Meadow hill Middle School

Choir Handbook

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Welcome to the awesome meadow hill Choir Program!

Choir is a **performance** and ensemble based class where students will have the opportunity

to refine their vocal skills and musicianship. Participation is immensely important to the success of

the student and ensemble, so please be ready to be an active musician and member of the ensemble.

In other words…**SING!**

The choir will perform throughout the year in a variety of venues including concerts, festivals, and tours.

Please understand that attendance matters for every rehearsal and performance.

Vision – To produce well-rounded members of society who understand the importance of learning and putting forth their maximum amount of effort regardless of likes or dislikes. To engage in best practice music and vocal pedagogy at the highest level possible and to enjoy making music for oneself and others.

Required Materials

* 6th -8th Graders:
* Pencil with eraser. All good musicians use pencils and only pencils to make notes and changes.
* A GOOD ATTITUDE! This is the most important requirement to being successful in any music class.
* PARTICIPATE! The success of the whole is defined by the success of the individual. You do not need to be a “good singer” to be successful in this program. All you need is to give your best effort.

How are students graded?

Students will be assessed using the National Core Arts Standards as well as the MCPS Fine Arts Curriculum. A student’s grade is based on the quality and amount of work put towards achieving the student learning outcomes.

Music Anchor Standards

**Anchor Standard 1:** Generate musical ideas for various purposes and contexts.

**Anchor Standard 2:** Select and develop musical ideas for defined purposes and contexts.

**Anchor Standard 3:** Evaluate and refine selected musical ideas to create musical work that meets appropriate criteria.

**Anchor Standard 4:** Select varied musical works to present based on interest, knowledge, technical skill, and context.

**Anchor Standard 5:** Evaluate and refine personal and ensemble performances, individually or in collaboration with others.

**Anchor Standard 6:** Perform expressively, with appropriate interpretation and technical accuracy, and in a manner appropriate to the audience and context.

**Anchor Standard 7:** Choose music appropriate for specific purposes or contexts.

**Anchor Standard 8:** Support an interpretation of musical work that reflects creators’/performers’ expressive intent.

**Anchor Standard 9:** Support personal evaluation of musical works and performance(s) based on analysis, interpretation, and established criteria.

**Anchor Standard 10:** Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make music.

**Anchor Standard 11:** Relate musical ideas and works with varied context to deepen understanding.

Student Learning Outcomes

* Students will be able to read standard notation and music.
* Students will properly develop one’s voice and group intonation.
* Students will learn basic music history concepts.
* Students will demonstrate appropriate level vocal pedagogy.
* Students will demonstrate proper performer and audience etiquette
* Students will learn appropriate level music theory concepts including scales, chords, rhythm, harmony, form, solfege, and Curwen hand signs.
* Students will learn and perform different styles of music from a variety of genres, countries, cultures, and languages.
* Students will learn beginning, intermediate, and advanced sight singing concepts.
* Students will sing alone, in small groups, and in large ensembles.

Students earn points in these grading categories:

40% - Class Participation (Daily assessment of ensemble skills and effort in person or online.)

40% - Choir Performances & Concerts

20% - Written Theory &/or Performance Exams (in-person or online in google classroom.)

Theory and Performance Exams

In order to perform to the best of our ability, performance exams will be used to assess and help student progress. Students will be graded on posture, rhythm, proper vocal technique, pitch accuracy, and completing the exam. Students will not be graded on “how good their voice is,” as everyone is built differently and voices at this time can be in a state of flux. The expectation for every theory and performance exam is that students participate fully and to the best of their ability.

Extra Credit Musicianship Points

Students may earn 100 Musicianship Points (MPs) each quarter. Students practice responsibility by tracking their own progress – remember to completely fill out the score sheet! MP’s are submitted at the end of each quarter and are submitted at the end of each quarter. Any points above 100 do not roll over into the next quarter, although students are encouraged to engage in as many musical activities as possible.

Our goal is developing comprehensive musicianship in every student: skill, knowledge and affect. As an assessment to everyday class experiences, MP’s encourage students to actively explore the various elements of music by emphasizing different projects and assignments. If you think of a new project idea, please submit it to Ms. Bullock-Muth.

* **Private Lessons:** 10 points possible per private lesson. Students must fill out the form and submit it after each private lesson attended. May be vocal, instrumental, or dance. List of private instructors are available on the choir website. Please see *Private Lessons Sheet* for details. \*No limit on the number of private lessons taken.
* **Listening Assignment:** 10 points possible for each playlist created by Ms. Bullock-Muth on YouTube and listen to in full. You are only eligible to listen and submit playlists that Ms. Bullock-Muth creates and approves. **YOU MAY NOT JUST LISTEN TO ANYTHING AND RECEIVE CREDIT**. Please see *Listening Sheet* for details. \*Maximum 50 points per quarter.
* **Live Concerts:** 20 points possible for attending any live performance of music or musical theater. Whether it’s rock, hip-hop, classical, country; it’s all good. It can even be a concert from any school in any district. Students also receive 20 points for any concert they perform in with the Meadow Hill Choir. Please attach a ticket stub, program, or note signed by parent/guardian for proof of attendance. There is a list of events for our district and the city of Missoula on the choir website. \*No limit on the amount of live performances attended.
* **Concert Critique:** 20 points possible for writing a critique (reflection) of a live concert. Please see *Concert Critique Guidelines Sheet* for details. Rubrics for this assignment are available in the classroom and on the choir website as 20 points are not guaranteed, but will be graded against the rubric. \*1 concert critique per concert attended, no limit on the number of concerts and critiques written.
* **Extra Performances:** 25 points possible for performing outside of school. Rock band, church, quartet, recital, musical theater, the possibilities are endless. Please verify with a program, recording, or not signed by parent/guardian for proof of performance. \*No limit on the number of extra performances given.
* **Auditions:** 10 points possible for auditioning for in class solos, Meadow Hill honor ensembles (Choraleers, ACDA Honor Choir, etc), or extracurricular activities (musical theater, etc.). \*No limit on the number of auditions per quarter.
* **Honor Ensembles Rehearsals:** 5 points possible for rehearsing with an honor music ensemble. Must submit completed form with parent/guardian signature. \*No limit on the number of rehearsals.
* **Program Notes:** 20 points possible for researching information on composers and pieces for an upcoming concert. See *Program Notes Guidelines Sheet* for details. Must be submitted 2 weeks prior to the performance. \*1 set of program notes per performance of those pieces.
* **Religious Activity:** 10 points possible for attending a religious activity where at least 4-5 live musical selections were performed. This could be a church service, worship service, etc. This is not a required activity, nor does MCPS require public school students to profess or attend any religion or activities. Any and all activities, regardless of denomination or belief, will be accepted and counted equally. \*No limit to number of religious activities per quarter.
* **Composition Project:** 40 points possible for completing single composition. See *Composition Project Guidelines Sheet* for details. All projects must be discussed with Ms. Bullock-Muth before starting. \*Maximum 2 composition projects per quarter, although students are always encouraged to express themselves through the creation of their own music.

Choir Concert Guidelines

Look great and sound great as a team!

* All choir students must wear black shoes, black socks, blue jeans or black slacks/skirt as directed per concert and a t-shirt to go under their Meadow Hill T shirt if borrowed.
  + Each student will be issued a choir shirt for performance when directed.
  + Students who lose or damage their shirt, will pay a replacement fee before being issued a replacement shirt. Replacement fee is $25 per shirt.
* Students are to arrive dressed and ready at the designated location, at the designated time before the concert starts for attendance and warmups.
* Absences:
  + **Absences from performances/concerts can result in a loss of significant points for students. Choir is a performance based class; therefore, the majority of points earned in a choir class comes directly from performances.**
  + **ATHLETICS/CLUBS/VACATIONS/etc. are NOT excused. Choir concerts are a CURRICULAR activity. This supersedes any Extra-Curricular activities.**
  + **If you know that a student will be gone from a performance, please contact the teacher AT LEAST 2 WEEKS in advance, so that an alternative assignment may be prepared. Music is a team activity, and all students play an important role in the group’s success. Failure to notify the teacher in the specified time may result in a failing grade.**
  + **Emergencies happen, so please keep in contact with the teacher about these as they will accommodate the needs of each student.**
  + **Not having transportation to or from a performance is neither an emergency nor an excused absence. Students and parents/guardians will be notified well in advance of upcoming performances. Please check the District Fine Arts Calendar or choir website for all performance dates.**
  + **Any student who misses a performance has ONE WEEK FROM THE DATE OF THE PERFORMANCE (or upon return to school) TO COMPLETE AND TURN IN THE MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENT FOR CREDIT.** Students with excused absences, documented illness or family emergency cleared with the teacher, can receive up to full credit for the missed performance. Students with unexcused absences are still encourage to complete the assignment in the specified time period and can receive up to 60% of the total points for the missed performance. **60% IS BETTER THAN 0!** If the student does not turn in the completed assignment by the assigned day, the student will receive a 0 for their grade. The makeup assignment can be found in google classroom and on the choir website.
  + **Concert Etiquette:** Students are required to stay for the entire concert, even if their portion of the performance has been completed. Students who leave before the end will earn less points. Students should not have their phones/electronic devices with them or out for the duration of the concert. Students should be focused on all performers and display proper etiquette throughout. Concerts are popular and consequently the audience sizes are large. Therefore, come early, sit towards the center, and be patient. Applaud at the appropriate level and at the appropriate time.
  + Following every performance, students are required to return their choir attire to the choir room, and place them **NEATLY** in the designated area.

Meadow hill Choraleers Honor Choir

Meadow Hill has an honor choir, Choraleers and new this year, access to audition with Ms. Bullock-Muth for the ACDA honor choir in Spokane. These choirs may rehearse outside of the school day and have extra performances. Since these choirs are extracurricular, students must be in good standing academically and with behavior in order to participate. Students may not have a grade of “F” in any class, and no grade lower than a “C” in their music class. Any member removed from any class on the date of the performance will be unable to perform at that performance.

Attendance to rehearsals and performances is mandatory, and failure to maintain expectations may result in removal from the group. Any student who is accepted into the honor choirs are required to pay a $75 participation fee. This fee is the same for all honor groups throughout the district and helps pay for music, piano accompanists, extra concert venues, etc. throughout the year. Additional trips and tours will be at the student’s cost, but fundraising will be available for students who are interested.

Rehearsals will be pm starting September 30, 2019.

Meadow hill Choir Performance Schedule

2023-2024

Date Grade(s) Event Time Place

To Be Announced 6th/7th/8th Fall Choir Concert To Be Determined.

To Be Announced 6th/7th HC 6/7thChoirs Choraleer Concert TBD

To Be Announced 8th Winter BOC 8th Grade Concert TBD

To Be Announced 6th 6th District Choir Festival TBD

To Be Announced 7/8th/HC7th/8th/Choraleer Choir Concert TBD

To Be Announced All Grades Solo & Ensemble Days TBD

To Be Announced HC BOC MH Honor Groups TBD

To Be Announced HC BOC MH Honor group tour TBD

To Be Announced 6/7th grades 6/7th Choir Concert TBD

To Be Announced 8th End of the Year 8th BOC Concert TBD

Music class switching policy

If a student wishes to change music classes, this can be done at the beginning of the year with an office form & audition. Exception may be made at semester/quarter if a student wishes to ADD a music class with audition & Principal approval. An interested 7th/8th grade student must audition for the new music class, and have both music teachers agree to make the switch or addition. A student’s parent must email a request to the counselor, and it must be approved by principal, Ms. Bagaent. See Ms. Bullock-Muth for specific information.

Note:

This syllabus and schedule are subject to change due to extenuated circumstances. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to check on topics covered, announcements made, and assignments given while you were absent.

Choir Rehearsal & PERFORMANCE Rubric

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Exceptional 4** | **Adequate 3/2** | **Fix It! 1/0** |
| **Posture** | Stands tall, feet shoulder-width apart, head up, shoulders relaxed. | Stands tall most of the time, feet in wrong position, poor shoulder and head placement. | Does not stand tall, slouches, asks to sit at every opportunity, incorrect foot placement, does not face forward.  No attempt made. |
| **Materials** | Brings necessary supplies and a pencil. | Forgets necessary supplies and/or pencil on occasion. | Needs to remember supplies and pencil. No attempt made. |
| **Music** | Has music at every rehearsal; always puts music and folder away properly; marks music when directed. | Generally has music at rehearsal; generally puts music and folder away, usually marks music when directed. | Needs to have music at rehearsal. Needs to put folder and music away. Needs to mark music when directed. No attempt made. |
| **Response to Director** | Always listens and responds to director regarding mouth position & dynamics; is ready to sing; stops singing when directed. | Generally listens to director regarding mouth position & dynamics; generally is ready to sing; misses cutoffs. | Needs to start singing how & when directed. Needs to stop singing when directed. Needs to be prepared to sing and ready with the conductor.  No attempt made. |
| **Courtesy** | Always listens and follows verbal instructions from authority; treats others with respect; says positive things to and about others. | Generally listens, talks to neighbor occasionally about non-class related subjects; generally says positive things to and about others. | Needs to listen to verbal instructions and not disturb others. Needs to treat others with respect and kindness.  No attempt made. |
| **Attitude** | Has a positive attitude; is willing to take risks and try new things; performs all music to the best of ability – **regardless of likes or dislikes.** | Generally has a positive attitude; will try new things most/some of the time; usually performs to the best of ability – **regardless of likes or dislikes.** | Needs to have a better attitude. Needs to try new things. Needs to perform to the best of their ability – **even if it is not their favorite.**  No attempt made. |
| **Timeliness** | Student is on time to class; music ready by the time the director steps in front of the class. Student remains in their spots until excused, and remains in the room until dismissed after the bell. | Student is usually on time to class; most of the time the student and music are ready when the director steps in front of the class. Sometimes puts items away before excused or leaves the room before being dismissed. | Student needs to be on time to class and ready when the director is in front of the class. Student needs to remain in their spot until excused and remain in the room until the bell rings.  No attempt made. |

Meadow Hill Middle School Choirs

Student/Parent Agreement & Contact Sheet

Please fill out the following portion and return **THIS PAGE ONLY** with your student as soon as possible. Communication throughout the year depends heavily on the information you provide. Your support and open communication is immensely appreciated.

*We, both student and parent, have read and understand the goals, strategies, and evaluations stated in the Meadow Hill Choir Handbook. We will make arrangements for the student to attend all performances and obligations. Only with the approval from the teacher, in the case of school or family emergency or illness, can a student be excused from a choir obligation. If we have any questions, we contact Ms. Bullock-Muth in a timely manner.*

Student Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone Number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Phone Number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Email Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The information being asked for above is for choir use only. For questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Bullock-Muth.