Southern Middle School

Choral Handbook

2018-2019



Chelsea Huber, Choral Director

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Introduction

Welcome to the Chorus program at Southern Middle School! The Choral Department at Southern is committed to excellence in music, while staying grounded in a sense of teamwork and collaboration. As a member of one of Southern’s ensembles, you will encounter many musical styles in order to learn musical skills and concepts. You will work with other students who love to sing while developing your own musical strengths, through daily rehearsals and various performances on and off Southern’s campus.

Purpose

The purpose of Southern’s three performing ensembles (6th grade Chorus, 7th grade Advanced Chorus, and 8th grade Ensemble) is to prepare young musicians for a lifetime of making music. Students will rehearse and perform quality choral music while becoming more fluent in the language of music. All three ensembles will participate in concert opportunities throughout the year, as well as off-campus collaborative events.

Please read this handbook in its entirety to become familiar with our expectations and procedures. The SMS Parent Info/Volunteer form and the Choral Contract (the last two pages of this document) should be signed and returned no later than **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH.** Returning this form on time will count as a quiz grade.If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your support of music education at Southern Middle School.

Both students and parents should sign up for their class’s Remind group using their phone number or email. To do so, text your class’s code to the number 81010.

Class codes

6th grade chorus: @9k3d3a

7th grade Advanced Chorus: @478kh4

8th grade Ensemble: @hbdg28

Choral Ensembles

**Sixth Grade Beginning Chorus**

This ensemble for 6th graders provides an introduction to choral singing, musicianship and music literacy. No prior experience in chorus is necessary. Literature for sixth grade chorus includes two-part and unison music in the traditional choral style, Broadway, pop, and world music. Students will sing in English, but also may learn music in Latin, Swahili, German, Spanish, and more. All students will perform in concerts on and off campus. This is a year-long class, but students may potentially switch in or out at the end of the first semester after conferencing with Ms. Huber.

**Seventh Grade Advanced Chorus (year-long)**

Seventh Grade Advanced Chorus is open to students moving up from 6th grade chorus, OR any student that is approved to join by Ms. Huber. This ensemble continues the literacy and musicianship skills learned in 6th grade, while diving deeper into vocal technique and choral teamwork. Literature for 7th grade Advanced Chorus includes three-part music in the traditional choral style, Broadway, pop, and world music. Students will sing in English, but also will learn music in Latin, Swahili, German, Spanish, and more. All students will perform on and off campus, and are eligible to audition for NC Honors Chorus, All State Chorus, and All County Chorus.

**Eighth Grade Ensemble (year-long)**

Eighth Grade Ensemble is open to students moving up from 7th grade Advanced Chorus, OR any student that is approved to join by Ms. Huber. This ensemble consists of the highest level of literacy, musicianship, and vocal development. Members of this ensemble will also have opportunities to develop their vocal style through individual coaching. Literature for 8th grade Ensemble includes three- and four-part music in the traditional choral style, Broadway, pop, and world music. Students will sing in English, but also will learn music in Latin, Swahili, German, Spanish, and more. All students will perform on and off campus, and are expected to audition for NC Honors Chorus, All State Chorus, and All County Chorus.

Grading Procedures and Materials

Performances: 50% of final grade

Tests and quizzes: 30% of final grade

Participation (weekly BOCA grade, preparedness, etc.): 20%

**Performances**:

By its very nature, chorus is a performance-based class. Every day spent in rehearsal and every musical concept that is learned all serves to assist in presenting the best concerts possible. As a result, attendance and participation in all chorus concerts are **REQUIRED** unless otherwise stated by Ms. Huber.

If there is an emergency and a concert must be missed, Ms. Huber must be notified in writing **at least two days before** the performance. Failure to do so will impact the students’ grade. Even when the student provides written notification in time, an alternate assignment will be given to make up the grade.

You will be notified about required concerts at least 1 month in advance of the performance date. Any concert that is added with less than a 1 month notification will not be required. Please see the calendar of events for all dates that are scheduled so far.

**Quizzes**:

Most weeks, students will receive a quiz grade based on their completion of that week’s BOCAs (beginning of class activities). This grade is based on effort, not necessarily accuracy. Students should strive for continual improvement on their BOCAs.

**Required Materials:**

* A pencil to keep in your chorus folder
* A water bottle EVERY DAY
* Staff (musical notation) paper (Ms. Huber will provide some to get started)

Concert Attire

For Major (end-of-semester) Concerts:

Concert attire for major concerts is concert black.

**Girls**: Nice black shirt (does not have to be button-down) and black pants or skirt, or a black dress. Shoulder straps of shirt/dress must meet school dress code requirements, as well as skirt/dress length. Black shoes must be worn (can be sandals). Jewelry should be small and non-distracting.

**Boys:** White dress shirt with a tie, black pants, and black dress shoes. Tie can be a long tie or a bow tie.

For other concerts, sports performances, or off-campus events:

SMS Chorus t-shirt with either black bottoms or jeans (depends on the event).

Classroom Expectations and Procedures

*The most important expectation of the choral department is respect.*

**Respect for classmates**: do not engage in behavior that would distract others, and always give supportive and constructive (rather than negative) feedback. Encourage your classmates, especially when they are going outside their creative comfort zone.

**Respect for your teacher:** participate actively and do your best in every rehearsal.

**Respect for yourself**: take care of yourself and your voice: eat well, sleep well, etc. Ask for help when needed.

**Respect for the music**: come to class prepared, and give the music your best effort.

**Cell Phone Policy**

Cell phones **should not be present** during rehearsal. However, there may be times when you can use your cellphone to record your voice part during class. When this is the case, Ms. Huber will let you know ahead of time.

**Food/Gum/Water**

DO bring a water bottle to class every day (be sure to adhere to other teachers’ policies when you are in their class). **No eating** in the classroom. Spit out gum **as soon as you enter the classroom**.

**When you enter rehearsal…**

* Get your folder from the shelf BEFORE sitting down
* Take your seat and begin the BOCA that you see on the whiteboard.
* If it’s a Friday (no BOCA day), put your BOCAs from the week on your lap and wait for Ms. Huber to start class.

**If you need to use the bathroom…**

* Raise your hand and ask for permission.
* Plan to do this at the beginning at class, during BOCA time.

**Performance and Event Calendar**

FALL SEMESTER

Monday, September 17, 5:30pm: Choral Booster Club Interest Meeting  
Wednesday, September 26: **FIRST TRIP DEPOSIT DUE**  
Thursday, Sept. 27: NC Honors Chorus Auditions in Greensboro  
Friday, November 6 – Sunday, November 11: Honors Chorus Rehearsals and Performances in Winston-Salem  
​Wednesday, November 14: Powderpuff Football Tournament at SHS (sponsored by SMS Chorus)   
**\*Wednesday, December 19: Winter Chorus Concert at SHS, 7pm**  
\*TBD in December: Christmas Caroling Field Trip with SMS Dance Team  
   
SPRING SEMESTER   
Tuesday, January 15: Deadline for MiddleFest Student Registration   
Monday, January 14 and Wednesday, January 16: All County Auditions   
Wednesday, January 23: Deadline for All County Registration and Payment   
January/February: Chorus Trip Fundraiser  
February 15-16: ACDA Middlefest! In Winston-Salem  
\*January-March TBD: National Anthem performances at SMS Basketball games  
March 7-8: All-County Chorus Festival (25 students, 7-8th grade)   
April 12-14 (Friday-Sunday): Spring Chorus Trip to Williamsburg, VA   
\*May TBD: Spring Showcase  
**\*May TBD: Spring Choral Concert**  
\*June 10-11: Choral performances at SMS awards ceremonies

**Parent Info/Volunteer Form  
\*Please fill out and return by Wednesday, Sept. 5**

Parent/Guardian Name:

Parent Email:

Parent Phone #:

Your child’s name:

Would you like to chaperone field trips? (All chaperones must be on the SMS approved list before date of field trip)

YES NO

Are you willing to help with performances, concerts, and fundraisers throughout the school year?

YES NO

Thank you for volunteering! I will be in contact with you throughout the year with updated information about events and fundraisers. Your help and support are most appreciated. Please always feel free to introduce yourself after a concert, and I look forward to meeting each and every one of you.

**SMS Chorus Handbook Agreement form 2018-2019  
\*Please fill out and return by Wednesday, Sept. 5**

I have read and understand all of the information in this handbook. I understand all the expectations and policies. I have seen the dates on the performance calendar and have placed them in my family’s calendar, and will notify Ms. Huber of any conflicts. I have signed up for the Remind group as well. I will do my best to uphold these expectations as an important member of the Choral Program at Southern Middle.

I also understand that I will be entrusted with the use of a choral folder and choral music for the duration of the year, and understand that I will be monetarily responsible if these items are lost or damaged.

Student’s Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_