

LIBERTY BELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

CHORUS HANDBOOK

2017-2018

Dear Chorus Member/Parent,

Welcome to the Liberty Bell Middle School Choral Program! I am very excited to be working with each of you. The purpose of our organization is not only to learn about music and singing, but also to bring what we have learned to our community to create a cultural connection.

Each member of Chorus is an important part of the Chorus “team.” Without each student’s best effort, the team will not accomplish its full potential. With this in mind, please encourage each other to become the best citizens, musicians, students, and family members that you can be. We want to emphasize love, compassion, integrity, honesty, dignity, artistry, fairness, excellence, growth, patience, and encouragement.

In the following pages, you will find specific information regarding class requirements and expectations, including grading and classroom policies. It is vitally important that both parents and students read this handbook to be fully informed about the policies and procedures of the choral program. At the end of the handbook, you will find a page to be signed by parents and students and returned to me.

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the school year, please do not hesitate to come to me. Chorus is a class of a different nature, and my goal is to create a safe place for students to come and participate without fear or ridicule. I truly care for each of my students, and hope to instill in them a love for music and a solid team work ethic. Let’s have a great year!

Emily Broadhead, MM
Choral Director

Class Expectations

- Be on time.
- Be prepared.
- Be respectful.
- Be willing.

Classroom Policies

- As you enter the classroom, please sit in your assigned seat and complete the daily bellwork.
- All equipment, teacher office, phone, computer, storage room, music library, and whiteboards are for instructional use only and are off limit to students unless given specific permission from the teacher.
- Bathroom trips should be made before or after class, but not during. There will be no opportunity to go to the restroom during class unless in case of emergency or a doctor note. We move very quickly in this class, and to leave to go to the restroom could mean missing an entire concept or section of a song.
- Bring a three-ring binder and pencil to every class.
- Chorus is a year-long commitment; once committed, students must remain enrolled in the class for the entire school year.

Concert Policies

- Always report to the staging area 30 minutes before concert time.
- There is the possibility of several individual groups performing on the same concert. Always show support for any group performing by remaining quiet during their performance.
- Concert attire will vary; for the Holiday Concert, the attire will be as follows:
 - Boys: Black or khaki dress pants; red, white, green, or gray dress shirt; tie; nice shoes
 - Girls: Black or khaki dress pants; red, white, green, gold or silver top or sweater. Skirts are allowed, as are dresses, so long as they meet the color scheme and follow dress code. Comfortable shoes are recommended; no heels higher than 2 inches.
- For the Spring Spectacular, all students will wear khaki pants and their Chorus shirt, which will be ordered sometime in early fall. More information on ordering shirts will be sent home as it becomes available.

Grading

The nine weeks grade will be based on the following categories:

- Daily Grade (40%)
- Tests/Quizzes (30%)
- Performances (30%)

Daily Grade:

Daily grade is comprised of both assignments and general classroom behavior. Any non-test written assignment will fall under this category (such as theory work we may do in class), and the classroom behavior grade for the nine weeks will also be considered a daily grade.

Classroom Behavior:

Each student starts each grading period with 100 points. Infractions from the Classroom Rules or Policies will cause points to be deducted from a student's behavior grade.

Students whose behavior grade falls below 75 points for a grading period will receive a letter home to be signed by the parent and returned to the teacher. Students may also, as needed, be referred to an administrator for further disciplinary action.

Tests:

Written and oral tests will be given over class material, including music theory, terminology and symbols, fundamentals, and learning of performance materials.

Performances:

On-time attendance at all performances is required. Absences from performances are only excused in case of sickness or death in the immediate family. Sickness will be excused with a doctor's excuse. Other performance issues should be brought to the teacher ASAP and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Absence from school on the day of the performance does NOT automatically excuse the performance absence.

- Unexcused absences from performances will be given a failing grade.
- Excused absences can be made up by completing a written assignment. The assignment will account for 30% of the final grade, taking the place of the concert attendance and participation grade. Students should expect the assignment to be extensive as it is replacing the equivalent of the final exam for this course.
- A student can be pulled from a performance for missing practices or for unsatisfactory behavior. This is at the teacher's discretion.
- There may be a minimal number of after-school rehearsals scheduled to combine all the chorus classes together. Please make every effort to attend these rehearsals; they are vital to the process. These rehearsals will be posted at least one month in advance via newsletter and in class as well as online at the LBMS Chorus website.

Extras

Be responsible for the care and daily return of your music and folder. Your music folder (the one provided by the Choral department) and its contents should not leave the classroom under any circumstances, and should not be used for your personal storage (i.e. worksheets or graphic organizers, etc). **Any lost or damaged materials will be charged to the student.**

Be committed to chorus. You are a big part of a big organization, and the effort you bring to the table determines our success as a team.

PARENT AGREEMENT

The success of the choral programs of Johnson City Schools has been due, in large part, to the generous support of the Choral Parents and the Johnson City community. Being a member of a driven group requires the commitment of all its members. By joining the Liberty Bell Middle School Choral program, your child has made a commitment of:

Time.

For your convenience, a calendar of this year's events will be posted on the class website as well as sent home in a newsletter. Unforeseen changes will be made only when absolutely necessary and as soon as possible. Your child's participation in all scheduled events is expected and anticipated.

Energy.

On a team, each member leans upon the others to a certain extent. Anyone not prepared, or not giving 100%, creates a ripple effect that weakens the entire group. Expect your child to bring home lyric sheets or assignments to use the chorus website to practice and study at home.

Support.

Chorus participation is a choice. By choosing to be a part, you agree to follow the leadership of the teacher. Help your child be a positive voice in the school and community in support of the Choral Program.

Effort.

Anyone who has been on a team knows that everyone cannot be the star player, and winning is not guaranteed. But no star player can succeed unless surrounded by a successful and supportive team that works together. Each member should realize the role he or she plays and its importance.

Determination.

It is easy to win, but much harder not to. The person who succeeds in life probably lost more than he or she won. The determination to persevere and to learn from each situation is what takes the successful person to the top.

Thank you for all you do to assist us in developing not only skills and knowledge, but also young adults with good attitudes and a strong work ethic. If you are able to provide additional assistance, please indicate your availability as requested on the last page. I look forward to the experience we are about to share. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. We're going to have a great school year!

CHORUS COMMITMENT CONTRACT

2017-18

Student name: _____

Team/Grade: _____

Parent phone number: _____

Parent email address: _____

Please check all that apply and sign below:

_____ I have read and understand the Chorus Handbook and the Parent Agreement.

_____ I would be willing to provide assistance as needed for potential choral functions (i.e. chaperone, party organization, etc).

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

I have read and understand the 2017-2018 Chorus Handbook and accept the terms specified in it. I am fully aware that I must attend all rehearsals and performances. I accept responsibility for the care of all items loaned to me, and will pay to replace or repair any item not returned in proper condition.

Signature of Student

Date

Please complete and return by August 11, 2017