



## *Perry Middle School*

### *Choral Music Department* **Choral Handbook** **2024- 2025**



Mr. Aaron-James Young, Choral Director

Perry Middle School  
495 Perry Pkwy  
Perry, GA 31069  
PH: (478) 210- 7978

July 31, 2024

Greetings Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 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](mailto: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-Driven!*

*”To be amazing, we’ve got to go all out and give it our everything!”*

*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 other objects in your mouth: Keeping your mouth clear helps avoid distractions and ensures safety while singing.
2. Raise your hand and wait to be called on before speaking: This helps maintain order and ensures everyone gets a chance to speak.
3. Stay in your seat unless given permission to leave: This keeps the room organized and minimizes disruptions.
4. Be courteous and supportive to fellow choir members: Encouraging and respecting each other creates a positive environment that helps everyone succeed.

## Daily Procedures

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

1. **Enter Quietly:** Please enter the Chorus Room quietly to minimize disruptions.
2. **Rehearsal Essentials:** At each rehearsal, bring only the following items to your seat:
  - Music Folder/Sight Reading Materials (provided by the Chorus)
  - Sharpened Pencil(ensure it is sharpened before class)
  - Positive Attitude and Behavior
3. **Assigned Seating:** Sit in your assigned seat unless directed otherwise by the director.
4. **Minimize Social Talking:** Focus on singing rather than talking. Remember, it’s your beautiful voice that creates the music, not the conversation.
5. **Participation Requirement:** Singing is a crucial part of this performance-based class. Every student is expected to sing.

## Discipline Policy

To ensure a positive learning environment and successful performances, we have the following guidelines and consequences:

1. Reminder (written, nonverbal, or verbal)
2. Behavior reflection
3. Parent contact/Spotlight referral
4. Choral probation (missing a performance, trip, or activity)
5. Office referral

We may adjust steps based on the situation.

## 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 unwanted.
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 an assignment due 7 days after the missed performance.**  
**(Assignments will be posted on Canvas under a missed work tab)**
6. Please call the school, email, or Dojo me before the concert begins if an emergency arises.
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 Category	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Major	40%	40%	40%
Minor	30%	30%	30%
Daily	25%	20%	15%
Final	5%	10%	15%

- Major
  - Performances
  - Sight-Reading Test
  - Singing Test
- Minor
  - Knowledge Quizzes
  - Dress Rehearsals
- Absences from a concert or rehearsal will result in an alternative assignment to place a make-up grade in the grade book. Excused 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 Rehearsals
  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 folders. If the folders are damaged or lost, the student is responsible for replacing the binder as soon as possible.

Students also need to have a pencil **EVERYDAY!!**

### Other Classroom needs:

- Hand sanitizer
- Kleenex
- Disinfecting wipes
- Bottled waters

An Amazon wishlist has been created and will stay active all school year. It includes essential supplies and items for our students and classroom. Your support is greatly appreciated!



**Performance Attire**  
(PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)  
**Formal Performance Attire**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

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

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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 absence 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**

Fundraisers are crucial to our program. Without them, we can't afford music, equipment, accessories, or help offset the costs of programs, auditions, field trips, and other choral expenses. We need every student and parent to participate in each fundraiser to support our choral department. Your involvement is essential to our success!

**Parent and Guardian Volunteers**

Every parent is important to our choral department, and there are several opportunities for parents to volunteer. We will need chaperones for various trips and off-campus performances, as well as volunteers for different programs throughout the year. Additionally, we need parent participation in our fundraisers. All parents and guardians are welcome to participate. If you need an updated background check, please let us know.

## \*PMS Chorus Calendar of Events\*

(Events are subject to change and may be added. Prior notice will be given immediately in such cases.)

### September

- 17<sup>th</sup> All State Chorus Registration Deadline (online)

### October

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Perry Middle's Talent Show (PMS Cafeteria)
- 15<sup>th</sup> Sixth Grade Statewide Honor Choir Registration Deadline (online)
- 21<sup>st</sup> Bass Tenor Workshop (Houston County High School) During School Trip (Guys Only)

### November

- 2<sup>nd</sup> All State Auditions (Location: Mossy Creek Middle School) 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Graders
- 6<sup>th</sup> Houston County Choral Extravaganza (Southside Baptist Church) After School 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Graders
- 7<sup>th</sup> Large Group Performance Evaluation Registration Deadline

### December

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (PMS Gym)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal 6<sup>th</sup> Grade (PMS Gym)
- 12<sup>th</sup> Choral Winter Concert (PMS Gymnasium)

### January

- 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Sixth Grade Statewide Honor Choir (Athens, GA) During school
- 23<sup>rd</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> All-State 2<sup>nd</sup> Audition (After and During School)
- 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> District Honor Chorus 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade (2<sup>nd</sup> Baptist Church-Warner Robins) After and During School
- 30<sup>th</sup>- Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> In-Service Conference (Athens, GA)

### February

- 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> All State Chorus Event (Athens, GA) During School

### March

- 6<sup>th</sup> Pre-LGPE (Large Group Performance Evaluation) Chorus Concert- First Baptist Perry
- 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Chorus LGPE (During School Trip)
- 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> Band/Chorus Spring Trip 8<sup>th</sup> Grade- (Universal Studios - Orlando, FL)

### April

### May

- 6<sup>th</sup> Spring Choral Concert Dress Rehearsal 6<sup>th</sup> Grade (PMS Gym)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Spring Choral Concert Dress Rehearsal 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (PMS Gym)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Spring Choral Concert and Awards (PMS Gym)

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

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:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Please sign this form and return it no later than **Friday, August 9, 2024.***

*A virtual copy of this form is located on my teacher's website for your convenience.*