*Making Music Together*

This handbook is given to familiarize members of the Heritage Middle School Choirs with the policies and expectations of our choir programs. In order for our choirs to thrive, it is essential that the guidelines in this handbook be clearly understood and followed by each member to the best of his or her ability.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Actively develop an open and relaxed singing voice.
2. Create a good musical ear, through listening, sight singing, and vocal exercise.
3. Learn to notate music and identify important musical terms.
4. Accurately read and sing music from the staff.
5. Perform proficiently and confidently with good concert etiquette.
6. Cultivate an enjoyment for music!

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:**

These expectations will act as our ruling guidelines to help students have a good positive learning experience as musicians.

1. Enter ready and quiet.
2. Give attention to the quiet signal.
3. Be respectful and focused.
4. Have a good and positive attitude.
5. Work together. We are a team. *One Team – One Heartbeat*

**MATERIALS:**

Choir Folders with music & materials (Provided for the student) Pencil

These are the materials needed for class every day, so each student will be expected to have them. It is essential that students be responsible for their choir folders, as they would be for a book or supplemental materials in any other class.

**GRADING SCALE**

Concerts/Performances

* **Attendance** **is expected** (See Performance Absence Policy for make-up)
  + Be on time and dress appropriately
  + Have music memorized and prepared

Participation

* Students should earn their participation points each rehearsal day
* Students receive participation points for the following:
  + Having materials (choir folder, pencil, etc.)
  + Giving his or her best effort
  + Following our classroom expectations

Behavior that involves a student being unable to complete rehearsal (i.e. being asked to leave the room) will result in a loss of points for that day.

In-class Assignments/Quizzes/Tests – May include:

* Notation/dictation/ear training
* Labeling music with solfege, measure numbers, rehearsal notes, etc.
* Writing assignments
* Written/singing quizzes or tests

Letter Grading:

A – 90-100% B – 80-89.9% C – 70-79.9% D – 60-69.9% F – 0-59.9%

**CHOIR OFFICERS**

In order to help keep choir rehearsals running smoothly, we will often need to enlist student help. Each choir will have a few selected students to assist with certain daily tasks, ranging from taking attendance, to passing in/out materials, etc.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

The following are the currently scheduled events, as well as time frames for certain events not yet scheduled. **Not all events are currently scheduled!!** Due to changing schedules and state requirements, your flexibility is greatly appreciated. **Any changes, adjustments, or additions to the schedule will be sent home with the students via letter/flyer, as well as updated on the choir website (which can be accessed from the school website, teacher pages),** [www.heritagechoir.weebly.com](http://www.heritagechoir.weebly.com).

Fall Concert October 18, 2016, 6:00 p.m. @ Heritage

Holiday Concert Rehearsal December 7, 2016, in-school field trip @ NHS auditorium

Holiday Concert December 7, 2016, 6:00 p.m. @ NHS auditorium

All-Choir Concert February 16, 2017, 7:00 p.m. @ NHS auditorium (tentative)

Pops Choir Concert May 16, 2017, 6:00 p.m. @ Heritage

End-of-Year Choir Trip TBD (tentative)

**PERFORMANCE POLICIES**

Performing is an **essential** part of how students will demonstrate skills learned in Choir. Students will be working hard to make beautiful and blended music together. Concerts are the best way to share with family, friends, and the community what our students have accomplished.

I realize that school schedules can be quite hectic, but choir members are expected to attend all concerts. Students should not simply choose to attend one activity over another. If a conflict with another activity occurs, please let me know as soon as possible, so that an agreement can be reached. Communication between students, parents/guardians, and the director will be essential in reaching a solution. **Be advised, all missed concerts will need to be made up.**

Please follow these guidelines:

* Look at the performance calendar and **mark appropriate dates** prior to the concerts. *Please see the* [*www.heritagechoir.weebly.com*](http://www.heritagechoir.weebly.com) *for dates and events.*
* Students will be responsible for alerting parents/guardians of any changes in the schedule. *See the website for special announcements.*
* Students must notify the director in writing at least **two weeks** prior to the concert. A written note following the concert from the parents/guardians is sufficient only for unexpected or emergency situations.

Acceptable excuses include:

* Illness
* Unexpected Emergency (i.e. death in the family, family tragedy, etc.)
* Suspension
* Religious conflict
* Planned absence (please make efforts to avoid conflict in this area)

Performance Absence Policy

A make-up assignment will be given to students with excused absences. This assignment **must** be completed in order to receive credit.

Students have the option to choose between two assignments for concert make-up.

* Option 1 – A one to two page summary on the life and work of a composer (of the director’s choosing), detailing that composer’s significance.
* Option 2 – Sing through (for the director) that concert’s song selections.

**PERFORMANCE ATTIRE**

To establish a good cohesive and blended group, we must also be cohesive and blended in our look. Expected attire for concerts will be:

**BOYS**: White, Long-sleeved and collared dress shirt

Black dress pants

Black dress shoes and black dress socks

**No t-shirts, jeans, or tennis shoes.**

**GIRLS:** White dressy shirt (no low-cut tops)

Black dress pants or long, black dress skirt (no short skirts)

Black dress shoes

**No t-shirts, jeans, or tennis shoes.**

\*Attire can be subject to change for casual performances. Advanced notice will be given if this is the case.\*

BYOD – Bring Your Own Device Policy

* Personal devices should only be used when specifically instructed.
* If not mentioned, assume personal devices are not permitted for that time.

(Please return this page by August 26, 2016)

Parent/Guardian Information

1) Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best Time to Contact\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2) Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best Time to Contact\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a parent or guardian interested in helping with the Heritage Middle School Choirs?

Check mark if interested in helping with:

Fundrasing\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chaperoning\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Miscellanous\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Perferred Contact Information for helping:

Number(s)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best time to contact me\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“We have read and understand the contents of the Heritage Middle School Choir handbook. We agree to abide by the policies and requirements listed, to the best of our abilities.”

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (student signature) (parent signature)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (date) (date)