



Still Middle School

Chorus Handbook and Contract

2019-2020

Mrs. Whitney, Choral Director

6th Grade Chorus/7th Grade Chorus /8th Grade Chorus/Honor Chorus

Welcome to Chorus!

Welcome to Chorus at Still Middle School. The Chorus students have opportunities to perform, compete, and grow as musicians throughout the school year. Music Education in District #204 is a thriving and dynamic part of the curricular offerings.

This handbook is intended to be a comprehensive document with information for the coming year including concert dates, special ensembles, grading, and chorus policies that are vital for your child to know. **Please read the entire document** and review it with your child. Add calendar dates as soon as possible so you don't miss a thing! At the end of the handbook, there is a page to print and sign. Please have your child bring the completed form to school as their first Chorus assignment.

If you find that you have questions that are not answered in the handbook, you can contact me at school through one of the ways listed below.

Wishing you a great year,

Mrs. Whitney,

Still Choral Director

How do I reach Mrs. Whitney if I have a question?

Email: Mary_Whitney@ipsd.org

Voice Mail: (630) 375-3900 ex.5825

If I want to find information on my own?

Still Music Webpage: StillMusic.weebly.com

Supplies for Chorus:

PLEASE BRING:

A Folder to keep your music in. Color coded by grade level:

6th Grade = Green folder

7th Grade = Blue folder

8th Grade = Red folder

Pencils: Students are to have pencils for marking music with notes from class instruction.

Kleenex: A box or two of tissues is a great gift for the chorus room. Students receive extra credit for each box brought in, one point for each.

Performance Attire—Students in chorus, band and orchestra all have the same uniform for performances. All students are responsible for obtaining and wearing the following:

- ♦ Black dress pants (Leggings are not pants)
- ♦ Black socks
- ♦ Black dress shoes (closed toe only)
- ♦ Still Music Department Polo Shirt to be ordered the first week of school.

Classroom Guidelines:

The sixth, seventh, and eighth grade choirs meet within the school day and have curricular expectations. These are chosen as an elective, and have goals, homework, and concerts to prepare. The curriculum includes components of both music theory and vocal development. The wide range of musical activities will help build self-esteem, enhance teamwork skills, create respect for others, and will enhance the ability of the whole student.

1. Students are expected to:

- Be seated (in their assigned seats) and quiet, with only choral folders and pencils by attendance time at the bell.
- Upon entering the room, place all belongings including chrome books in the designated area.

2. Tardiness is unacceptable, and consequences will be per the Still Middle School Student Handbook.

3. Gum chewing, eating, and/or drinking are not allowed in the chorus room or at Chorus concerts, with the exception of water.

4. Students must show respect for themselves, their peers, their teacher, their environment, the classroom equipment, and the music at all times. Talking and other disruptive behavior will impact the participation/effort grade.

5. All of the music for chorus will be kept in the student music folders, in the classroom folder racks. Markings in the music should be made lightly and only in pencil. Students are not to take the music home with them, or to keep it in their locker. *In the event that students cause irreversible damage to, or lose, the music, they are responsible for paying for the replacement of the music.*

6. Students should contribute positively to the class environment; everyone is expected to participate every day. Students are expected to sit and stand with correct singing posture and be attentive to the director.

7. The stereo equipment, computer, piano, and director's office are off limits to the students without permission of the director. Students may use the practice room for musical purposes only with permission.

Concert Attendance / Absences:

Concert Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all performances. Failure to attend a required concert without a valid, written excuse via the Absence Request Form (available on Stillmusic.weebly.com or the Chorus classroom), fully explaining the absence will result in the lowering of the student's grade. The Absence Request Form must be received **at least 2 weeks prior** to the event in order for the excuse to be considered. Ideally all excused absences will be reported by the time the handbook is due. The form is available on the website, and printed forms are available in the chorus room. (Notification of emergency conflicts will be received up to one week following the concert.)

Upon notification of an absence via the Absence Request Form, **the director will acknowledge on the form that the absence is either Excused or Unexcused.** An excused absence allows the student to make up the grade in the form of an alternative assignment for a possible 100%. In the case of an unexcused absence, the student will be given the opportunity to make up the event however, the highest possible grade a student can receive will be 50% of the concert grade.

For Fine Arts Festival and BCO concerts, Combo students must complete two separate Absence Request Forms: one submitted to their Choir Director and one submitted to their instrumental director.

Although it would be impossible to include a complete list, the following items are examples of **unexcused absences.**

1. Commitments accepted after a rehearsal or concert date is announced.
This includes all sports, dance, theater, etc...(not held at Still MS)
2. Homework
3. Transportation problems.
4. Babysitting.
5. Watching TV.
6. Falling asleep
7. Forgetting instrument and/or music.
8. A family member's birthday.
9. Your own birthday
10. Forgetting a concert



Grading:

Chorus is a curricular class. Grades are earned through participation in class, through written work, tests, sight singing, as well as concert performances at night. Grades will include the following categories:

- ♦ Daily Participation and Effort
- ♦ Written Assignments and Assessments
- ♦ Sight Reading Exercises and Exams
- ♦ Participation in Concerts

Extra Credit: Students can bring in a program from another school's concert or professional show for extra credit. This may include a concert at any grade level (elementary, middle or high school) where singing is the primary focus. It also includes professional concerts, Broadway or opera. This is strictly for extra credit. Only programs with a name on them can be accepted.

Music Calendar:

All Chorus members perform on multiple concerts throughout the year. These events are the culmination of daily rehearsals and give the opportunity to share what we've learned in class. Students in Chorus are required to be on time to, wear the correct uniform for, and participate in, all performances in which their chorus is involved. PLEASE mark your calendar carefully at the beginning of the year to avoid any conflicts with our curricular performances.

Students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade Chorus are required to participate in the following:

Fall Concert:

October 21, Fall Chorus Concert, 6th, 7th, 8th, and Honors Chorus 7:00 PM

Winter Concerts:

January 28, 8th Grade (only) Band/Chorus/Orchestra Concert 7:00 PM

February 3, 6th Grade (only) Band/Chorus/Orchestra Concert 7:00 PM

February 12, 7th Grade (only) Band/Chorus/Orchestra Concert 7:00 PM

Spring Concert:

May 4, Spring Chorus Concert, 6th, 7th, and 8th 7:00 PM

Fine Arts Festival:

May 16- 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Choirs Times TBA

2109 FAF @ Metea Valley High School

Additional dates may be added, especially for the extracurricular ensembles (information is on the next page). While I hope to avoid changes, unpreventable schedule conflicts may arise. I will inform you of any changes as soon as possible; thank you in advance for your flexibility.

Special Invitations!

Throughout the year, the high schools invite the middle school singers to some great singing events. They are open to all chorus students: Pencil these dates into your calendar.

Waubonsie Valley Boys Sing-n-Share Night: October 22, 5:30 pm

Metea Valley Boys Sing Night: November 13, times TBA

There will be other opportunities to connect with our outstanding high school vocal programs. Keep your eyes open for these!

Extra-Curricular Chorus Opportunities

Year Round, Honor Chorus-

This is an auditioned ensemble for students wishing to further their musical performance skill. This ensemble is comprised of select sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. Membership is determined by audition and is dependent upon student talent, sight reading ability, musical background, balance of voice parts, and group size. The Honors Chorus meets Tuesday and Friday mornings from 6:45-7:50 a.m. Students in this group will sing challenging choral literature and will participate in special performances and field trips. Audition information will be announced in August. If your child auditions in to the Honor Chorus, please add these dates to your calendar.

Honors Chorus Dates

Honors Chorus Sing-n-Share at WVHS	November 20, 5:30-7:30 pm
Still Choral Exchange Concert	December 4, 7:00 pm
Honors Concert	December 11, 7:00 pm
District #204 Choral Festival	March 7, 2019 times TBA, all day at Fischer Middle School

Fall, ILMEA-

8th and 7th grade choral members will have the opportunity to audition for, and-if accepted- perform in the Illinois Music Educator Association (ILMEA) District 9 Festival Chorus. Students should only audition if they have both of the dates free. This is a great honor to be selected!

ILMEA Auditions September 28 at Yorkville Middle School, IL

*and if you are selected-

ILMEA Festival November 9, all day, at Huntley High School, IL



Winter, IGSMA- Solo & Ensemble Contest-

Choral students who are looking for a personal challenge are given the opportunity to perform solos and/or in small ensembles at the Illinois Grade School Music Association (IGSMA) contest in February. Sign ups are in November. Music is selected and rehearsed independently throughout December and January to prepare for the festival. Judging occurs for feedback and a medal.

IGSMA Solo & Ensemble Festival Saturday, Feb. 15 at Hill Middle School

Winter/Spring, Musical-

The Spring Musical will be another opportunity to participate in the music program at Still Middle School. The parts in the Cast and Stage Crew (Art/Tech) will be determined through an audition (cast) and application (stage crew) in late January/early February. Students wishing to be a part of this year's show should be listening for announcements in January. It is open to all students in the school. Auditions/Interviews are held in January. Specific details and contracts are available later in the year.

Performances of the Musical Week of MARCH 23-27th in the Still Cafeteria



UNIFORM: POLO SHIRTS

Your child must have a Still Middle School uniform shirt to participate in the concerts as a part of their uniform. **The StillMusic.weebly.com webpage has forms for you to fill out online, and the payment for shirts will be handled through your student's PushCoin account.**

*If you do not have access to a computer, forms are available in the chorus room for your student to pick up.

It is **IMPERATIVE** that we order the shirts in the first week of September to guarantee they arrive for the first concert.

Things to consider when ordering a music polo:

- ♦ “COMBO” students only need to order ONE shirt. If you are a COMBO student you should order it on the . If you are Chorus-only, you will order a shirt and say that you are in chorus.
- ♦ New students to Still, or returning students who need a larger size will need to order as well. (Please test out your old shirt to see if it's time for a larger size!)
- ♦ Please allow room for growth over an entire year as it will not be possible to exchange used shirts for a different size— a new shirt would need to be purchased.

TO ORDER A MUSIC POLO SHIRT — — — LOG ON TO PushCoin.

Music Polo Shirt - Push Coin Instructions

- First, log on to your PushCoin.com account.
- Under your student's photo, click on Webstore. (This will take you to the IPSD webstore.)
- On the new page, find the pull down menu on the side, and select Still Middle School. (This will display the Still items.)
- Now, locate the “Music Polo Shirt” and hit the Customize button. You can now select the size of shirt for your child.
- Finally, hit Add to Cart.
- LAST- click on the Check Out button to finalize your order.

Please have your order complete by Friday, August 30th so we can order them for the department all at the same time. This ensures we have them for the first concert.

*****If you do not order by this deadline, the single orders of shirts are \$140. The company will not print single shirts, and must be ordered as a group of 12 or more.**

**After reading the Still Choir Handbook, please print, complete,
and TURN IN this contract by FRIDAY, August 30.**

***** This is a graded assignment. *****

1.) We have reviewed the 2019-20 Still Choir Handbook in its entirety and agree to be responsible for the information in it. We understand and will comply with all its expectations, policies, and regulations.

2.) We have also marked our home calendars with all required concerts below:

- ♦ **Fall Choral Concert:** **October 21**
- ♦ **Winter Band/Chorus/Orchestra Concerts:**
- ♦ **6th grade—February 3**
- 7th grade—February 12**
- 8th grade—January 28**
- ♦ **Spring Choral Concert:** **May 4**
- ♦ **Fine Arts Festival at MVHS:** **May 16**

3.) We have reviewed the Still Middle School Concert Attendance Policy. We understand that attendance and participation in the above concerts are mandatory and that grades will be lowered due to an absence.

4.) We understand that there is a required uniform for the chorus concerts, and agree to follow the guidelines of the uniform.

I agree with all the information listed above and sign this as a contract to participate in Still Chorus for the 2019-20 school year.

Student Name : _____ Grade _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone number: _____

Date: _____

This is homework. Please turn in to Mrs. Whitney by August 30 to earn full credit for this assignment.

<p>Final Checklist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ Mark Calendar Dates for mandatory concerts. (Please!)♦ Order Music Polo shirt through PushCoin if you need one immediately.♦ Turn in this Chorus Contract from the last page of this handbook.
