

Autrey Mill Middle School



Choral Handbook

7th/8th Grade

2019-2020

Ms. Vanessa Edwards, Choral Director

Mr. Trey Martin, Principal

Ms. Anita Erickson, 8th Grade Assistant Principal

Dr. Mimi Gamel, 7th Grade Assistant Principal

Chorus/Drama Website: www.autreymillchorus.com

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Dear Autrey Mill Chorus Families,

Welcome to the Autrey Mill Middle School Choral Program! It is going to be an exciting year for all involved. Before we begin, I would like to share some thoughts with you about the importance of chorus in the life of your child.

I believe that every child can learn, and extend that belief to the certainty that every child is musically expressive and deserves the opportunity to explore that capability. To that end, our program offers opportunities for the emerging music learner as well as the highly skilled, gifted musician. We will all learn and perform together to create beautiful choral music!

Throughout the year, we will address the individual singer by developing vocal skills, increasing knowledge of his/her own voice, developing music literacy and providing opportunities for solo performances. In addition, we will address the choral ensemble by developing group cohesiveness, building choral skills and fostering pride in participation and teamwork.

This handbook has been designed to acquaint you with information regarding grading, performance and rehearsal procedures, attire and various other aspects that pertain to the success of the program.

Please read and discuss the contents of this handbook as a family. A performance calendar is provided later in this handbook for your scheduling convenience. **Please visit the chorus website and digitally sign the confirmation and uniform form by August 23, 2019. If you would like a paper form instead, please let me know well ahead of the August 23rd deadline.**

Welcome aboard! It is going to be a year of beautiful music making. I am looking forward to seeing you at our first concert, if not sooner.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Edwards
Choral Director

Chorus Help Sessions

Mondays and Fridays at 8:00am by appointment – student/parent should email to make appointment. All-State Chorus, 6th Grade Statewide Honor Chorus, ACDA National Honor Chorus and District Honor Chorus help sessions will take place as needed throughout the year during morning/afternoon help session days.

Choral Guidelines

- ♪ Observe AMMS rules at all times.
- ♪ Enter the Chorus room quietly, gather materials (binder/pencil) quickly and be seated before class begins.
- ♪ Be on time for all rehearsals and performances.
- ♪ Do your own work and turn it in on time.
- ♪ Respect your own and others' property, rights and opinions. Rehearsal room equipment and music that is misused or damaged will incur a replacement fee.
- ♪ Leave food, gum and drinks other than water outside of the rehearsal/performance space.
- ♪ Be open to all choral possibilities and vocal styles and give your very best to the music we perform.

Supply List

- ♪ One ½ inch (.5 inch) binder. Any color is fine! (due by August 23rd)
- ♪ One box of tissues and one box of pencils. (due by August 23rd)
- ♪ Chorus Dues – covers festival fees and registrations, bus fees, spiritwear shirts, accompanist fees, student sheet music and supplies - **\$50 online credit card payment only – see chorus website at www.autreymillchorus.com**

A payment plan is possible; just let me know if this is necessary for you. Also, some parents may choose to donate funds above and beyond the amount requested, and any such donation will go towards assisting other students in need.

Grading

Chorus meets on a daily basis for the **entire year**. Students are responsible for obtaining and making up all missed work following AMMS policies. When a student joins Chorus, it is with the understanding that they are **joining for the entire school year – August 2019 to May 2020**. Grades are based on the following:

Summative Grades (Concerts, Performances, Assessment of Content Learning Growth and Competency)	65%
Formative Grades (Quizzes, Class performance, written work, sight singing, vocal development, demonstration of literature)	30%
Homework (Worksheets, Projects, Fine Arts Activity Logs)	5%

*Accommodations and modifications may be made according to students' needs.

Performance Guidelines

- ♪ Proper concert attire must be worn during a performance.
- ♪ All students will remain for the entire performance and not leave in the middle of the concert or after their group has finished.
- ♪ Students will refrain from talking during performances.
- ♪ Leave **personal devices** with a family member during a performance.
- ♪ If a student misses a performance for any reason (personal or immediate family illness), the following must occur:
 - Written notification must be turned in to Mrs. Edwards prior to the event. The student will be required to complete an alternate assignment in place of the performance grade. The student should see Mrs. Edwards with a parent note in hand to get the assignment on the first day back to school following the event.

Performance Opportunities

Opportunities for all students to perform throughout the school year are:

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| ♪ Fall Concert | ♪ Various In-School Assemblies |
| ♪ Winter Concert | ♪ Atlanta Gladiators Hockey Game |
| ♪ Spring "Pops" Concert | ♪ 8 th Grade Holiday Tour |
| ♪ Large Group Performance Evaluation (LGPE) | ♪ 7 th Grade Six Flags/Southern Star Festival |
| ♪ School-Wide Talent Show | ♪ 8 th Grade Universal Orlando Fest Trip |
| ♪ Musical Theatre Productions | ♪ Other invitational events... |

Additional auditioned opportunities for students at the local, state and national levels are:

- ♪ District V Middle School Honor Chorus
- ♪ 6th Grade Statewide Honor Chorus
- ♪ All-State Chorus for 7th and 8th grade students
- ♪ ACDA National Honor Chorus
- ♪ Solo and Ensemble Evaluation

More information is available to students in class and online at www.autreymillchorus.com regarding each of these events/opportunities.

Performance Attire

All Ladies Formal Attire - Worn to all formal concerts (Fall/Holiday) as well as LGPE, Festivals and Tours.

- Black Formal Dress – performance wear knit – washable and wrinkle resistant.
- Black dress shoes/flats (no sneakers, sandals, or boots; heels must be 1-inch or shorter; **closed toe required**)
- 8th Grade Ladies –Gold Belts (provided by AMMS Chorus Department)

All Gentlemen Formal Attire - Worn to all formal concerts as well as LGPE, Festivals and Tours.

- Black dress pants (cotton and/or polyester blends are good materials for pants; **no** jeans, pouch pockets, extra zippers, leggings, jeggings, leather, velvet or other 'outside of the norm' materials)
- Black dress shoes (no sneakers, sandals, flip-flops or boots)
- Black socks and black belt
- 7th Graders – we are transitioning to a black button up dress shirt to align with state organization standards.

Chorus Spiritwear Attire - Worn at sporting events, some daytime events and Pops Concerts

- Chorus Spiritwear shirt (included in Chorus Dues)
- Blue jeans (not capris or shorts)
- Comfortable shoes (i.e. sneakers)

Attire Reminders for All Students

- Pull or tie back long hair/bangs out of your face (simple black or brown barrettes / hairbands).
- Keep make-up to a minimum. **Please no perfume or cologne.**
- Please avoid wearing headbands, hair bows, necklaces, watches or bracelets.
- Stud earrings are acceptable (nothing larger, please).

Rehearsal/Performance Calendar

Please expect a required before or after-school rehearsal to be scheduled sometime before each performance. Also, additional performance opportunities will arise as the year progresses. You will be notified via email of performance and rehearsal reminders. Please understand that changes in either rehearsal or performance dates will be made only when absolutely necessary. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility!

Absences: Please notify Ms. Edwards **in advance and in writing** of any conflicts that you may have so a proper alternate assignment can be completed.

Please visit www.autreymillchorus.com to find the completed chorus calendar for the 2019-2020 school year. A detailed google calendar can be found at the top of the calendar page with more information on each date.

Rehearsals for Additional Opportunities

All-State Chorus, 6th Grade Statewide Honor Chorus, ACDA Southern Division Honor Chorus, District V Honor Chorus, and Orlando Fest or Southern Star Festival participants will be expected to attend before or after school rehearsals to prepare for performance events. Students choosing to participate in any of these events would pay additional fees above and beyond the standard Chorus Dues, and these costs will be shared with interested students/parents online at autreymillchorus.com.

TO DO BEFORE AUGUST 23rd!!!! (see below)

Handbook Confirmation Form

After you have had a chance to read through the handbook as a family and mark down applicable dates in your calendars, please visit www.autreymillchorus.com to fill out the handbook confirmation form electronically. It should take about 5 minutes of your time. **You will want to visit the credit card payment link prior to filling out the form, as it asks for a receipt number.**

All uniform sizing and spiritwear orders can be found within the one confirmation form this year. All spiritwear orders may be made online as well.

