

Ormond Beach Middle School Chorus



Handbook

Ormond Beach Middle School
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Dear OBMS Chorus Family,

Welcome to the OBMS Chorus! We are very proud of our traditions of choral excellence and are delighted that you'll be joining us this year. Participation in the OBMS Chorus is bound to give you memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. By choosing chorus, you've chosen one of the most fun classes on campus. You're in for a great year!

The purpose of this handbook is to inform you of the procedures, processes, events and opportunities in the OBMS Chorus. Please take some time and read through the entire handbook. After reading, digitally sign the accompanying forms, and return them. Chorus parents and students will be responsible for the information included in this handbook, whether forms are returned or not.

Chorus is a **performance** class, and I am delighted that your desire to sing and perform has brought you to the group. I hope that through your commitment, energy, positive attitude and open-mindedness to all types of music, you will create many wonderful memories. We have tons of fun together!

Students who are entering the music program for the first time should be aware that being a member of chorus, or any other music ensemble, is different from any other class. There is a special bond created by people who make music together. This is a bond that often lasts through high school and beyond.

Students: Welcome! I am very much looking forward to making music with you every day! Please remember that it is your job to know the rules and expectations and follow them. I also expect that you will talk to your parents regularly about things that are coming up in chorus class. They can't help you if you they don't know what's going on. I'm sure they'll also want to know about all the fun you're having, so don't forget to tell them.

Parents: Your role is crucial! It is important that you also understand the responsibilities that your child must fulfill in order for him/her to be successful in chorus. He/she relies on you for transportation, finances, and most importantly, your encouragement. I recommend you mark all chorus events in your personal calendars. Chorus is a performance-based class--therefore, performances and after school rehearsals will receive a grade. Every student is vital to the success of the group, so even one missing voice will affect the entire group.

We love family and community participation! Please consider volunteering your time and talents to help the OBMS Chorus achieve and exceed its goals. If you would like to volunteer to assist the program in any way, please let me know through the forms included with this handbook or via e-mail.

My goal is to provide every student with the best choral music education possible. If you have any concerns or questions about your child or the chorus program, please contact me at (386)258-4667 ext. 53954 or by email. I am looking forward to many fun times and beautiful music-making.

Musically yours,
Amanda El Shemi
OBMS Choral Director

Vocal Ensemble 1 (Show Choir) Syllabus

Course Description: This course is designed to further student experience with the fundamentals of singing, especially through the use of popular music. In addition, students will further their study of music through music reading, the understanding of musical terminology, and the performance of music in individual and group settings.

Topics to be studied:

- Elements of music, including melody, harmony, timbre, instrumentation, meter, rhythm and dynamics
- Musical notation
- Sight-reading
- Music Vocabulary
- Dance (in relation to specific choral works)
- Topics related to the repertoire studied in class
- Choral topics including, but not limited to, balance, blend, intonation, breath support, dynamics, articulation, rhythmic precision, working as an ensemble
- Performance practices including, but not limited to, dress, presence, dance, expression
- Aural Analysis
- Composers/Musical Time Periods

Assignments will include:

- Daily rehearsal in class
- Written activities
- Sight-reading
- Choreography
- Music literacy activities

Grading will be based on:

60%--summative—including, but not limited to, performances, written tests, in-class performance assessments
40%--formative—including, but not limited to, daily demonstration of skills in class, written assignments, rehearsals

Where applicable, late work will not be penalized, but it must be turned in by the last day of the 9 weeks in order to be included in the 9 weeks grade.

Required Performance Events (See Calendar)

- Weekly After School Rehearsals
- Winter Concert
- Spring Concert
- Elementary School Tour
- Solo & Ensemble Music Performance Assessment
- Music Performance Assessment
- Disney Golden Mickey Event
- 5th Grade Parent Night
- 5th grade orientation

Extra-curricular

- All-State Honor Choir
- ACDA Male Honor Choir
- All-County Honor Choir
- The Musical
- Tri-M Talent Show
- Tri-M
- Solos/Duets/Small Ensembles at Solo & Ensemble MPA

Chorus 1 (Beginning Chorus) Syllabus

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of singing. In addition, this course is designed to introduce students to the study of music through music reading, the understanding of musical terminology, and the performance of music in individual and group settings.

Topics to be Studied:

- Elements of music, including melody, harmony, timbre, instrumentation, meter, rhythm and dynamics
- Musical notation
- Sight-reading
- Music Vocabulary
- Topics related to the repertoire studied in class
- Choral topics including, but not limited to, balance, blend, intonation, breath support, dynamics, articulation, rhythmic precision, working as an ensemble
- Performance practices including, but not limited to, dress, presence, expression
- Aural Analysis
- Composers/Musical Time Periods

Assignments will include:

- Daily rehearsal in class
- “Daily Downbeat” consisting of vocabulary, dictation/theory topics, history and composers, aural analysis
- Written activities
- Sight-reading
- Music literacy activities

Grading will be based on:

60%--summative—including, but not limited to, performances, written tests, in-class performance assessments

40%--formative—including, but not limited to, daily demonstration of skills in class, written assignments, rehearsals

Where applicable, late work will not be penalized, but it must be turned in by the last day of the 9 weeks in order to be included in the 9 weeks grade.

Required Performance Events (See Calendar) Due To Covid-19 Activities Might Be Limited

- Fall Concert & After School Rehearsals
- Winter Concert & After School Rehearsals
- MPA & After School Rehearsals
- Spring Concert & After School Rehearsals

Extra-choricualars

- Solo & Ensemble
- The Musical
- Tri-M
- Tri-M Talent Show

Chorus 2 & 3 (Advanced Chorus) Syllabus

Course Description: This course is designed to further student experience with the fundamentals of singing. In addition, students will further their study of music through music reading, the understanding of musical terminology, and the performance of music in individual and group settings.

Topics to be Studied:

- Elements of music, including melody, harmony, timbre, instrumentation, meter, rhythm and dynamics
- Musical notation
- Sight-reading
- Music Vocabulary
- Topics related to the repertoire studied in class
- Choral topics including, but not limited to, balance, blend, intonation, breath support, dynamics, articulation, rhythmic precision, working as an ensemble
- Performance practices including, but not limited to, dress, presence, expression
- Aural Analysis
- Composers/Musical Time Periods

Assignments will include:

- Daily rehearsal in class
- “Daily Downbeat” consisting of vocabulary, dictation/theory topics, history and composers, aural analysis
- Written activities
- Sight-reading
- Music literacy activities

Grading will be based on:

60%--summative—including, but not limited to, performances, written tests, in-class performance assessments

40%--formative—including, but not limited to, daily demonstration of skills in class, written assignments, rehearsals

Where applicable, late work will not be penalized, but it must be turned in by the last day of the 9 weeks in order to be included in the 9 weeks grade.

Required Performance Events (See Calendar) Due To Covid-19 Activities Might Be Limited

- Fall Concert & After School Rehearsals
- Winter Concert & After School Rehearsals
- Solo & Ensemble Music Performance Assessment & After-School Rehearsals
- MPA & After School Rehearsals
- Spring Concert & After School Rehearsals

Extra-choricualars

- All-State Honor Choir
- ACDA Male Honor Choir
- All-County Honor Choir
- The Musical
- Tri-M Talent Show
- Tri-M
- Solos/Duets/Small Ensembles at Solo & Ensemble MPA

Chorus Materials:

Students are expected to have their materials in class every day. Unscheduled pencil checks will take place regularly. Students may keep their folders (provided), music and a pencil in their assigned folder slot in the chorus room for easy access. **This year due to COVID-19 most of their assignments will be uploaded digitally through Canvas.**

** Everyone is expected to handle classroom materials and equipment with care. Students who fail to do so may lose the privilege of using these items. In addition, all students will be held responsible for any sheet music that is assigned to him/her. Sheet music is one of the most expensive parts of the chorus curriculum. Students are held financially accountable for the replacement of any damaged or lost music. **

Classroom Wishlist Items (Optional but appreciated):

- Amazon Wish List
- Tissues
- Pencils
- CD-R CDs
- CD Cases/Envelopes
- White Copy Paper
- Colored Copy Paper (the brighter the better)
- Hand Sanitizer
- Band-aids
- Dry Erase Markers
- Bobby Pins
- Safety Pin

Academic Standing and Behavior:

By order of state legislature, students who do not maintain a 2.0 G.P.A. each nine weeks and have had behavior problems will not be allowed to participate in any Florida Vocal Association activities and may be restricted from all field trips and performances.

Code of Conduct:

All chorus students are responsible for the reading of and adherence to the **Volusia County Code of Student Conduct**. Here are some basic rules regarding conduct in the chorus room and when representing Ormond Beach Middle School at events both on and off campus.

- **Show Respect!**
 - To yourself
 - To others
 - To stuff
- **Be on time!**
 - To class
 - To rehearsal
 - To performances
- **No chewing!**
 - No gum
 - No eating in class or rehearsal
- **No disruptions!**
 - Act like a musician.
 - Stay focused.

Consequences:

- Warnings/Time Out
- Parent Contact
- Loss of Privileges
- Lunch Detention
- Referral

Class Procedures:

1. Upon arrival to the chorus classroom, students are to get out their pencils and are to retrieve their chorus folders from the appropriate cabinet.
2. Upon reaching their seats, students are to immediately begin working on the “Daily Downbeat.”
3. Students are expected to use the restroom between classes.
4. Students are expected to do their best at all times. If they come into the classroom with a negative attitude, it can affect the entire ensemble. The only way students will succeed as a choral performer is through maximum effort and with a positive attitude.
5. Students should take note of the weekly events listed on the board each day.

Attendance:

Due to the participatory nature of the class, it is vital that students be in attendance every day. Every single voice adds to the sound and blend. A missing voice can make a very large difference in overall tone for a day. Chorus participation is a team event.

Attendance at after school rehearsals and performances (as defined on the syllabus for each course) is **mandatory**. Make-up work for missed events must be completed within 15 days of the missed assignment/assessment.

Grading:

Chorus students will be assessed on those elements designated by the Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Chorus. Written and performance assessments will be factored in to each student’s overall grade for the quarter.

In Case of Illness:

Students who miss concerts/rehearsals **and are excused by Ms. El Shemi** are eligible to make up the missed grade if they present a note with the reason signed by a parent or guardian at least two weeks **PRIOR** to the missed performance.

Excused absences will be at the discretion of director and unexcused absences will affect the student’s grade.

Any make-up work assigned for a missed performance must be completed/turned in within 2 weeks of the missed event, unless otherwise specified.



Some examples of **unexcused** absences are:

- Sporting events (practices or games)
- Social engagements
- Not finding transportation
- Forgetting to plan and communicate with your parents
- Mislacing your uniform.

After School Rehearsals:

Rehearsals will be scheduled before concerts and performance assessments throughout the year. Once a student commits to an activity for chorus (i.e. the musical) he/she is expected to follow through with all rehearsals and performances for that activity.

Students are expected to give chorus rehearsals and performances first priority.

You will be given a monthly calendar along with the semester at a glance included in this handbook. Please plan accordingly, because students will need to arrange for their own transportation home. Professionalism is expected and that includes arriving and being picked up on time. Tardiness will result in a grade reduction, unless prior arrangements have been made with the director.

EXTRA-CHORICULAR ACTIVITIES- Subject to change due to Covid-19

Below, please find descriptions for choral activities throughout the year. Different activities require various levels of time-commitment and involvement. Contracts will be distributed prior to most events and students may be penalized if they do not follow through on their commitments. In order to participate, students must meet academic requirements and are responsible for transportation and expenses associated with these events including sheet music, accompanist fees, travel and possibly lodging.

All-County Chorus

This honor choir is made up of students selected to represent the best of each middle school in the county. Students who are selected to participate in All County are expected to take part in after school rehearsals. There is a \$5 participation fee associated with this event.

ACDA Male Honor Choir (Chorus Men)

This honor choir provides the opportunity for our chorus men to join with about 150 other chorus men from around the state of Florida to raise their voices in masculine song. This choir is always a big hit with our guys and connects middle school men from all over the state. A world class male clinician works in rehearsal with these guys for a day and a half prior to a formal performance at Seminole State College. This concert is part of the American Choral Directors Association state conference.

All-State Chorus- Only Vocal Performance Audition This Year

All State Chorus is an audition-only chorus that practices and performs in Tampa over three days in January. Students must pass two challenging auditions in September and October. It is recommended only for students with solid musicianship skills. A parent chaperone is expected to accompany every participant. Tutoring & Rehearsals for All State auditions are required. There are registration, music and lodging costs associated with this event.

Chorus Officers (Open to all chorus students)

In the spring of each year we elect a slate of student officers to help out with chorus duties in the following school year. Chorus 1 students will nominate 2 class representatives in the fall. These officers serve as leaders within the chorus and ambassadors to the school and the community. Positions include President, Vice President, Women's Manager, Men's Manager, Historians and Chorus 1 representatives. Officers are expected to participate in a monthly meeting/work day after school and at other times, as requested by Ms. El Shemi. Parents are responsible for transportation home once a month for these meetings.

Tri-M Talent Show (Open to all Ormond Beach Middle School Students)

Our chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society sponsors & produces this fun showcase event. Auditions will determine which acts will perform at our one-night-only showcase of Ormond Beach talent.

Solo and Ensemble (Open to all chorus students)

In February, students interested in being adjudicated as a soloist or as a part of a small ensemble may participate in our district's Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessment. Students will receive their music in November and must learn it (completely memorized) by the time they return in January. Students are expected to participate in after school rehearsals. Costs associated with this event include registration fees and accompanist fees. Transportation will be provided by the chorus.

The Musical (Every Other Year)

The OBMS Chorus will be producing a full-scale musical theater production including lighting, costuming, sets, sound, choreography, etc. Students wishing to take part in this venture should be advised that commitment to rehearsals and performances is expected for the duration of the show.

Additional Performances

We are frequently asked to perform at events throughout the year. Past performance venues include Samsula Elementary, Sweetwater Elementary, Spruce Creek Elementary, Cypress Creek Elementary, the Band Shell, Inlet Harbor Restaurant, the Athens Theatre in Deland, Jackie Robinson Ballpark, the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and the Daytona Beach Playhouse.

Tri-M Music Honor Society

Tri-M is an honor society committed to furthering the agenda of music education in our schools. Students are selected based on character, academics, commitment to excellence in music performance and leadership skills. Tri-M students work to support the music programs here at OBMS through service activities.

Uniforms

Students failing to meet the uniform requirements will not be allowed to perform which may affect their grade.

Informal Uniform: Chorus Shirt (provided when fees are complete), Black pants (may be long pants, capri pants or long skirts. All bottoms must come below the knee) & shoes with a closed toe & closed heel (flip flops & sandals are not permitted)

Formal Attire:



Women-

Long, black formal dress (Provided)

Purchase on your own before first performance:

Black Closed Toe Shoes w/ Closed back (Heel must be no higher than a ½ inches; no sandals will be permitted)

Men-

Black "tuxedo" (Provided)

Purchase on your own before first performance:

Black Socks

Black Dress Shoes (Sneakers will not be permitted)

White under shirt

Grooming for Performances:

Hair Pulled Back out of Face

No Jewelry except

Students will be asked to remove any observable body piercings.

No Perfume

Please Shower and Wear Deodorant (We stand in close proximity)

No Outrageous Hair Styles (Mohawks, Dyed Unnatural colors, Spiked, etc.)

The appearance of the chorus greatly affects the audience's response. Conformity to the concert attire presents a positive, classic look and avoids distraction from the music we are presenting.

NEVER CUT A UNIFORM WHEN HEMMING! These are used year after year and if the material is cut instead of hemmed properly the dressed cannot be reused. Washing instructions for uniforms can be obtained from Ms. El Shemi. Uniforms must be returned at the end of the year.

A student may be responsible for damage or loss of any part of the uniform he/she is issued.

Cost:

It is my mission to make chorus accessible to every student. Every student should have the opportunity to participate in choral events and money should not be a factor. However, there are specific costs equated with the operation of a successful choral program, and due to the current economic climate, those costs are falling back to the students more and more. Therefore, it is necessary to ask each student to contribute a chorus fee. The budget below details the cost necessary to run our chorus program. Accommodations can be made if financial need arises, but concerns must be made known to Ms. El Shemi before uniforms are distributed. This fee will cover the cost of uniform rental and will aid in off-setting costs in the chorus budget. Please know that every child will receive the same education, uniforms, and music regardless of payment.

Fees:

Beginning Chorus-\$60 Advanced Chorus-\$60

Fees may be paid in installments over the course of the school year. Please communicate with Ms. El Shemi if you'd like to explore this option.