

# Hunter's Creek Middle School

## Chorus Handbook

All Students and Parent/Guardians are expected to read all items in the handbook and sign and agree on page 3.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Class activities are designed to develop skill in vocal technique, rehearsal and performance practices, music theory, sight-reading, and critical listening. Performances will occur periodically throughout the school year both on and off campus.

### MATERIALS:

- Pencil – (must be provided by the student)
- 1 ½ inch binder with clear plastic cover. (must be provided by the student)
- The primary material that students will use in class is sheet music (provided).
- Students will need to bring their laptop every day in order to fully participate in class. Exceptions to this requirement will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- **For the entire chorus department, we are always in need of hand sanitizer and boxes of tissues to prevent the spread of germs.**

### RULES AND EXPECTATIONS:

1. ARRIVE to class on time. Be in your spot on the risers with your binder when class begins.
2. BEHAVE respectfully towards all persons and property in the room.
3. PARTICIPATE fully every minute of every class period.
4. REFRAIN from interrupting or disrupting class in any way.
5. DISPOSE of all food, drink or gum BEFORE you enter the chorus room, with the exception of bottled water. They are not allowed at your seat.

### RESTROOM POLICY:

Per school policy, students are only permitted to use the restroom if it is an emergency. Students that abuse this privilege will have this privilege revoked permanently.

### CONSEQUENCES:

\*\*Depending on the situation, failure to follow any of these rules will first result in a "Behavior Warning" which is sent home and documented by Mr. Pollard. The second offense will result in a "Behavior Reflection" and a call home. The third offense will result in a morning or afternoon detention and another call home. The fourth offense will be handled by administration.\*\*

### FAIRSHARE:

\$35 covers the majority of administrative fees that it takes to run the Chorus program. Your suggested donation allows students to have access to district and state wide clinics and workshops, as well as hiring musicians/purchasing sheet music which are necessities for our program.

### UNIFORM RENTAL:

6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Men: \$30

7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Women: \$30

Notables: \$25/Ladies Shoe Purchase: \$16

6<sup>th</sup> grade Women: \$12 for Polo purchase

**To make a payment, visit**

[www.hcmschorus.com](http://www.hcmschorus.com) and click the pay button.

### GRADING POLICY:

- **30% - Concerts/Performances and Additional Rehearsals** Majority of points earned by but not limited to being present, arriving on time, wearing their uniform properly, participating positively and fully, and exhibiting appropriate stage/audience behavior. All concert dates are listed in this handbook. OCPS recognizes that membership in chorus **requires** attendance outside of the regular school day. **If you know that you have a conflict with a concert date, a note from a parent or guardian is required at least three weeks in advance of the performance.** See the section on Concert Absences below for more details.
- **35% - Class Work/Assessments** This includes bellwork, listening activities, part checks, written quizzes or tests, or other work to be done primarily during class. This can include performance assessments during class, both formal and informal in nature.
- **35% - Daily Skill Building** Your daily skill building grade will be determined by the skills you demonstrate in daily rehearsal.

Students are expected to demonstrate the following techniques consistently in rehearsal and during performances for an "A" grade in the "Daily Skill Building" category. Each student will be given this information along with a learning scale to keep in their binders for quick reference during class.

- Arrive on time to class and stand in assigned spot on riser quickly upon arrival
- Have required materials quickly when needed (laptop, sheet music)
- Maintain eye contact with director during rehearsal and instruction
- Remain silent when appropriate
- Sing with tall vowels and raised soft palate
- Sing at appropriate volume
- Sing with energy and enthusiasm
- Maintain good singer's posture

### CONCERT/REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to attend all concerts and rehearsals that are listed for their class on the Chorus Calendar. All concerts and rehearsals are graded and tied to the Sunshine State Standards.

- **Absences can ONLY be excused if the**

**student has presented a written parent note separate from the one they send to the attendance office that explains the situation to the satisfaction of the director.** Excused absences can include illness, family emergencies, and pre-arranged absences (i.e. religious holidays) where a parent note is received at least **three** weeks prior.

- In the case of illness or emergency, a written parent note must be received no later than the 2nd day the student returns.
- This policy is also applied to **required after school rehearsals.**
- **Students will have 48 hours to complete make-up assignments for any missed performances/events after the event/performance has occurred.**
- **Not having a ride is not considered an excused absence.**

#### **CLASS DESCRIPTIONS:**

*Beginning Women's Chorus – Open to all 6<sup>th</sup> grade women at HCMS. An audition is not required. Afterschool rehearsal and performances may be required.*

*Men's Chorus – Open to all 6-8 grade men at HCMS. An audition is not required. Afterschool rehearsals and performances are required.*

*Women's Show Choir – Open to all 7-8 grade women at HCMS. An audition is not required. Afterschool rehearsals and performances are required.*

*Notables – Open to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade men and 8<sup>th</sup> grade women. Placement requirements – Audition. Students should have had at least one year of chorus and must also be enrolled in another same-gender chorus. Afterschool rehearsals and performances are mandatory.*

*HCMS Chorus – Open to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade women at HCMS. Placement requirements – Audition. Students should have had at least one year of chorus. Afterschool rehearsals and performances are mandatory.*

#### **UNIFORM DESCRIPTIONS:**

Men's Chorus: Tuxedo shirt, black vest, black tuxedo pants, black and blue bowtie, black solid dress shoes

Women's Show Choir: Black knit dress, black solid dress shoes with no heel, no jewelry except for stud earrings.

Beginning Women's Chorus: Black HCMS Chorus Polo, black dress pants (absolutely no tights, leggings, jeggings), black solid dress shoes with no heel, no jewelry except stud earrings.

HCMS Singers: Black beaded bodice dress with black character shoes. No jewelry except stud earrings.

Notables:

Men – Blue glitter vest, black tuxedo pants, white tuxedo shirt, black solid dress shoes, glitter bowtie  
Women – Blue glitter dress, black character shoes. Diamond headband.

#### **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS:**

It is expected that all students enrolled in Chorus at Hunter's Creek Middle School demonstrate the highest level of discipline and exhibit appropriate behavior inside and outside of the classroom. Any students not consistently demonstrating the expectations listed above may be subject to removal from performances and given a make-up assignment.

*Communication is key!*

#### **Mandatory Chorus Dates:**

**\*\*Write these dates down and save them!\*\***

Parent Night/Uniform Sizing Night – August 29  
6:30pm-7:15pm

Chorus Lock In Retreat – September 29 4-8pm

Winter Concert – December 12, 6:30pm HCMS

PreMPA Concert – March TBA

MPA – March TBA

Spring Concert – May TBA

**For a detailed calendar, please visit**

[www.hcmschorus.com](http://www.hcmschorus.com)

**Mr. Pollard's Contact Information:**

Email – [Cedrick.pollard@ocps.net](mailto:Cedrick.pollard@ocps.net)

Phone – 407.858.4620 x5102272

Website – [www.hcmschorus.com](http://www.hcmschorus.com)



# Hunter's Creek Middle School



## Chorus

13400 Town Loop Blvd, Orlando, FL 32837 | 407.858.4620 X5102272 | [cedrick.pollard@ocps.net](mailto:cedrick.pollard@ocps.net)

Mr. Alex Pollard, Choral Director

# Chorus Handbook Agreement Form

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period (circle one): 2 3 4 5 6 7

**For the Student:** Please **initial** by each statement to acknowledge that you understand and agree to uphold each expectation.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have thoroughly examined the Hunter's Creek Middle School Chorus Handbook with my parent/guardian, and believe that I can follow and uphold all expectations.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand, accept, and will be responsible for all information and rules, as well as the grading policy included in the Handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_ In the event that I have to miss a performance or event, I understand the proper procedure for notifying Mr. Pollard of my absence and making up the grade.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand the uniform policy for my ensemble and will make sure I have the materials/items necessary before my first performance.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will give my best effort in every choral rehearsal, striving to achieve my potential and a high level of music-making.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will represent the HCMS Choral program in the best way possible inside and outside of school.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**For the Parent/Guardian:** Please **initial** by each statement to acknowledge that you understand and agree to uphold each expectation.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have thoroughly examined the Hunter's Creek Middle School Handbook with my student, and believe that he/she can follow and uphold all expectations.

\_\_\_\_\_ Together, we understand, accept, and will be responsible for all information, calendar dates, procedures, and rules, as well as the grading policy included in the Handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_ As a parent/legal guardian, I will support my child in their involvement in vocal music at Hunter's Creek Middle School.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_ (One that you check regularly!)

**ALL FORMS ARE DUE TO MR. POLLARD BY  
AUGUST 29, 2017 FOR 100 POINTS**