



Perry Middle School

Choral Music Department Choral Handbook 2023- 2024



Mr. Aaron-James Young, Choral Director

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Greetings Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Perry Middle School Chorus. I am very excited about this upcoming year and the opportunities it holds for us all.

This is your chorus handbook. Enclosed in this handbook are important details about the choral program. Please keep this handbook. It will answer most of your questions regarding information for the chorus program. This handbook sets goals and guidelines that each student must follow to ensure an exciting choral program.

Please review this handbook very carefully and refer to it throughout the year as questions arise about the Chorus procedures. If we all agree on the goals, expectations, purpose, and procedures of the Choral Department, the year will go smoothly.

At any time, feel free to contact me by phone or text (478) 210-7978 or by e-mail aaron.young@hcbe.net should you have any questions regarding the Choral Department.

In Harmony,

Aaron-James Young
Perry Middle Choral Director

Goals and Description

1. Our goals are to learn teamwork, commitment, self-discipline, dependability and respect...not only for this choir, but also for future life endeavors.
2. Our goals are to learn basic music theory for application to the choral ensemble, including a characteristic choral tone.
3. Our goals are to learn and appreciate music of all styles. This will include music from variety of religious backgrounds and different languages, which covers a diversity of ethnic cultures. Concert music WILL also include BOTH secular and sacred music
4. Our goals are to meet our full potential as an ensemble.

Classroom Rules

Be Respectful Be Responsible Be Self-Motivated!

The following rules have been established to create a positive and structured learning environment.

ALL SCHOOL RULES STILL APPLY!!!

1. No gum, candy, food, drinks, or foreign objects are to be in your mouth in the Chorus room.
[A foreign substance (gum, candy, food, pen caps, etc.) in the mouth while singing can be very dangerous.]
 2. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized before you speak.
 3. Stay in your assigned seat unless you have permission to leave.
 4. Be courteous, positive, and supportive of fellow choir members.
(Positive attitudes produce success.)

Daily Procedures

The Perry MS Chorus will use the following guidelines to maximize class time, practices, and after school rehearsals.

1. Enter the Chorus Room quietly.
2. Chorus members should ONLY have the following items with them at their seat every rehearsal: *(Will result in points being deducted from participation)*
 - a. **Music Folder/Sight reading materials**
 - b. **Sharpened Pencil – sharpened before rehearsal begins**
 - c. **POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND BEHAVIOR**
3. Be in assigned seat unless otherwise intruded by the director.
4. Social talking keeps the choir from creating beautiful music - it isn't the talking that creates the music, it is the wonderful voice you sing.
5. Every student is required to sing = **PERFORMANCE BASED CLASS.**

Discipline Policy

Discipline problems can be very disruptive in the chorus classroom and prevent the students' ability to learn and prepare for performances. If expectations and rules are broken, the following consequences will occur:

1. Written, Nonverbal or Verbal Warning
2. Behavior Reflections
3. Spotlight Referral/Parent Contact
4. Choral Probation (Cut from a performance, field trip, or extra activities)
5. Office Referral

Depending on the nature of the infraction, steps can be omitted to better address the problem.

Trips and Off Campus Performances

Chorus trips are educational experiences for chorus students to preform and enrich the learning outside of the regular school events. Behaviors play a huge role in whether a student can participate in outside classroom activities. Students with multiple school infractions may be dismissed from participating in a trip or performance.

All school rules apply and consequences will be handled by the choral director and/or school administrations.

Attendance Policy

Public Performances, Practices and After School Rehearsals

1. Public performances are important to being in chorus and missing a performance is unacceptable.
2. Attendance at any choral concert and dress rehearsal are mandatory.
3. After school practices will only be called if students do not accomplish the daily goals set in class.
4. Excused absences from public performances will be granted in case of genuine emergency only.
5. The following are excused absences from Choral events:
 - a. Personal sickness (note required)
 - b. Death in family
 - c. Prior written excuse presented and excused by the director and/or principal.
 - i. **Written note by the parent/guardian explaining the reason for their absence.**
 - d. **Students are to make up the performance with a written assignment due at 7 days after the missed performance.**
 - i. **Excused absence assignment: One (1) page paper or research project.**
 - ii. **Unexcused: Three (3) page paper, research project, or recording of concert music (Topics will be posted on Google Classroom under a missed work tab)**
6. Please call the school or email me before the concert begins if an emergency arises.
 - a. **Jobs, family trips, birthday parties, etc. do not justify absences.**
7. Choir students are often involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities. If conflicts occur in the scheduling of practices, rehearsals, games, and performances, the following guideline will be used:
 - a. Conflicts should be avoided as much as possible. Check the Perry Middle Chorus Calendar regularly for scheduling information located at the end of his handbook and school webpage.
 - b. A performance or game should take precedent over a practice or rehearsal with no penalty involved in the missed practice or rehearsal, **provided the director and coach are notified in advance.**

c. LET THE DIRECTOR AND COACH OF THE OTHER CONFLICTING SCHOOL-SPONSORED EVENT HANDLE ALL SCHOOL CONFLICTS.

The date and time for each performance and after school rehearsal will be announced as far in advance as possible (generally a month ahead of time for a performance and two weeks for a rehearsal). A list of events already scheduled is included in this handbook.

Chorus Grading Policy

Grade	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
Major	40%	40%	40%
Minor	30%	30%	25%
Daily	25%	20%	15%
Final	5%	10%	20%

- Major
 - Performances
 - Sight-Reading Test
 - Singing Test
- Minor
 - Quizzes
 - Rehearsals
- Absences from a concert or rehearsal will result in an alternative written assignment in order to place a make-up grade in the grade book. Assignments will only be issued with a written note, email, or phone call from a parent or legal guardian.
- Major performances and rehearsal will include:
 1. Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal (
 2. Winter Concert
 3. Pre-LGPE Concert
 4. Large Group Performance Evaluation
 5. Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal
 6. Spring Concert
- Daily
 - Having Materials
 - Written Assignments
 - Participation
- Final
 - Winter and Spring Concerts

Chorus Supplies

Students will be supplied with music binders. If the binders are damaged or lost, the student is responsible for replacing the binder as soon as possible.
Students also need to have a pencil EVERYDAY!!

Performance Attire
(PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)
Formal Performance Attire

6th Grade:

- Perry MS Chorus Polo (Maroon)
- Solid **Black** long pants (NO capris or shorts)
- Black belt (recommended)
- Black shoes (recommended)

7th and 8th Grade:

- Perry MS Chorus Polo (Black)
- Solid **Black** long pants (NO capris or shorts)
- Black belt (recommended)
- Black shoes (recommended)

Informal Performance Attire for all

- Chorus Polo/T-Shirt and **BLUE** jeans (no holes)

(Students not in the proper uniform will not be allowed to perform with the group. This will count as an unexcused absents from the performance.)

Class Dojo

This great application helps parents and students be reminded of events that happen in the classroom and outside of the classroom. It is **FREE** and helps you to know what to expect for upcoming concerts, rehearsals, and other events.

This app will be the schools' main source of communication.

Fundraisers

This is one of the most important parts of our program. Without fundraisers, we do not have the funds to pay for music, equipment, accessories, and help offset the cost of programs, auditions, field trips, and other choral expenses. We need for every student and parent to participate in each fundraiser to help support our choral department.

Parent and Guardian Volunteers

Every parent is important to our choral department. There are several opportunities where parents can volunteer in this department as well. We will need several chaperons for various trips and off campus performances. We will need parent voluntaries for various programs throughout the year. We will also need parent volunteers and participation in the fundraisers that we will have throughout the school year. All parents and guardians are welcomed. Please let me know if you need an updated background check.

Calendar of Events

(Events are subject to change and be added. Prior notices will be grated in such event immediately.)

September:

- Tuesday, September 19, 2023: All-State Chorus Registration Deadline

November:

- Friday, November 3, 2023: Registration Deadline for Sixth Grade Statewide Honor Choir.
- Saturday, November 4, 2023, 1st Round Regional All-State Chorus Auditions
Location: Perry Middle School
- Wednesday, November 8, 2024, Houston County's Choral Extravaganza, 6:00- 8:00PM
Location: Southside Baptist Church
- Monday and Tuesday, November 13-14, 2023, District XI Middle School Honor Choir
Location: TBD

December:

- Tuesday, December 5, 2023, PMS Chorus Winter Concert, 6:30 to 7:30PM
Location: PMS Gym

January:

- Thursday and Friday, January 18-19, 2024, All-State Chorus 2nd Round Auditions
Location: Baldwin High School
- GMEA In-Service Conference: January 25-27, 2024
Location: Athens, GA

February:

- Friday and Saturday, February 9-10, 2024, Sixth Grade Statewide Chorus:
Location: Tifton, GA
- Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, February 15-17, 2024, All-State Chorus
Location: Athens, GA

March:

- Tuesday, March 5, 2024, Pre-LGPE Chorus Concert, 6:30PM-7:30PM
Location: TBA
- *District XI HS LGPE: March 18-19, 2024 (back-up dates: 4th-5th)*
Organizer: J Williams Host: TBD Location: TBD
- *District XI MS LGPE: March 21-22, 2024 (back-up dates: 7th-8th)*
Organizer: TBD Host: TBD Location: TBD
If - for some odd reason - we don't have enough MS groups for a second 2-day event, we will combine back to a three-day LGPE (March 18th-20th)
- Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 28-30, 2024, 8th Grade Band and Chorus Trip
Location: Pigeon Forge, TN

April:

- Tuesday, April 9, 2024- Bass/Tenor Workshop
Location: Shirley Hills Baptist
- Friday, April 19, 2024, Band/ Chorus Recruitment Tour
Location: Feeder Elementary Schools
- Thursday, April 25, 2024, Perry Middle's Got Talent 6PM to 8PM
Location: Perry Middle Cafeteria

May:

- Monday, May 13, 2024, PMS Chorus Spring Concert and Award Night 6:30PM-8:00PM
Location: PMS Gym

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Homeroom: _____

Acknowledgement Form

_____ I acknowledge I have read the chorus handbook and understand that failure to comply with these guidelines will reduce grades and could lead to removal from the choral department.

_____ I acknowledge that the chorus handbook is available to me at any time through the Perry Middle School website.

_____ I have read the expectations, grading policy, rules, and attendance policies for Perry MS Chorus. I also understand that successful organizations that work require teamwork between the parents, students, and teachers.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Shirt Size: (Circle student size)

These are the universal sizes, so they are men/boy sizes.

Youth M L Adult S M L XL XXL XXXL

Home Address: _____ Home Phone: _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Cell # () _____ - _____ Work # () _____ - _____ Student Height: _____ ft _____ in

Parent Email: _____

Please list any other extracurricular activities and sports that you are involved in or plan to apply:

Please list any factors (religion, beliefs, etc.) that may hinder participation in music selections or activities:

Handbook



*Please sign this form and return it no later than **Monday, August 14, 2023.***
A virtual copy of this form is located on my teacher's website for your convenience.
and available through the QR Code provided.



Acknowledgement
Form