

Chenery Middle School Choral Program Handbook

Dear Students and Families,

I am very pleased to welcome you to Chenery's choral program for 2015-2016! The choral program at Chenery is part of a nationally recognized music education program in the Belmont Public Schools. The success of the music education program is due in large part to support from parents, community members, and the school administration. It is also due to the hard work and motivation of its student members.

Congratulations on choosing to participate in one of our choral ensembles! You will find our classes to be more than just a group of students in the same place at the same time. Each chorus is a team in which each member is equally important and necessary to the success of the group. Because of this, you have responsibility to your ensemble to work to the absolute best of your ability and to practice each day to improve as an individual and as a team. You will be relied on by all the members of your chorus, and you can count on them as well. If your attitude toward this elective or your respect for your fellow teammates does not meet the high expectations of the conductor and the ensemble, we will have a conversation involving your whole family about your continued participation in chorus.

This handbook is your guide for your year in chorus. It contains information about expectations for your attitude and behavior, and it also contains practical information such as concert dates, grading systems, and materials needed for class. At the end, you will find your **first homework assignment!** Students and parents/guardians need to go to the choral website (link below) and complete the two forms to show that you have read and agree to all the information in this handbook. After you and your parents have read this handbook, please *put it in your binder so you can refer to it throughout the year.*

Finally, it is important for me to tell you that I truly believe that every person can learn to sing healthily and beautifully. Each one of you has a unique voice and has the potential to be an amazing musician. It is my goal to guide each and every one of you to find, use, and refine your singing voice so that you can experience vocal music in the most meaningful way possible. We will work hard this year to learn and perform high quality music, practice individual and ensemble techniques, understand music theory, and collaborate to reach common goals.

I am so excited to work with you in chorus this year!

Sincerely,

Christine Moser
5th-8th Grade Choral Director
Chenery Middle School
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<http://chenerychoralmusic.weebly.com>

CHORUS STUDENT COMMITMENT

Students in the Chenery Choral Program are
Respectful, Responsible, and Ready to Learn

Respectful:

- Participate with a positive attitude
- Listen actively when teachers and classmates are speaking and singing
- Follow all directions
- Treat others with kindness and respect

Responsible:

- Bring their binder, sheet music, paper, and pencil every day
- Take care of sheet music (no wrinkles, tears, or ink marks)
- Hand sheet music back in after concerts in pristine condition
- Note concert dates and other important information in calendars
- Pass on reminders to parents about important dates and events

Ready to Learn:

- Give their best effort at all times
- Come to class with open minds
- Set goals for themselves and grow as musicians
- Participate in class discussions and activities

Daily Points (30% of grade)

As part of a student's quarter grade, he or she will receive daily points based on the 3 categories above. Each student starts each day with 15 points. Points will be deducted if he or she does not meet the expectations listed. Daily points count for 30% of a student's grade in chorus.

MATERIALS/PREPARATION FOR CLASS

All students in grades 6-8 are asked to provide:

1. A 3-ring binder (1/2" or 1" size probably works best) to hold sheet music
*Note: you are welcome to designate a section of a larger binder to your chorus materials.
2. Lined paper or a notebook inside of the binder
3. A pencil with an eraser

Students must bring these materials to class every day! I will randomly check to see if a student has everything listed above. Daily preparation counts towards a student's daily points grade.

2015-2016 CHORUS CONCERT CALENDAR

Please mark the following dates in your calendars. Please also note the snow dates for the winter concerts.

September 14	Electronic Registration and Handbook Assignment due
September 16-22	Chambers Singers auditions after school (set up time with Mrs. Moser)
September 28	Chamber Singers Rehearsals begin
November 10	Chamber Singers only – Veterans Day Assembly, 9 a.m., CMS Auditorium
January 13 Snow date Jan. 14	Sing-a-rama (6 th , 7 th , and 8 th grade choirs), 7 p.m., BHS Auditorium
January 20 Snow date Jan. 25	CMS Honors Ensemble Concert (Chamber Singers), 7 p.m., CMS Auditorium
January 30 Snow date Feb. 6	Northeastern Junior District Auditions, Lowell
February 25 Snow date Feb. 29	6 th Grade Concert (6 th grade band, chorus, and orchestra), 7 p.m., CMS Auditorium
March 3 Snow date March 8	7 th and 8 th Grade Concert (7/8 choirs and orchestras), 7 p.m., CMS Auditorium
April 6, 8, 9	Northeastern Junior District Festival
April 28	CMS Honors Ensemble Concert (Chamber Singers), 7 p.m., CMS Auditorium
May 19-21	CMS Spring Musical
May 26	7 th and 8 th Grade Concert (7/8 choirs and orchestras), 7 p.m., CMS Auditorium
June 6	6 th Grade Concert (6 th grade band, chorus, and orchestra), 7 p.m., CMS Auditorium

CONCERT ATTIRE

All students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade choirs: Formal black and white. Please refer to <http://chenerychoralmusic.weebly.com/concert-attire.html> for examples of appropriate attire.

- *Boys: White button down shirt, tie (any color), black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes*
- *Girls: White blouse, black dress pants or black skirt (knee-length or longer), black tights or socks, black dress shoes*

Not permitted: T-shirts, athletic clothing, thin/spaghetti straps, skirts above the knee, jeans, sneakers, flip-flops, and casual boots (including Uggs).

**If a student arrives for a concert with inappropriate attire, they will be required to change before participating. If a parent/family member is not able to bring different clothing in time, the student will be given clothing from the school's black and white closet.*

GRADES

Music ensembles receive academic credit. Most academic courses require outside preparation, and performance ensembles at Chenery Middle School are no exception. Performances are scheduled after school hours and attendance IS REQUIRED. Attendance at these events is considered by the school administration to be a supplement to the exam schedule, and, therefore, absence from a performance commitment will be reflected as a failing mark to be included in the period grade.

The after-school performance schedule is found in this handbook and on the Calendar page of the Choral Music website (<http://chenerychoralmusic.weebly.com>). Please add these important dates to your family's calendar and post the calendar page in a conspicuous place.

Grades for choral ensembles will be based on learning growth, attendance at concerts, and daily preparation and participation. Learning growth will be measured through formal and informal performance assessments and periodic assignments or quizzes. Preparation and participation will be measured through frequent in-class checks to see if a student has all of his or her materials and is following the commitment agreement above. Assignments will also be given. Some can be completed in class, but some will need to be completed at home. Knowing how busy students are with other class work, I will do my best to keep homework assignments to a minimum.

Grade breakdown (per quarter):

40%: Concert attendance and participation

30%: Daily Points for respectful, responsible, and ready-to-learn behavior

15%: Quizzes and formal assessments

15%: In-class and homework assignments

FIRST HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

Go to <http://chenerychoralmusic.weebly.com> and click on your respective grade under "Class Info" (navigation at the top of the page). Follow the instructions to fill out both forms. This information will help with communication this year, and it will also show Mrs. Moser that you have read this entire handbook. This assignment is due before your class period on September 14.