

Autrey Mill Middle School Chorus Handbook 2021-2022

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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 link on the last page of this handbook and digitally sign the confirmation form by August 27, 2021. If you would like a paper form instead, please let me know well ahead of the August 27th 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

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

Choral Guidelines

- ♪ Students will be respectful to other students, teachers and classroom materials.
- ♪ Students will listen to and follow directions given by the director/teacher/leader.
- ♪ Students will participate, have an open mind, and give their best effort at all times.

Supply List

- ♪ ½ inch (.5 inch) binder. Any color is fine! (due by August 27th)
- ♪ One box of tissues and one box of pencils. (due by August 27th)
- ♪ Chorus Dues – covers festival registrations, bus fees, spiritwear and polo shirt, accompanist fees, student sheet music - **\$30 without polo/\$50 with polo online credit card payment only – see chorus website at www.autreymillchorus.com for payment link**

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 2021 to May 2022. Grades are based on the following:

Major Grades (Concerts, Performances, Assessment of Content Learning Growth and Competency)	60%
Minor Grades (Quizzes, Class performance, written work, sight singing, vocal development, demonstration of literature)	30%
Practice Grades (scales, practice videos)	10%

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

Recovery on Assignments/Assessments

- All students will have one (1) opportunity each nine weeks to redo/retake one (1) major assignment/assessment.
- Eligibility for a redo/retake is for students who receive a 79 or below on a specific major assignment/assessment.
- Students are eligible to earn a replacement grade on a redo/retake no higher than a 79.
- Student redo/retakes must be completed before the next major assignment/assessment is given or 5 school days before the end of a marking period if there is not another major assignment/assessment given.

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 an 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.

Performance Opportunities

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

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| ♪ Fall Concert | ♪ Atlanta Gladiators Hockey Game |
| ♪ Winter Concert | ♪ Rotary Club 9/11 Ceremony |
| ♪ Pre-LGPE Concert with JCHS | ♪ 8 th Grade Holiday Tour |
| ♪ Spring "Pops" Concert | ♪ 8 th Grade Six Flags/Southern Star Festival |
| ♪ Large Group Performance Evaluation (LGPE) | ♪ Other invitational events... |
| ♪ Musical Theatre Productions | |

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
- ♪ 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 Grades Formal Attire

Worn to all formal concerts (Fall/Winter) as well as LGPE, Festivals and Tours.

- Black Polo Shirt with AMMS Chorus emblem (included in Chorus Dues)
- Black dress shoes/flats (no sneakers, sandals, flip-flops or boots; heels must be 1-inch or shorter; **closed toe required**)
- Black socks (if socks worn)
- Black dress pants or long skirts (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)

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.

Fall 2021 Dates

- **8/27 - Chorus Handbook Forms and Fees Due**
- 8/30-9/3 - Fall Musical Audition Week after school
- **9/11 - 7th Grade Performance at Rotary Club Patriot Day Ceremony - Newtown Park Amphitheatre - 8:30-9:30am**
- 9/16 - 6th Grade Statewide Honor Chorus applications and audition videos due
- 9/16 - All State Chorus Applications and Fees Due
- 9/24 - 6th Grade Statewide Honor Chorus Acceptance Form Due
- **? - 8th Grade/HS Ladies Chorus Night at JCHS Football Game**
- 10/5 – JCHS Fall Chorus Showcase at JCHS – 7:00pm
- **10/7 - AMMS Fall Chorus Concert at AMMS - 6:30pm**
- 11/4 and 11/6 - AMMS Fall Musical at JCHS
- **11/11 – North Fulton Invitational Boys Sing Event – 12:30-7:00pm**
- 11/13 - All State Chorus Audition #1 at Union Grove HS
- 11/17 - GMEA District V Honor Chorus Applications and Audition Videos Due
- 11/30 - District V Honor Chorus GMEA Registrations Due to JotForm - see email with link from Edwards if accepted
- **12/7 - JCHS/AMMS 8th Grade Holiday Chorus Concert at JCHS Auditorium at 7pm**
- **12/9 - AMMS 6th and 7th Grades Winter Chorus Concert at AMMS - 6:30pm**
- **12/10 - 8th Grade and JCHS Chorus Tour to ES Cluster Schools during day**

Spring 2022 Dates

- 1/7 - AMMS Music Department Yearbook Picture Day during class
- 1/20 - All State Chorus 2nd Round Audition at Centennial High School after school
- 2/4-2/5 - Spring GMEA District V Honor Chorus Event at Northwestern MS
- 2/17-18 - 6th Grade Statewide Honor Chorus Event in Athens, GA
- 2/17-19 - All State Chorus Event in Athens, GA
- **3/1 - Pre-LGPE Concert at JCHS at 7pm**

- 3/2-4 - Chorus Large Group Performance Evaluation at Johns Creek HS (more info closer to event date)
- 3/26 - 8th Grade Music Department Southern Star/Six Flags Trip
- 4/23 - Spring Solo and Ensemble Event at AMMS
- 5/16 - AMMS Spring Pops Chorus Concert at AMMS

TO DO BEFORE AUGUST 27th!!!!

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.

