

South Seneca 6th Grade School Choral Handbook 2016-2017

Welcome!

We have an exciting year of choral singing ahead of us in 6th Grade Chorus, learning and singing beautiful and challenging music. Being in Chorus is a year long commitment. Be prepared to delve into the discipline of music making and the pursuit of excellence. In this handbook, I've included pertinent information about how chorus will function. Parents, guardians and students, please read this handbook together.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Perry

Philosophy and Goals:

Music Education aims to provide students with the tools they need to become skilled musicians. Skilled musicians bring meaning to music, interpret the work of great composers, and bring joy through their excellence to those listening. Students will also be able to bring the skills they learn through music education to their other studies. **6th Grade Chorus** is open to all sixth grade students. Students will study a healthy and natural singing technique. Students will study good choral diction, including clear consonants and well-shaped vowels. Students will sing a variety of repertoire in unison and two-parts. Students may start to study three-part music.

While studying voice in the 6th Grade, students will:

- 1) Develop a healthy vocal technique through correct usage of the vocalic muscles, correct breathing, and correct posture.
- 2) Students will master knowledge of their three vocal registers and start to correctly place their vocal tone in those registers.
- 3) Sing English and foreign languages using appropriate vowel shape.
- 4) Make music expressive through phrase shaping, through articulation, through dynamics, and through the students' own enthusiasm.
- 5) Demonstrate ability to hold harmony parts.
- 6) Discover teamwork, effectively singing as one ensemble to produce a unified sound.
- 7) Understand music historically and stylistically.
- 8) Use music vocabulary effectively in speech and writing.

6th Grade Chorus Materials:

- 1) Pencil
- 2) Designated Concert Attire (see Concert Attire Section)

Grading:

Tone (*consistency, quality, projection, resonance*) (25%)

Intonation (*sense of pitch*) (25%)

Accuracy (*accuracy of notes and rhythms, steadiness of rhythms*) (25%)

Concert Attendance (25%)

Parts Tests:

Once or twice a quarter, students will have a parts test during class time. Students come up to the piano and sing a section of music in a small group, so I can grade students' tone, intonation, projection, and accuracy.

Classroom Procedures and Conduct:

- 1) Upon entering the classroom, students will go to their assigned seats and sit quietly until class starts. Every month, there will be three students designated as "Captains," who will be chosen by Mrs. Perry, based on enthusiasm in class. The Captains will help Mrs. Perry pass out music. The Captains will also collect music and assist Mrs. Perry with other tasks.
- 2) Class will start promptly when the bell rings. Students need to be prepared to start class at this time. Late students need to have a pass. Three unexcused tardies will result in a lunch detention.
- 3) There will be no talking, unless called upon. We have a limited amount of time together.
- 4) There should be no chewing gum or eating food in the choral classroom, as it presents a safety hazard to singing individuals.
- 5) All students should have a pencil at all times. Marking instructions into the music score will minimize lost rehearsal time. Only mark music in pencil.
- 6) Take care of bathroom breaks and drinks of water prior to class. Students are encouraged to bring water to class.
- 7) Cellphones, iPods, etc. should neither be seen nor heard, as they are not to be out during the school day. If seen or in class, they will be taken and turned into the homebase teacher. If the student refuses, they will go to the AC.
- 8) As this is a team, every singer is expected to treat everyone else in the classroom with **respect**. Anything other than respect for others will result in a trip to the AC.

Concert Attire:

Students are obligated to wear the designated attire to concerts.

For the December and June concerts, Music Boosters will provide shirts to all students, skirts for the girls and ties for the boys. Students will need to arrive before designated warm-up times to change into concert attire.

Boys need to provide their own black dress pants and black socks and wear them to school when they arrive to get ready for the concert. Both boys and girls need to wear a white t-shirt or tank top with no lettering to school the evening of the concert to change into their provided shirt. All students need to provide their own black dress shoes. Flip flops are not dress shoes. Be prepared to arrive early at concerts to have time to change. Students also need to return all Music Boosters attire at the end of the night, so students must change before they go home.

Performances:

Our concert performances throughout the year are mandatory. Students are expected to be present at the Chorus concerts as a culminating experience of the pieces they have been studying, equivalent to a test in another type of class. All the learning that takes place in the year is tested at the concerts. Students must arrive at school at the designated call time for concerts. Call times will be announced closer to the concert date. Students must exhibit the highest level of performing etiquette. Students

are expected to stay for the full concert and must give other performing groups a high level of attention and respect.

During performances, we wish to minimize the amount of foot traffic and movement in the auditorium, as it is distracting and disrespectful to those performing and to the audience alike. Students will be escorted to a designated part of the auditorium, after their part of the program, with a chaperone to sit for the remainder of the performance. If you have to leave for unforeseen circumstances, you must meet your student out in the atrium at the end of the hallway that has the old nurse's office / Music Booster closet (the side closest to the ramp to the auditorium) and be seen by a chaperone to pick him or her up.

Practice Room Etiquette:

Two practice rooms are available to use during the school day or after school that are equipped with computers loaded with smart music software. Students may use the practice rooms as long as a music teacher is available, and students need to sign in with a music teacher to be in a practice room. Any damaged materials will be billed. There are also two additional practice rooms in the Chorus room that may be used during my prep time or study hall time.

There is no food allowed in the practice rooms. Internet use on the school computer, especially social media use, is strictly prohibited. Practice rooms are for music making purposes only; they are not a social hangout. Anyone found eating food in the practice room or using the computer for purposes other than music will not be able to use the practice rooms for a week.

Staying in Touch:

I use Remind App to stay in touch with students and parents about schedules, assignments, and performances. If you would like to get reminders via text messaging, please text @ms128 to 81010. This is just to sign up; it is not a real phone number. To subscribe via email, please send an email (it can be blank) to ms128@mail.remind.com. This is just to sign up; it is not a real email.

2015-2016 Concert Schedule:

December 14th: Middle School Band and Chorus Holiday Concert, 7:00 p.m.

January 10th: All-County Chorus Reading Rehearsal at Trumansburg, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

January 20th and 21st: All-County Chorus Festival at Trumansburg

March 30th: Middle School / High School Band and Chorus POPS Concert, 7:00 p.m.

May 25th: Middle and High School Chorus Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.

**Choral Music Expectations and Commitment Form:
Due to Mrs. Perry by September 16th, 2016**

I have read this booklet and accept the terms and responsibility of the Chorus.

Student Signature: _____

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____