

Hortonville Middle School Choir Handbook 2019-2020

Mrs. Leddy ♦ Director of Choirs at Hortonville MS 920-779-7922 ext. 27127 ♦ onaleddy@hasd.org
(All Choral Dates & Choral information is on Mrs. Leddy's HASD Website)

Self-advocacy is a vital life skill we start to teach in middle school.

We are always preparing our students for the next step in their lives. Middle school is a time to grow in a positive working environment as well as learn self-advocacy. If you or your child have a concern or question, please have your child come and talk with Mrs. L first and follow it up with a parent contact, thank you!

Course description: Chorus is a performance class that is open to all students. The rehearsals will focus on learning proper vocal technique, music reading skills and how to work with others while performing varied choral literature. All choir students (6th – 8th grade) will have a 10-minute lesson twice a month.

5th – 8th Grade Class Materials (\$10 each, checks payable to HMS Choir):

Choral Binder & Concert T-shirt (purchased from the director)

Classroom Expectations:

As a music teacher, I find that there are 3 main ideas under the goal of achieving Musical Excellence.

- **Concert Etiquette:** The understanding of all aspects that create a strong musical community.
 - **Setting the Tempo:** Classroom routines will be developed and made to be followed.
 - **Being a Musician:** Students are expected to give maximum effort and show self-advocacy and control.
 - **Being the Ensemble:** Students are expected to contribute to group function and support one another in our goal of musical excellence.

- **All school & grade level team (6th, 7th, 8th grade) policies apply in my room**
- **One Voice Rule** – Respect Mrs. L and other students not to talk while they are talking during instructional time.
- *I want you to stay safe!*
 - Don't use ramp in the room unless you have a need.
 - Don't climb on the railing, shelves, or cabinets in the choir room.
 - No gum or food- No snack or food during choir class. 6th-grade students no food can leave the cafeteria after lunch if you are not done eating your food then come to class.

- **Classroom Equipment & Teachers Desk-** If it is not yours, do not touch it. All of the materials on the teachers desk at the front of the room are not for student use. Classroom chairs are not to be moved or written on. Chairs also must not go over the red tape.
- **Electronic Devices** will be placed in the “cell phone holder” at the beginning of class or kept in your locker. If for some reason cell phones become an issue Mrs. L will give the students a cell phone to the front office.

- **Procedures in the Choir Classroom:**
 - Each student will enter the choir room with a voice volume between 2-table talk or 1-whisper.
 - Students will place their cell phone in **Cell Phone Holder** for the remainder of the class. Students will grab the necessary materials and go to their assigned seat. (Restroom use—one at a time using cafeteria restrooms)
 - At the end of the class, students will put their choir binders away and clean up papers or pencils around their chair. Students will stay in chairs until the bell rings. After all binders are put away properly students will be dismissed and will exit the room respectfully with a voice volume between 1-2.

Be Honest – if you are asked a question by a classmate or Mrs. L please do not lie, be truthful.

Be Responsible Arrive to class on time, NO GUM, turn in completed assignments on time and take care of music materials. Keep your chair on the floor.

Be Respectful Respect classmates, adults, and yourself. Listen when others are speaking and follow directions. Be respectful with your words when speaking to classmates, adults, and yourself.

Be Caring Each student will demonstrate a positive attitude and have good manners. Each student will be mindful of other students’ safety as well as the teachers and take care of classroom equipment.

Consequences:

1st & 2nd Offense: Student is asked to stop the behavior (redirection). Student’s seat may be moved.

3rd Offense—Student is reminded to stop behavior and earns a 5-minute lunch detention with Mrs. Leddy or in the office. At the lunch detention, the student will reflect upon their behavior on a rethink sheet or after two lunch detentions a minor documentation will be recorded. All rethink sheets will be sent home and need to be signed by parents or guardians. *If the student does not serve lunch detention in three school days, the student’s behavior will be documented, and parents contacted.

Standards Based Grading:

In choir class, our focus is on **mastery of essential musical knowledge and vocal performance skills**. Each quarter, students will be assessed on weekly skills checks, concert music, vocabulary knowledge, and concert performance skills. **Students may retake any assessment that does not earn “Mastery” by planning with their choir director.**

For performance skills, we use rubrics to assess each student’s work. Performance skills will be tested in class or a choir lesson. This rubric will apply to all standards taught in choir class. The four proficiency levels are:

4 – Excellent! (Exceeds Mastery)	3 – Got it (Mastery)	2 – ALMOST (Near Mastery)	1 - NOT YET (Not Yet)
Performed PERFECTLY/OUTSTANDING knowledge– no mistakes or hesitation.	Can demonstrate the skill accurately and fluently on your own	Inconsistent and/or needs help to demonstrate the skill fluently	Lacking essential knowledge and/or Is unable to demonstrate the skill

Standards Assessed:

MP2.P.17.m - Perform(Lessons, Rehearsals, Concerts, Sight Singing): Students will analyze, develop, and convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work. Rehearse, Demonstrate and Perform the ability to sing and/or play expressively, on pitch, and in rhythm, while using proper technique and maintaining a steady beat.

MP3.R.9.m - Respond (Music Literacy): Students will critically interpret intent and meaning in order to evaluate artistic work. Define and demonstrate an understanding of foundational musical elements in discussion and written reflections.

MP1.Cr.11.m - Create(Compose): Students will generate, develop, and refine artistic work. Compose short pieces using standard and/or alternative notation and technology within specified guidelines, demonstrating the use of the elements of music.

Mandatory Concert Dates:

December 16th & May 11th

6:30 5th & 6th Grade, 7:45 7th & 8th Grade

Concerts are a summative activity, and students are expected to be at all scheduled performances. If some *highly unusual* circumstance prevents a student from performing with the group, a written note or email needs to be

sent at least two weeks before the performance. If a student is ill the day of the performance, please contact the choir director via phone or email as soon as possible. Performing with a group in a concert setting is an essential standard in choir class. Therefore, students who miss the concert *for any reason* MUST complete a performance-based makeup assignment.

Choir Students Concert Makeup Assignment is to perform the concert pieces in front of an audience (at least two adults, family members, nursing home, senior center, day care, youth group, your church, etc...) Videotape your performance and submit it to your director. The accompaniment tracks need to be picked up from your director ahead of time.

Concert Dress Code: A sense of pride and teamwork is essential for any successful choir, and performance dress plays a major role in helping to achieve this.

5th, 6th, 7th, 8th Grade Choirs: HMS red Band/Choir t-shirt, **BLACK** pants, **BLACK** socks, and **dark shoes**.

Voice Lessons

Attendance at every scheduled lesson is expected and is the student's responsibility. Students are also expected to practice before they come into their lesson. Students can practice at home, or in the choir room during their free time (with permission and a pass from Mrs. L) to practice on a music computer. Students who arrive at a lesson and have not practiced will need to reschedule the lesson. For the reasons stated above, the HMS/GMS Choral Department has adopted the following missed lesson policy absences for the following reasons are considered

EXCUSED and will be allowed to be made-up without a grade penalty:

- Any excused absence from school (illness, doctor appointments, etc.)
- School-sponsored field trip/early dismissal for co-curricular activity
- Early release/school vacations/Etc.
- The director is absent.
- Any other reason which has been Pre-Approved by the instructor. (Class exams/class projects)
- Absences for any other reason will be considered UNEXCUSED.

OPTIONAL Co-Curricular Choral Activities

Show Choir:

Any student that is in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade can audition that is in band or choir!

Show choir is an extracurricular group which meets before school (from 7-7:45 AM) twice a week. HMS/FWA show choir is a group open to 6th through 8th-grade students in choir or band. Students must audition to get into the group (sign up outside of Mrs. L's door). Students who audition are recommended to sing a song with a karaoke accompaniment off youtube.com

Cub Choir (Fall/Winter Only):

This group meets during ELT and is an extracurricular group. Anyone who wishes to join Cub Choir may (band or choir 6th – 8th grade). 5th-grade students can be recommended for Cub Choir by their music teacher (band or choir).

If a student is not able to meet during ELT when the group is meeting they are expected to practice at home.

Practice is a vital aspect of any performance group. If Mrs. Leddy feels that a student is not ready to perform with Cub Choir, they will have to wait until the next concert. Cub Choir performs at both the Winter and Spring concerts and picks all their music with Mrs. L.

Solo/Ensemble Festival Feb 29th @ Seymour High School *Optional:

This event is for 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students who are interested in participating as a soloist or as part of a small ensemble. **Students must choose music from an approved list with Mrs. L.** A piano performance category is also available if you have a private piano teacher.

The following solo/ensemble fees apply for all schools in the Hortonville Area School District:

Participation fee \$8.00 per student per event

Accompanist fee \$20.00 per event. (This fee will be divided among all ensemble members.)

All registration fees for show choir will be paid by HMS. Also, HMS will pay all WSMA membership fees and provide students with music for all events. The above fees are NON-REFUNDABLE after HMS has officially registered for the festival. Registration typically takes place a month before the event.

Hortonville Middle School Choir
Parent/Student Signature Form

*A Digital Copy of this form is available on Mrs. Leddy's HASD Webpage, hard copies are also accepted:

Dear Parents,

I am very excited to have your son or daughter in choir this year! Please read the syllabus sign it and return it (just the back page) to your child to hand in. **Make sure you write down the concert dates on your calendar.** Also, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to call me (920-779-7922 ext. 27127) or email me (onaleddy@hasd.org). **Choral reminders, this syllabus, and updates are posted on my website and sent out via email.** I'm excited for an awesome year!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Leddy

Student Name _____

Parent(s) Name(s) _____

Would you prefer Mrs. Leddy to contact you: (circle one) via email or phone call?

Parent(s) Email(s) _____

Parent(s) Phone Number(s) _____

Class (circle one): 6th Gr. Choir 7th Gr. Choir 8th Gr. Choir?

We, the undersigned parent and student, have read the HMS/FWA Choral Music Department Syllabus and understand its contents and agree to follow them. We **have recorded all performance dates**, and agree to the requirements and procedures as stated. Also as parent/guardian I give my child permission to participate in all choir functions as stated in (but not limited to) the music calendars.

*Any updates to the syllabus/rubrics will be posted on my website

Parent/Guardian (signature) _____ Date _____

Chorus Member (signature) _____ Date _____

Parent Volunteer

Concerts Help:

Supervising the students during the concert along with HMS teachers. *Please circle one or both below.

Winter Choral Concert or Spring Choral Concert

Taking pictures during the concert. *Please circle one or both below:

Winter Choral Concert or Spring Choral Concert

Baking for the Pre-Concert Sale *Winter Concert Only

Other Items:

Helping Music Boosters (your name will be forwarded to them)

*If you would like to help during the day, please fill out Background Check Application. You can find it at <http://www.hasd.org/parents/>