



Haynes Bridge Middle School Chorus Handbook 2013-2014



Adam Cole
Choral Director
Connections Department Chair



PARENTS: Thanks for letting me work with your kids. **If you only have 1 minute, read “the three most important things” NOW.** The rest of the handbook goes into more detail about the uniform, important dates and events you need to know.

The Three Most Important Things

1. **Students will not be allowed to perform unless they are wearing their choral performance attire. If they do not have an official HBMS Chorus Shirt, they must purchase one immediately (see below).**
2. Students must attend **all** school rehearsals and performances and will be graded on it.
3. Students grades will be based on a combination of their participation, knowledge and ability. Chorus is a year-long commitment on the part of the student and their parents.

This handbook is available at the Haynes Bridge Choral Music Website, www.hbmsmusic.weebly.com. Please return all attached forms and let Mr. Cole know you and your child have reviewed **the entire handbook** and accepted the information.

If you do not have access to a computer, you will receive a printed version. Please sign and date the last page and return it to school with your child.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,
Adam Cole
Choral Director
Connections Department Chair
Haynes Bridge Middle School

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to Choral Music at Haynes Bridge Middle School! This handbook is designed to acquaint you with the rules and performance procedures of the HBMS chorus. Parents, please read this handbook thoroughly and discuss its contents with your child. Everything involved is designed to provide your musician with the best musical experience possible!

A performance calendar has been included for your scheduling convenience as well as a uniform order form and applications for all-state and honor chorus. This information can also be found on the chorus website, which can be accessed by going to <http://www.hbmsmusic.weebly.com>

Parents, please keep this handbook for your reference as needs may arise. If you have any questions regarding the information provided or your child's progress, feel free to contact me via e-mail (preferred) or voice mail. I would like to thank you in advance for your support of the choral program. Your child is participating in one of the finest middle school choruses anywhere, and I will have the best interest of your child in mind at all times.

Students, welcome to chorus at Haynes Bridge Middle School. With your dedication and commitment we can continue to be one of the finest middle school choruses in the county. Hopefully, chorus will be one of the highlights of your middle school experience. I look forward to the year ahead and the beautiful music we will create together.

Sincerely,

Adam Cole

Choral Director

Haynes Bridge Middle School

10665 Haynes Bridge Road

Alpharetta, Georgia 30022

770-740-7030 x214

colea@fultonschools.org (the best way to reach me)

Chorus and General Music Website: www.hbmsmusic.weebly.com

Planning time: 8:45-9:40 daily

Course Objectives

Chorus is a year long performance based class. All course objectives pertain to the experience of performing choral music. Students will learn to read music at sight (sight-reading), notate music, use proper breath support, use appropriate posture for singing, use good diction, learn to sing in a head voice with appropriate tone, and light choreography. They will experience music of all genres and many different cultures. Students are expected to attend all concerts.

Materials and Supplies

Each student must bring three things to class each day: **a three-ring binder with paper, a pencil, and their agenda.**

Class Expectations

Each student is to adhere to the behavior expectations as outlined in the student agenda, pages 5-7.

General Expectations

- to be in class, in their seat, on time with materials.
- to respect their own and other's property, rights, and opinions.
- to follow all HBMS rules as stated in the handbook.
- to attend and be on time for all rehearsals and concerts.
- to dress properly for concerts. (See concert attire)
- to turn in written assignments and projects on time.

No Gum, Food, or Drink is allowed during class rehearsal or performance.

*Parents should check the student's agenda daily for communication from the teacher. Students not following class expectations will receive a note home to notify parents. If you receive a note, please sign it to indicate that you received it.

Consequences

Consequences for not following the classroom expectations will be as follows:

1. Warning in class
2. Conference after class with student
3. Note to parent in agenda, or via e-mail
4. Phone call to parent
5. Teacher detention
6. Office Referral and/or public detention

Tardiness

Students who are late to school must sign in at the office, where they will be given a pass to class. While not receiving a consequence as noted below, the tardy to school will be recorded in their attendance record as normal.

A class tardy is defined as not being inside the classroom when the final bell rings. Students who are not in the classroom when the final bell rings must report to room 22, where their tardy will be recorded, consequences assigned, and a pass given to allow the student to return to class. Students who fail to report to room 22 within five minutes of the final bell will be turned over to an administrator for cutting class. Students will be assigned a consequence for a class tardy based upon the following tiered progression:

Tardy 1 Warning 1

Tardy 2 Warning 2

Tardy 3 Silent Lunch for one day

Tardy 4 Silent Lunch for two days and Parent Contact

Tardy 5 Morning Academic Workout with Graduation Coach

Tardy 6 Administrative Conference and Parent Letter

Tardy 7 Public Detention

Tardy 8 Conference with Graduation Coach, parents and other stakeholders for at risk behaviors

Tardy 9 ISS

Tardy 10 Consequence as determined by administrator

Students will be given a tardy pass that details their level of consequence. This pass will serve to allow students back into their classroom as well as a notification to parents. The student's tardy to class will also be recorded in the attendance record as normal. All tardy consequences will be set back to zero every nine weeks. Students will be given the first five days of the school year as a grace period to learn the policy, their way around the school, and to problem solve the most efficient ways to get to class on time.

Concert Attire

- Students will wear black slacks, black closed-toe shoes (they do not have to be dress shoes), black socks or stockings, and an HBMS chorus polo style shirt that must be purchased through Mr. Cole.
- Shirts are to be tucked in.
- Jewelry is to be small and inconspicuous.
- Students may not alter their concert shirt in any way.

Jeans and short pants are not appropriate concert attire. Students not dressed appropriately for concerts will not be allowed to perform and will be given an alternate assignment for the concert grade.

Grading Policies and Procedures

The standard Fulton County grading scale will be followed.

A=100-90%

B=89-80%

C=79-70%

F=69% and below

The student's grade in chorus will be determined using the following formula

60%-Class participation-A weekly class participation grade will be given. Participation includes singing with the group, following directions, bringing class materials, using appropriate posture, answering questions when called on, and supporting the community effort to make music. Failure to bring materials (music, pencil, paper, and agenda) will result in a 10 point reduction in the weekly participation grade for EACH DAY the student does not have materials.

Daily questions (half of the participation grade)

At the beginning of each class students are required to silently write the answers to guiding/review questions posted on the board into their notebook. They must write the answer in a complete sentence. *If a student does not know the answer, they must **guess**, and **circle the guess** to receive full credit.* The questions are to be turned in at the end of each week.

20%- Tests and Written Assignments- Periodically, students will be given tests and written assignments to show what they have learned. If a student does poorly, they may ask to make up the grade.

20%-Rehearsals and Performances-Chorus is a performance class. All students are needed and are expected to perform in all rehearsals and concerts. Students who cannot attend a rehearsal or performance for any reason must notify the director in writing a minimum of one week prior to the concert. In case of illness or emergency the day of the concert, parents should notify the director via e-mail or voice mail. There will be a make-up assignment for students who cannot attend a concert due to illness or other excused absence. Students who fail to attend the rehearsals and concert or to turn in the make-up assignment will receive a zero for that concert grade.

Student Organization

Students are given one agenda at the beginning of the year and are expected to use the student agenda as an organizational tool as well as a hall pass. See page 13 in the student agenda for the specific guidelines.

Absence Make-up and Recovery

All students are expected to make up any missing assignment due to an absence in a timely manner. See page 3 in the student agenda for the specific guidelines.

Middle School Recovery Process from the Board policy on Grading and Reporting (IHA)

- B. Provision for improving grades
1. Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance.
 2. Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grades.

Guidance Counselor/SST/Graduation Coach

The Graduation Coach's primary responsibility is to work with all students to encourage academic success. Dr. Pagnotti offers a variety of academic programs that can help students achieve. These programs (Working Lunch, Friday Finish, Feed Your Mind) have been extremely successful in providing support to all students.

The Guidance Counselors are available to assist with any academic and social needs you may encounter during the school year.

HBMS CHORUS CALENDAR

(dates may be subject to change)

*****Indicates a required performance.**

All unmarked dates are optional.

*****Tuesday October 8, 2013-Fall Concert, 7:00pm HBMS. Student call, 6:30pm**

Friday, October 4, 2013 – “Rock-A-Thon” Fundraiser – Haynes Bridge Middle School

Saturday, October 12, 2013-All-State Chorus First Audition (7th and 8th graders only) – Woodland High School, Stockbridge, GA

Friday, November 1 and Saturday, November 2, 2013 – District Honor Chorus – Roswell Presbyterian

*****Tuesday December 3, 2013-Winter Concert, 7:00pm Centennial High School, Student Call, 6:00pm**

Thursday, January 16, 2014 -All-State Chorus Final Audition-for those who passed the first audition. North Springs High School.

Thursday-Saturday, February 20-22, 2014-All-State Chorus, Athens, Georgia

***** Tuesday OR Wednesday February 25 - 28, 2014- LGPE, time and location TBD**

Saturday, May 3, 2014 – Sixth Grade Six Flags Performance

*****Tuesday May 6, 2014-Spring Concert-7:00pm HBMS, Student Call 6:30 pm**

TBD – Seventh and Eight Grade Chattanooga Performance (Day trip)

Chorus Dues

In order to minimize the need for requesting money throughout the year, each new member of Chorus is asked to provide \$30 in Chorus Dues. This payment covers the cost of the Chorus Uniform, music expenses and helps with transportation costs for LGPE. If you have a financial hardship, arrangements can be made to either create a payment plan for you, or to secure a donation on your behalf. Parents who wish to donate beyond \$30, or who wish to make a general contribution to Chorus can do so with the Chorus Due payment.

Chorus Uniform Orders

The chorus uniform consists of a red polo style shirt with our chorus logo, black pants/slacks (no jeans), black socks, and black closed-toed shoes. They do not have to be dress shoes, but they do have to be closed-toed and completely black. Shirts are to be tucked in for performances and not to be altered in any way. Jewelry is to be small and inconspicuous.

The cost of the shirts are included in the Chorus Dues. They come in Youth and Adult sizes. Samples sizes will be available in class.

We will wear these shirts every year, so please make sure you purchase a shirt long enough to tuck in and large enough that your child has room to grow. Parents are also invited to purchase a shirt to wear on field trips and to school events to show your support.

I look forward to seeing you all at our first concert of the year on Tuesday, October 8, at 7pm in the HBMS gym.

Please submit your order form with payment no later than Friday, September 13, 2013.

Thanks!

Adam Cole
Choral Director, Haynes Bridge Middle School
colea@fultonschools.org 770-740-7030

Chorus Shirt Order Form

Student's PRINTED Name

Parent's PRINTED e-mail

Shirt size: Youth-L Adult-S Adult-M Adult L Adult-XL Adult-2XL
(add \$2 for 2XL)

Check # _____ Please make checks payable to HBMS with Chorus shirt in the memo section.

**If you are paying for more than one thing, you may put it all on one check if you choose. Please make sure to indicate each activity on the check.

All-State Chorus (Information on this form subject to change!)

All-state chorus is an auditioned choir of students throughout the state. The event will be held **February 20-22, 2014 in Athens, Georgia.**

There are 2 auditions. Parents will be responsible for their child's transportation to both auditions. The first is **Saturday October 12, 2013 at Woodland High School.** It will consist of a prepared solo, scales, tonal memory and sight-reading. Students are encouraged to prepare for the audition on their own. However Mr. Cole will be available before school for individual help.

If the first audition is passed, the student will attend a second audition at **North Springs High School on Thursday January 16, 2014.** At the second audition, the student will perform the all-state music for the judge and must pass at 70% or better. Those achieving 90% or better will receive a seal on their all-state certificate. Each student who passes the first audition will purchase a CD and the all-state music for approximately \$30 to help them prepare for the 2nd audition. Mr. Cole will also be available before school for extra help.

The cost to audition is \$20. **This fee must be paid no later than Friday, August 30, 2013.** Checks should be made payable to HBMS. *If you decide not to audition after September 4, your money will not be refunded.*

Additional expenses to the students who make All-State will include the purchase of music (TBD), an acceptance fee (\$15), possible hotel expenses in Athens, and meals in Athens.

Parents may be responsible for staying with and chaperoning their own child during the all-state event in Athens depending on the number of students who make the chorus. I highly recommend making hotel reservations in Athens now if your child is going to audition as hotel space books up pretty quickly after the audition. The first rehearsal in Athens on Thursday February 21 is at noon, so you may want to consider driving up Wednesday evening. Locations for rehearsals will be given closer to the event.

If you would like to audition for All-State Chorus this year, please complete the form on the next page and return it to Mr. Cole with your entry fee no later than Friday, August 30. Keep this page for your records.

NAME AS YOU WANT IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR ALL-STATE CHORUS CERTIFICATE:

Voice Part: Circle One

Soprano I or II Alto I or II Tenor Bass

You are not required to audition on the same part you sing in class. If you are unsure of your voice part, do not circle anything and Mr. Cole will help you decide.

Grade: Circle one

7 8

Check Number:

Cash is acceptable, but please bring exact change.

All-State Parent Agreement

I give permission for my child to audition for the Georgia All-State Chorus.

I understand that I am responsible for my child's transportation to and from both auditions as well as the entire event in Athens.

Parent's Signature _____

Parent's **printed** name and e-mail _____

Parent's day-time phone number _____

GMEA District V Honor Chorus-7th and 8th Grade only

The GMEA District V Honor Chorus is made up of singers from the Fulton County Schools, Atlanta Public Schools, and local Private Schools. Each school is invited to bring 3 students. 3 Alternates will also be chosen and may be called to attend.

Each student will be responsible for learning their music with a CD. Mr. Cole will be available to help if needed.

The event will be held on Nov. 1 and 2, 2013 at Roswell Presbyterian Church. You will be responsible for dropping your child off and picking them up on time both Friday morning/ evening and Saturday morning. The concert will be at 3pm Saturday.

The cost to attend will include a \$25 registration fee, plus additional funds for a practice CD and music. Student will be responsible for fast food meals during the event.

If your child has permission to participate if chosen, please fill out the bottom of this page and return it no later than **Friday, August 30, 2013**. No forms will be accepted after **12:30pm** on the 30th. **Please do not send money** until you are notified that your child has been chosen as we can only take 2-4 students.

Student's Name: _____

I give my child permission to audition for honor chorus. If chosen, I will be able to provide the necessary transportation for my child during the event.

Parent's signature: _____

e-mail: _____

Emergency phone number to be used during the event:

Handbook Parent Section

If you have already signed and returned the "first day sheet," please disregard this page.

I have read the HBMS Chorus Handbook in its entirety and have discussed it with my child. I will do everything possible to ensure that my child is successful this year in chorus.

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's **PRINTED** name and e-mail:

day-time phone: _____

Student Section

I have read the HBMS Chorus Handbook in its entirety and have discussed it with my parents. I understand what is expected of me and I will do my best this year in chorus!

Please circle the activities you think you would like to participate in this year. Circling one does not commit you to the activity it just gives Mr. Cole an idea of what interests you.

All-State Chorus (7th and 8th grade only)

Honor Chorus

Solos at concerts

Speaking parts at concerts

Field trips

Student signature: _____ Date: _____