or excuses given in person from a Barr-Reeve staff member or administration will be considered as excused tardies.
- C. Tardiness due to going to the bathroom, getting materials from your locker, getting snacks from cafeteria, etc., are considered **unexcused!** You will automatically be marked as tardy to class.
- D. **Three** or more unexcused tardies will result in a grade cut (5 point deduction for each tardy).
- E. Regarding bathroom, nurse, locker, office, etc.: No student may leave the classroom without signing out and **ONLY** if you have permission from Mrs. Cochren. In the event that you are going to be sick, please tell the person next to you and leave to take care of yourself at the nearest restroom.

### **GUM, FOOD, DRINKS:**

- A. NO GUM, FOOD, OR DRINKS, except water bottles, will be allowed in the chorus room. Elementary students also come in the room, and some of them have "airborne" food allergies. The choir room is a peanut/nut free zone!
- B. Students with gum, candy, or other food during class will lose their 10-point participation grade for the day.

### **CELL PHONES/COMPUTER:**

- A. CELL PHONES ARE PROHIBITED. You will give the phone to Mrs. Cochren the first time you use it in class, and she will keep it through the rest of the day. At the end of the day, you may come and get it. Upon the second time, the phone will go to the office as stated in the student handbook.
- B. The telephone and computer in the classroom are for the teacher use only.
- C. Choir secretary is the only person who is allowed the use of the phone/computer for attendance and answering it.

### **CLASS BEHAVIOR/REHEARSALS:**

- A. Each student is to be seated and ready for class to begin with their folder at their seat before the bell rings.

- B. Be respectful and courteous to your fellow chorus members and teacher.
- C. Soft talking or whispering is allowed when other sections are rehearsing their parts. Do NOT do other homework during class/rehearsal time. If unwanted behavior (loud talking and distractions) become a problem after a warning and/or movement of seat, etc., has been issued, Saturday school will be assigned.
- D. No obscene or offensive language will be tolerated.
- E. No rough horseplay, bullying, or fighting is allowed. If any of these actions take place, that student will be sent to the office immediately.
- F. Remember, the actions you do today may affect you and those around you for a long time. Please choose to do the right thing.

**DRESS CODE:**

- A. Please wear clothes appropriate for school. See student handbook.
- B. School dress code is applied for all chorus events and field trips.

**FIRE & TORNADO:**

- A. Instructions are beside the chorus room door.

**LOCKDOWN:**

- A. Listen carefully to teacher.
- B. Go directly to designated spot and be quiet.
- C. Student in charge of lights will immediately turn off lights.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- A. Pencil – keep in chorus folder
- B. Paper or notebook – keep in chorus folder

**CHORUS FOLDER & MUSIC:**

- A. Each student is responsible for the upkeep and whereabouts of their folder and music. You may take your folder and music home to practice, but must use sign-out card to notify the teacher.
- B. Any folder or music that becomes lost or damaged, no matter the reason, must be either found and returned, or paid for by the student that lost it.
- C. Any student who does not turn in music or pay for lost music will be turned into the office.

**CHORUS OUTFITS:**

- A. Chorus members must purchase a concert outfit and a T-shirt for performances. Outfits must be worn at the appropriate occasions. (Exceptions: at ballgames, cheerleaders, ball players, and managers will be excused)

- B. Chorus T-shirts must be worn at all National Anthem performances.
- C. Each student is responsible for keeping their chorus outfit and T-shirt clean and neat.
- D. No chorus outfit or T-shirt will be given out unless completely paid for.

### **CLASS OFFICERS AND DUTIES:**

Class Officers for the choir should generally be 8<sup>th</sup> graders. If an 8<sup>th</sup> grade choir member does not want an office and there is a vacancy, then a 7<sup>th</sup> grader can take that spot. The student needs to demonstrate good leadership qualities. Officers are nominated by their classmates, and then the students vote on the officers after they give a short speech. The speech should indicate why they want the office.

#### **Choir President:**

The Choir President starts class with warm-ups. Warm-ups will be given to the President on the weekly activity sheet by the choir director. As the year progresses, the President will be given some freedom to choose warm-ups. The Choir President will run rehearsal when there is a substitute for Mrs. Cochren.

#### **Choir Vice-President:**

When the Choir President is absent, the Choir Vice-President will resume their job responsibilities. The Vice-President will also help with putting music away or copying any additional copies of music, notes, letters, etc., given out in class.

#### **Choir Secretary:**

The Choir Secretary will help with attendance and the sign-out log book in class. At all choir performances, including the National Anthem performances, attendance will be documented with the Secretary's help. The Choir Secretary will also help with documentation of monies brought in for uniforms, music fees, fundraisers, etc.

#### **Choir Treasurer:**

The Choir Treasurer will help with counting and documentation of all chorus monies collected. This person needs to be available occasionally during homeroom, as well as a good math student.

#### **Section Leaders:**

Section leaders will be chosen by the choir director. There will be a section leader for each section (soprano 1, soprano 2, alto 1, etc.) that we have in choir. This may change from year to year. Section leaders help their sections when we do sectional work. They are responsible for making sure all the people in their section are where they should be and are going over their parts properly. They are responsible for getting practice CDs and equipment to use in the hallway/cafeteria and bringing those items back to the room when finished.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS GRADES:**

Grades will be based on music theory worksheets, written or singing tests, classroom participation, attitude, behavior, and required performances. Bonus points can also be received. It is very important that you contribute your very best every day.

### **Participation Grade:**

Each student receives 10 points for each chorus class period.

### **Performances:**

Each concert performance is worth 50 points per song. Performances are a culmination of what we do in class every day.

### **Points will be deducted for the following:**

- A. Unexcused tardiness to a required performance
- B. Absence from a required performance. A 2-week notice of a prior commitment must be given in order for an alternate assignment to be given. It is the director's discretion as to when a prior commitment is excusable.
- C. Failure to wear performance attire
- D. Improper behavior during a performance

### **MONEY/FUNDRAISERS:**

- A. All money due for ISSMA Contest and other events must be completely paid, or you will not be allowed to attend these events.
- B. All money for chorus outfits, chorus T-shirts, and certain fundraisers must be completely paid. Any unpaid monies will be turned over to the administration.
- C. Fundraisers are a must for choir. Every choir member is expected to participate in all fundraisers and to turn in money in a timely manner. In the event that you will be unable to, please send an appropriate donation to the BR Chorus fund.

### **PERFORMANCES:**

Attendance is required at all concerts. Concerts include **Christmas Concert, Spring Concert**, and additional required performances. (Ex: Veteran's Day performance, French Lick Christmas performance, etc.)

Students must wear the required attire for these concerts.

Chorus members are expected to conduct themselves in a proper and courteous manner at all times. You are representing not only the chorus, but Barr-Reeve school and your parents, as well. All rules that apply at school also apply to

performances and field trips outside the school setting. This includes riding on the buses.

**National Anthem Performances (20 points each):**

Volleyball Games:

Students are required to sing 1 out of the 2 performances.

Boys/Girls Basketball Games:

Students are required to sing 3 out of the 4 performances.

There will be sign-ups for these games. If you are present at any of the games, you are expected to sing. You are part of the chorus and should not stay in the crowd and not support your fellow choir members.

If you perform at additional games beyond the required number, you will receive bonus points. If you do not sing the required amount, points will be deducted from your grade.

**Church Performances:**

Churches call throughout the year to ask for the choir to come and be their special music. It is important that everyone who does not have a prior commitment come and sing for the church performance(s). You do not need to attend anything other than the actual choir performance. This is an opportunity to give back to our community for their continued support of the choir program.

**CHOIR FEES:**

The middle school choir students are required to purchase the following items:

Everyone:

1. Choir T-shirt (approx.. \$15)
2. Concert choir outfit (purchase themselves)
  - Girls---knee/ankle length black skirt or black dress slacks
    - white blouse
    - black flats or slippers
  - Guys---black dress pants
    - white dress shirt & black tie
    - black socks, and black shoes/boots

Choir T-shirts will be ordered through the choir department. Money is due by the deadline or your T-shirt will not be ordered.

To Parents/Guardians:

Please read the Chorus Handbook, sign this page, and have your son/daughter return the entire manual back to Mrs. Cochren by **Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>**. This is worth 25 points of your child's grade. Also, please return the contact information form.

I have read the Barr-Reeve High School Chorus Handbook, and I understand the responsibilities and commitment required by the choral department.

I agree to encourage my son/daughter to abide by the rules set forth in the chorus handbook, to participate daily in class, to be respectful of Mrs. Cochren and the other chorus members, to turn in any homework assignments or money in a timely manner, and to be at performances on time and in appropriate performance attire.

I agree to support the Barr-Reeve High School Chorus and Mrs. Cochren in a positive way.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Parent/Guardian of: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name