

Blackmon Road Eagle Chorus

2009-2010

Syllabus

Choral Director: Ms. Mary Beth Lee

Chorus Program Goals

Produce a quality chorus program

Proudly represent our community, our parents, and our school

Develop self-discipline and self-esteem

Build a team spirit

Follow the guidelines of Georgia's Quality Core Curriculum Standards for Middle School Choral Music

Chorus students will:

Practice independently with a CD recorded by the director

Be able to demonstrate a marked improvement between the beginning of the year and the end

Participate in all performances scheduled for their particular grade level

Guidelines for Success

1. Be responsible
2. Always try.
3. Do your best.
4. Cooperate with others.
5. Treat everyone with respect (including yourself).

Classroom Rules

1. Come to class on time, with paper and pencil.
2. Enter quietly; go to assigned seat; begin work on "Smart Start."
3. No grooming during class.
4. Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak.
5. Follow instructions the 1st time they are given.
6. Stay on task during all work times—written and oral work, listening to instruction, and singing.
7. All BRMS school-wide policies and MCS D policies will be followed.

Consequences for Not Following the Rules

1st Offense: Teacher counsels student/warns student

2nd Offense: Notify team to lower conduct grade; Chorus Participation drops 3 points; Parents are contacted

3rd Offense: Notify team, Chorus Participation grade lowered, Parent Conference

4th Offense: Referred to Counselor

5th Offense: Office Referral to Assistant Principal: Friday School

I hope we don't go further than this!! All procedures addressed in the BRMS Handbook will be followed.

Activities

Written assignments such as worksheets, board work (or from overhead), physical exercises, singing exercises, practicing songs or “choral pieces,” various learning games.

Sight reading, singing quizzes, checks, and tests

Performances include Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, Large Group Performance Evaluation (8th grade), Certain Concerts during the school day for Connections classes.

Opportunities to audition for honor choirs at the district and state level.

Occasional Talent Shows for own class... this will be a reward for good class behavior.

Fundraising activities.

Details and schedules of events will be posted on the Chorus page of the school's website.

Grades

40% Class participation: behavior and effort

15% Folder Checks (includes class written work)

20% Tests

25% Performances

Class Participation:

The Class Participation grade will be updated every 2 weeks. Each student will start with 15 points for the 2 weeks, or 3 points per day. This can go up or down, subtracting 1 point for every negative mark and adding 1 point for every positive mark. Possible 20 points. The grade will be show as a percentage on grade reports. Behavior and amount of effort directly affect participation in Chorus Class. The chorus works as a team. When someone is not doing their part--making the effort—the entire group suffers in the rehearsal or the learning process.

Folders:

Folders will be kept in the chorus classroom. The student needs to keep the paperwork up-to-date for any graded folder checks. Most written work done in class will be included in the folder.

Tests:

There will be written and singing tests from time to time. Rubrics are used for the singing tests. For the first few singing tests, the students will be allowed to sing with a partner, giving them a chance to get used to singing for me.

Performances:

A schedule of performances for each grade level will be posted on the Chorus page at blackmon.mcsdga.net. On the left side of the home page, click “Music” then click the appropriate title to the right of the Chorus Picture. Students are required to participate in every performance assigned to them. Parents, please work out the transportation issues ahead of time. Transportation problems will not be considered an excused absence. The only excused absences will be if the student is ill, and a note from the parent will be expected. I will need to know before the concert, if the student will be missing it. Written or singing make-up assignments will be offered for those with excused absences. Remember, the **performance(s) for the 9-week grading period count as 25% of the Report Card Grade.**

Chorus Supplies

Required:

Portfolio-type folder with 2 pockets, 3 prongs.

Package of 8 ½" x 11" Wide, Lined, Loose leaf paper. This package will be kept in the chorus room for the student's use; his/her name and grade should be written on the package covering.

Pencil - required EVERYDAY!

Colored Pencils

Scissors—round-tip

Dry Erase Marker—Pen-sized (for personal white board provided in class)

1 Rewritable audio CD with case

Optional Extra Items needed for the class:

Copier paper

Paper towels

Expo Markers for Classroom white board (assorted primary colors)

Kleenex (very much needed for Cold Season ---Sniffles!)

Hand Sanitizer

Concert Schedule Posted on Web-Site Soon

Concert Attire

(Required)

All requirements of the BRMS Dress Code will apply to the following Concert Attire items:

I. Formal Concerts:

A. Girls

1. Black dressy pants or skirt
 - a. No denim
 - b. Capri length pants are allowed
 - c. Gauchos are allowed.
2. White blouse with sleeves or jacket
 - a. If style is made to tuck in, blouse must be tucked in
 - b. If style is not to be tucked in, blouse will hang below the waist of skirt or pants by 3 inches.
3. Black shoes
 - a. Shoes must have a strap around heel or encompass the heel.
 - b. Flip flops, clogs, and tennis shoe are not allowed.

B. Boys

1. Black dress slacks
 - a. No denim jeans
 - b. No shorts
2. White, long-sleeved, button-up dress shirt
3. Tie of a dark color
4. Black dress shoes
 - a. No Sandals or Flip Flops
 - b. No Tennis shoes (unless they are SOLID black)

II. Casual Concerts

All Students

- A. Chorus 2009-2010 Tee-Shirt. This will be available for purchase. (More details later)

- B. Blue Jeans- Long style
 - 1. No shorts,
 - 2. No capris
 - 3. No holes in jeans
- C. Socks and Shoes that encompass the entire foot.
 - 1. Tennis shoes are encouraged (neutral colors, please)
 - 2. No Flip Flops /No Clogs— these present safety issues when walking on and off the choir risers.

Concert Etiquette

Every time you perform, you are representing not only your choral department, but yourself, your family and your school. You might be representing your city and even your state. Give it your best. Be proud of who you are and what you are doing. Always remember your pillars of excellent character and practice them faithfully.

Always come dressed in a clean, pressed uniform. Wear dress black shoes only. No tennis shoes, light colored shoes, open backed shoes.

Stand tall, and have a pleasant expression on your face. SMILE!!!

Never talk while on the risers or out in the audience (unless given permission).

Sustain the mood of each song until the director drops her hands.

Always focus when on stage. Remember proper posture, breathing, singing techniques learned in class, expression, and eye contact with director at all times.

Strive for perfection, but don't be ashamed or call attention to any mistakes you may make. Most audiences don't notice mistakes.

Do your best! Show the audience you are proud of your work and your "Teammates."

Do not arrive late or leave early from a performance. Make sure your parents understand you must be there at a designated time and won't be able to leave until I dismiss you.

And above all...enjoy yourself...have fun...you have worked hard preparing for each performance.

A Few Points for the Concert Audience:

It is important to attend the entire concert out of respect to the efforts and dedication of all those involved. If one must leave or enter while the concert is in progress, please do so only during the applause between selections.

Please refrain from conversation during musical selections.

Young children develop audience habits early. Please help them to understand and follow the 'no noise during the performance' guideline. That may necessitate removing them from the concert hall for a time.

Finally, we deeply appreciate your attendance at our concerts. We understand that many people attend in support of a specific person. Please remember that while your person may have completed his/her contribution, someone seated next to you could be listening intently for another special person's performance. Please help everyone enjoy all performances by respectfully adhering to these guidelines. We encourage you to revel in the efforts and achievements of all the performers. Thank you!!

The Choral Director and Students

What Choral Directors Expect of Chorus Parents:

It is vitally important for the success of the chorus that all students attend the performances. Please mark your calendar dates for the year. Make arrangements for their students to acquire the necessary materials, attire, and transportation to and from all performances. Provide support in any way possible for their student and the entire program. Please help with fundraising activities. Have enthusiasm for the total chorus program and activities.

Parents!

Encourage and support your child in this rewarding venture!

Chorus Member! Be the best you can be!