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Maitland Middle School Chorus Student/Parent Handbook

A. About The Handbook: This handbook has been compiled for the parents and students of the choral program at Maitland Middle School. It is designed to acquaint the chorus members with the rules and procedures that are expected, as well as explain the grading system to be used during the year.

I would suggest that both the student and parent/guardian take some time to read through the handbook and become familiar with the following rules and procedures so that they will know what is expected of them throughout the year. When the handbook has been read entirely, please fill out the student information and the chorus contract and return it. This will indicate a basic understanding of the material presented in this handbook.

B. To The Students: Welcome to the Maitland Choral Program! I am looking forward to a very successful year! I am glad that you can be a part of it. I know that you will enjoy the experience of being involved in a group that includes students who have outstanding citizenship and strive for musical excellence. There is a lot of hard work that will be required of you during this year, and by trying your best, you will reap all the rewards and fun that will come as a result of your effort. Work hard, do your best, and you will have a wonderful year experiencing the joys that making music can bring.

My responsibility to each of you is to accept you for what you are NOW, not what you will be or what you have been, and to demonstrate to the best of my ability that music is a way of expression, a way of working, a way of sharing and understanding ourselves and each other better. We are all human beings with hopes, fears, and emotions. To achieve anything, we must work together, being patient, tolerant, and accepting of each other.

C. To The Parents: As the director, I am here not only to help the student, but also to work with each of you in achieving a quality education in music for your child. If it were not for your support, encouragement, and approval, the quality of your child's education would suffer.

If I can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please feel free to call me at school at 407-623-1462. If, for some reason, I am not available, please leave a message and I will return your call as soon as possible. I can also be reached via e-mail at lori.lovell@ocps.net

Musically Yours,

Dr. Lori Lovell, D.M.A.
Director of Choral Activities

I. COURSE SCOPES AND GOALS

Beginning Chorus is offered to female students who want to learn the fundamentals of music and of singing. Students who enroll in chorus are expected to participate for the full school year. There will be opportunities for this chorus to perform in several required concerts. The students who pay attention and put forth an effort will learn to sing well at the beginning level. By the end of the year, they will be able to perform confidently within the ensemble.

Men's Chorale is open to those male students who are at or beyond the beginning level. Students should be able to read music and sing comfortably. Placement in this chorus will be determined by the teacher's recommendation, an audition, and a year-long demonstration of the student's behavior, attitude, and ability. The objective of this class is to advance the student's musical and technical skills. This group will be involved in several required concerts and music festivals.

Musicale & Maitland Singers consists of students who have shown outstanding vocal aptitude, outstanding conduct and superior behavior. Expectations and standards in these auditioned choruses are set **very** high. Students must show that they can withhold their standing in these choruses both musically and behaviorally. Everyday is an audition. If the student is not successful, the student will be removed from this ensemble and placed in a different chorus. This advanced ensemble continues the instruction of technical and performing skills including sight-singing and ear training. Students are highly encouraged to study privately. This group will be involved in many concerts and music festivals and will represent the choral program at many school functions.

Chamber Singers is an auditioned chorus consisting of both male and female voices. This highly select ensemble will focus primarily on learning a wide variety of musical repertoire. In addition to performing in school district concerts and festivals, this ensemble will represent Maitland Middle School in numerous community performances.

** The choral program aims to provide a developmental experience, increasing in difficulty from simple unison singing to two-, three- and four-part harmony. Material used for teaching will provide a well-rounded program, representing selections from various periods of music history. Emphasis will be placed upon vocal technique, music reading, expressive performance, texture, form, and style characteristics of the music being performed. The performances of the ensembles should be thought of as a means of bringing the opportunity for developing technical and reading skills, as well as practice in performance etiquette.

Goals Of The Maitland Choral Program:

- To develop a concept of good vocal production (pleasant tone quality, proper intonation, accurate diction, and adequate breath support) and the ability to listen with discrimination.
- To develop music reading ability by understanding the relationship between sound and symbol.
- To recognize musical elements and demonstrate expressive qualities of the various styles of choral music - learning the relationship of music to the other arts and disciplines outside the arts.
- To contribute to the blend, balance, and quality of the ensemble by developing the ability to sing a vocal part securely and uniformly.
- To develop confidence in performing by practicing performance etiquette, as well as listening to, analyzing and describing music, evaluating music and music performances.
- To recognize the unique values of singing and be able to perform for self-enjoyment and for others.
- To value music as a means of self-expression.
- To develop self-discipline by functioning as a responsible member of a choral organization.
- To experience successful achievement and pleasure through group involvement.
- To develop a desire to continue vocal musical experiences whether through singing alone or with others, a varied repertoire of music.

II. GRADING PROCEDURES

A student's quarter grade will be determined by a combination of points that they have earned during the nine-week grading period. Points will be given in the following three areas. Please note that each area is weighted differently. Chorus may require homework or written assignments as in other classes. Grade evaluation in the Maitland Choral Program is determined by many factors other than just musical ability. You earn your grade by participating and being a responsible member of an ensemble. ATTITUDE, MATURITY, and PERSONAL GROWTH are major considerations in determining grades.

Grade Categories:

- Daily Participation & Behavior (45%)
- Tests / Quizzes / Assignments (25%)
- Performances (30%)

Grading Scale:

- A = 100 - 90%
- B = 89 - 80%
- C = 79 - 70%
- D = 69 - 60%
- F = 59 - 0%

A. Daily Participation (45%): Students earn 10 points per day. In order to earn these points, students must behave according to the classroom behavior guidelines, come to class fully prepared, and participate with the class in the assigned activity. Each time you enter this room and follow classroom procedures, you will receive 10 points (50 points per week). All you need to do to keep your 10 points is to do YOUR BEST each day!

1. Participation – If a student is absent for any reason, they will be responsible for making up their participation points (10 total points per day) for the day(s) missed. Students will have the same number of days to make up their participation points as the number of days they were absent (ie: if a student is absent 2 days, he/she has 2 days from the day of their return to submit a make-up assignment/project for their missed participation).

2. Behavior - A student's classroom behavior has a direct impact on their daily participation grade. Students will lose participation points for any of the following reasons: Talking out of turn, singing out of turn, disrupting class, eating, drinking, and chewing gum. Please read carefully the PROCEDURES section that follows.

3. Materials - All necessary materials (planners, notebooks, choral music folders, pencils) must be present daily. Students will not earn their daily points if they are not prepared to participate in classroom activities/rehearsals.

4. Injuries/Medical - If a student has an injury/medical reason that prevents them from participating in class, please have a note from a doctor or parent stating how long the student will be unable to participate. If the injury occurs at school, the student should get a note from the nurse's office.

B. Tests / Quizzes / Assignments (25%):

1. Singing Tests: Students will sing for a grade several times each semester. These tests will help me determine if students are learning the music in class and practicing their vocal technique at home. Singing tests will be graded with points given in different musical categories (correct pitches, rhythm, breath support, diction/pronunciation, intonation, proper posture, musical style, etc.). Singing tests will always be giving students time to prepare. Due to the numbers of students in an ensemble, this is the most efficient way for me to assess the students and give them one-on-one assistance with areas that may need improvement. I recognize that this setting may be uncomfortable for the students, at first, but please be assured that my goal is to encourage each student. As Chorus is a performance-based class, this is a great way to ensure that students have experience performing, if even just for me, before being asked to sing in a concert for a larger audience. Singing tests that are missed due to absence must be made up within the time allotted for outstanding work.

2. Written Tests: There will be written tests/quizzes given to cover musical knowledge, concert etiquette, and other topics. Tests that are missed must be made up within the time allotted for outstanding work.

3. Assignments: Assignments may be given during the course of the year. These may include puzzles, written music theory, composition, or a very a simple task -- returning progress reports or permission slips.

C. Performances (30%): It is expected that by being in a musical organization, a student must give up some non-school time (**possibly** a morning or afternoon just before a performance) to participate in various musical programs. Since every member of a musical organization is a key performer, the success of the entire organization depends on everyone attending each and every performance. Therefore, **ALL students will be expected to attend ALL concerts and performances** unless cleared by the parents/guardians, IN ADVANCE, and constitutes an emergency. Concerts and music festivals are an important part of the musical experience. Many hours of rehearsing and practice go into each performance. The excitement and thrill of being on-stage and singing for an audience is a unique

experience and is impossible to duplicate. Attending the rehearsals but missing the concert is like showing up to baseball practice but missing the game!

IMPORTANT: Students who have below a minimum grade of a C (70%) or have a “3” in conduct in chorus at the time of the concert will not be allowed to participate and will be required to complete the written assignment as described below. My ultimate goal is to have every student be a contributing member of the group and have them perform in all concerts; however, I must uphold what I believe to be a reasonable standard of quality. The concert grade of a student who does not attend the concert due to the minimum grade/citizenship requirement will not be penalized. They can earn a maximum of 100 % as if they were there.

1. All performances are **REQUIRED!** Students will receive a grade based on their participation, concert etiquette, proper attire, and performance. The events calendar is available from the beginning of the school year for students and parents to use to make plans or schedule changes. If there is a transportation problem, please contact the director well in advance. Car-pooling is always a wonderful idea!
2. Students will be excused for only the following reasons: Major illnesses or emergencies. Students must bring a note stating the reason for missing a performance. Forgetting to come, not having a uniform, not having a ride, playing a baseball game (or any other sporting event), other concerts (church or community), or baby-sitting are not acceptable excuses! Please plan ahead!
3. The director will determine whether the absence is excused or not. Due to the nature of concerts and performances, they cannot be made up if you are absent. There is no way a director can duplicate a performance for a student who is absent. There is no way to make up the unique thrill of performance, the impact of the audience, the excitement of knowing if something is right or wrong. **Therefore, if the absence is excused, a maximum of 80% of the points for the performance grade may be made up. A zero grade will be given for unexcused absences.**

** To make-up a grade for missing a concert, students will need to pick a classical composer from a list of composers that is available from Dr. Lovell. The report should contain a minimum of the following:

- The composer's complete name(s)
- The dates of birth and death
- The composer's birth country and where he spent his career
- The composer's childhood and early musical training
- The kind of music the composer is famous for
- Examples (titles) of music the composer wrote
- Personal facts about the composers

The report must be at least 3 pages typewritten (using 12 point font, double spaced) or 5 pages if handwritten. If a student decides to hand-write their report, it must be neat and legible. Students will be graded on the following: content/accuracy, spelling, punctuation, grammar, and neatness.

IMPORTANT: Do not plagiarize (copy someone else's work and call it your own). Plagiarism includes copying directly from books, magazines, encyclopedias, dictionaries, CD-ROMs, the internet, etc. The report should be in the student's own words!!! If a report contains plagiarism, it will be returned with a zero grade. Also, be sure to list all of the sources (the books, encyclopedias, etc.) used for the report in a bibliography page at the end of the report. **Failure to hand in a make-up report by the last regular school day of the quarter in which the concert was held (not an exam day) will result in a zero grade.**

D. Make-Up Work / Extra Credit Work

1. Students can write an original report on any aspect of classical music. Ideas may be, but are not limited to, the different musical periods, a famous composer, a famous singer, or a specific opera or musical. Plagiarism (copying) will not be accepted. Yes, spelling and punctuation count!
2. Students can perform a solo for one of the Language Arts, Spanish, Band, Orchestra, or Drama classes.
3. Students may attend an orchestra, band, or choir concert and write a short report (one page typed using 12 pt. font or 2 pages handwritten) on what they observed. The concert program should be included with the report. Sorry, no rap or rock concerts.
4. Students may participate in extracurricular musical programs -- All-State, ACDA Male Honor Choir, Solo and Ensemble MPA, All-County, church choir, etc.
5. Students can take private lessons! All students who take private lessons will excel faster than they can imagine! Students will receive 20 points for every 30-minute lesson taken. A list of private teachers is available.
6. Students can perform a Living Room Concert (LRC) for their families. Students should complete the form found in the Chorus room and submit to Dr. Lovell.
7. Students may submit a report for work completed on www.MusicTheory.net

III. CLASSROOM CONDUCT & OPERATING PROCEDURES

A. Class Behavior: Students will find that some of the rules in the choral handbook are similar to those in the school handbook. We are all here because we have something in common: we enjoy singing! How we sound as a group has a lot to do with how we work together. If we follow the class procedures listed below every day of the year, the result will be a choral group that makes truly AWESOME music! The following rules will be in effect during ALL rehearsals and/or performances.

1. Obey all school rules. Read the school handbook!!
2. Treat others and their property with respect. This includes personal belongings and all equipment in the choir room. RUDENESS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Name-calling, harassing, and bullying will result in detentions and phone calls to parents for the students involved. Please do not touch any equipment in the chorus room without permission (stereo, piano/keyboard, whiteboard, file cabinets, etc.).
3. When you enter the chorus room, drop off book bags in assigned area, read the daily objectives on the board (FIRST THING!). On the board will be listed the materials needed for the day, as well as the schedule for the period. Immediately begin bell work.
4. Be in your seat and ready to sing when the bells rings. Students not in their places will be counted tardy or absent. Students who are tardy will lose grade points and be warned of the possible disciplinary actions.
5. No talking while the conductor is in front of the class. Also, do not sing until asked to do so. No conversation that disrupts the rehearsal and/or class discussion will be permitted. No ensemble is better than its rehearsals!
6. As soon as the bell rings, we will begin vocal warm-ups. If you fail to warm-up, not only does your grade suffer, you risk causing serious damage to your singing voice. At certain times throughout the year, your bell work will consist of self-motivated warm-ups.
7. Remain in your seat at all times. If you need anything, please raise your hand and wait until called on before talking. No student will be excused to use the restroom during class time. This disrupts Dr. Lovell's and the choir's concentration during rehearsal. If you get sick in class or have a medical condition that requires you to be excused, you will be excused to go. Before interrupting a rehearsal, ask yourself "can it wait?" If it can, please do so until a break in the day's events.
8. Sharpen your pencil before class starts and be sure that you have a pencil everyday! Students should mark their music with breath marks, dynamics, and articulations as indicated by the director. This prevents repeating and/or learning mistakes. A pencil sharpener will be available for your use in class. Should you need to use it during the rehearsal, please do so with interrupting class - move quietly.
9. Proper posture will be enforced whether sitting or standing during rehearsals. Our choral department has provided Wenger "Perfect Posture" chairs which aid in supporting the lower back when seated in a proper singing position. There is no excuse for slouching! Music should be held high enough to make eye contact with the director, and yet, follow the notes and words easily.
10. Be responsible for the music given to you and for putting away your music folder. Do not roll, fold, tear, bend, or destroy the music in any way. You will be charged a full replacement fee. No one will be dismissed until everyone is seated in his/her assigned seat and the room is in order.
11. *****No food or drinks (except plain water in its original container) in the choir room. Absolutely, no gum chewing!!!! GUM CHEWING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED FOR THE HEALTH RISKS IT POSES TO THE SINGER! Students caught with gum will be given ONE WARNING ONLY; after that, detention will be assigned.**
12. No running or horseplay in the chorus room.
13. **ASK 3, THEN ASK ME!** When returning to school the day after being absent, or if you missed the directions given in class, please first ask a neighbor to inform you of any missed work, vocabulary, etc. If you have further questions, please ask me before or after class, but not during rehearsal.
14. Baskets for work to be turned in are located by the exit door. Please turn in all work ON THE DAY IT IS DUE in the basket marked with your class period. Graded work will be returned in a timely fashion. You will ALWAYS know where you stand (grades) in my class!
15. All safety procedures will be posted in the classroom and will be practiced by school drills.

B. Consequences: If you are unable to comply with the classroom rules, the following consequences will be enforced (with exception to gum chewing – please review #11 above):

1st infraction: Verbal Warning

2nd infraction: Lunch Detention AND loss of all participation points for the day (-10 pts.)

3rd infraction: The above AND a phone call to parent.

4th infraction: The above AND an administrative referral

* **NOTE:** If a student comes to class unprepared, eats food, drinks anything but water, or chews gum, they will automatically lose their participation points for the day WITHOUT WARNING. (-10 pts.) If a student chooses to have gum in my classroom MORE THAN ONCE, they will receive Detention!

* **SEVERITY CLAUSE:** If a student severely disrupts class to the extent that the educational process is disrupted, they will be sent to their grade level administrator IMMEDIATELY (and 4th infraction consequences apply). In addition, this student will be exempt from performing in the upcoming concert/festival and will lose these performance points.

IV. MATERIALS

A. Voices: Vocal health is extremely important for singers of all ages and abilities. This will be discussed and reinforced daily in class.

B. Materials:

- Every chorus student will be provided with music and a music folder by the choral department. As with textbooks in other classes, these items are to be returned in good condition at the end of the school year. Students will be responsible for paying the replacement cost of lost or damaged folders and music.
- A sharpened pencil with eraser.
- 1/2-inch three-ring binder for handouts, notes, etc. There will be periodic notebook checks (always announced in advance). ***I ask that you make the following five (5) dividers in your notebook: MUSIC, WORDS OF THE WEEK, RHYTHM / SIGHT-SINGING, MUSIC THEORY, and LISTENING.***
- A dry erase marker (blue or black) and dry eraser (these are to be kept in a pencil pouch in the students' Chorus binders and stored in the Chorus classroom for daily use).

C. Financial Responsibility: The Maitland Chorus requests a \$40 Fair Share Music Donation from all students to help cover the cost of music and provide uniforms. Fair Share Music Donations should be paid in the form of check, payable to Maitland Middle School, or cash by Friday, August 28, 2009. The Chorus department will be providing to each student in Beginning Chorus and Men's Chorale a polo shirt to wear with the uniform described below at each Chorus performance. Once given to the student, it becomes the responsibility of the student for the entire year to keep for all performances throughout the year and beyond, as he/she continues in Chorus. Students will be fitted for these shirts in class on a date to be announced in the next few weeks.

D. Uniforms: Please read the uniform guidelines carefully. The way we appear on stage (messy, sloppy, clean, neat) sends a powerful message to our audience. What would you like that message to be?

If you do not follow these guidelines and show up to a performance unprepared, I WILL SEND YOU HOME and you will lose your performance points.

6th Grade Girls: You will need to purchase the following as the required uniform: A Black Skirt that falls just below the knee (purchased from wherever you choose). In addition to the skirt and polo shirt, students must wear black shoes and black hose. Black **dress** shoes (closed toe, closed back, 1" heel or flats) must be worn with this uniform; black sandals or backless shoes are not allowed according to school dress code. All necklaces, bracelets, watches, and big earrings (or piercings in any place visible besides the ears) must be removed for each concert. Only tiny stud earrings may be worn in the ears. Girls must also wear **only** black barrettes, hair ties, etc. Hair must be worn up, back, and away from the face for all performances, unless otherwise specified.

6th, 7th, 8th Grade Men: You will need to purchase the following as the required uniform: Black Dress Pants (purchased from anywhere you choose). Black dress shoes and socks are preferred. Black tennis shoes are NOT allowed. All necklaces, bracelets, watches, and big earrings (or piercings in any place visible) must be removed for each concert. Hair must be kept out of boys' eyes for all performances.

Musicale and Maitland Singers: (*Returning students who already have uniform - \$30 FAIR SHARE MUSIC DONATION ONLY.*) First year Musicale or Maitland Singers members' Fair Share Music Donations cover only the cost of their uniforms, which are yours to keep (Total Cost is \$60). Black formal dresses will be ordered (through the choral department) from Formal Fashions. The dress cost is \$60. There may be a possibility that slightly used dresses may be available for a discounted price; if interested, please ask Dr. Lovell for more information. Girls already owning the correct dress from previous years DO NOT need to buy another. In addition to the uniform, students must wear black shoes and black hose. Black **dress** shoes (CLOSED TOE, CLOSED BACK, approx. 1" heel or flats – NO EXCEPTIONS!) must be worn with this uniform; black sandals or backless shoes are not allowed according to school dress code. Details on sizing and ordering dresses will be forthcoming. All necklaces, bracelets, big colorful watches, and big earrings (or piercings in any place visible besides the ears) must be removed for each concert. Only tiny stud earrings may be worn in the ears. Girls must also wear **only** black barrettes, hair ties, etc. Hair must be worn up, back, and away from the face for all performances, unless otherwise specified.

Chamber Singers: The formal Musicale dress or Men's Chorale uniform will be worn for all formal performances (concerts, festivals, etc.). The Chamber Singers casual uniform will consist of a pair of nice jeans and a black polo shirt bearing the Maitland Chamber Singers emblem. Cost for this shirt is \$25. Black dress shoes and appropriately matching socks should be worn with this informal uniform. Girls' hair must be worn up, back, and away from the face for all performances, unless otherwise specified. Boys' hair must be kept out of eyes for all performances. Students already owning the polo shirt do not need to purchase another. If continuing in Chamber Singers, please check to be sure that your shirt still fits!

V. FUNDRAISING

The Maitland Choral Program needs your help! Every year, the Chorus holds one fundraiser. This money is necessary to purchase sheet music and educational materials. To run a successful choral program, we must fundraise. Keep in mind that, while **fundraising is not mandatory**, it is highly encouraged since everyone uses school Chorus equipment. The Maitland Choruses will gladly accept any donation and will provide a receipt for applicable tax deductions. All chorus members' fundraising profits will go toward the general chorus fund.

Fundraising Responsibility: Before any fundraiser, a letter will be sent home to inform the parents of the products and the dates the fundraiser will run. Attached to the letter will be a permission slip that must be read, signed, and returned before the student may begin fundraising.

VI. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Maitland Choruses will perform several times throughout the school year. **A calendar of performance dates is included at the back of this handbook.** The performance calendar is also posted on the Chorus website and should be checked regularly for reminders and/or changes. Students will also be made aware of any possible changes well in advance of any performance or event. **PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW**, as participation in all scheduled performances is required of students, as indicated. If you are aware of any conflicts, please contact Dr. Lovell immediately.

After School Rehearsals: Before a major performance or festival, students **may** be required to come before or after school for extra rehearsals. It is very important that the chorus is well prepared for all performances. These extra rehearsals allow smaller groups to correct problems without taking up the full chorus rehearsal. Please be certain your child has made transportation arrangements for these rehearsals. There will be advanced notice for all extra rehearsals. Excuses will be accepted for a missing rehearsal only if it is received prior to the rehearsal.

Field Trips: We will travel as a group to various performances in town (and possibly out-of-town) throughout the school year. Field trips are reserved for the students who have met the requirements for chorus. These trips are a privilege and must be earned by the chorus students. Trips will only be scheduled if the director feels that the students have been working hard and their behavior is superior for the entire year. These trips are a fun opportunity for the students to enjoy both educational and recreational activities outside the classroom. Students who wish to participate in this activity must have a good academic and conduct record in **every** class. **Requirements: Students must earn a 2.0 minimum GPA (with no F's) and no 3's in conduct EVERY NINE WEEKS.** Students who do not meet these requirements, have serious discipline problems, have missed any required choral activities or owe money to the chorus will not be allowed to participate. **All decisions about any trip are at the discretion of the director.** All trip information will be sent in a parent letter at a later date. You must have the Field Trip Permission Form signed and returned to Dr. Lovell before being permitted to attend.

VII. PRIVATE LESSONS

Although not required, private lessons give students the opportunity to get more individualized attention vocally. With individualized instruction, a student can build the technical skills necessary to become a very proficient performer both solo and in an ensemble. It's amazing to see what students can accomplish with private lessons! If interested, please obtain a list of private teachers from Dr. Lovell.

VIII. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES: There is nothing that will ensure your child's success in the study of music or speed his/her progress more than your sincere interest in his/her music participation. Here are some of the things that will help.

1. Set aside a regular time and a suitable place for your child to practice.
2. Help your child to keep a daily record of his/her practice.
3. Make certain that your child is on time for all school rehearsals and performances from the first day.
4. Attend all concerts and never make fun of any sounds your child or your child's friends make.
5. Help your child understand that the more he/she practices now, the more fun and enjoyment he/she will have later. Your child may not particularly like to practice once the "newness" has worn off, but experience proves that with proper encouragement this cycle is short-lived and he/she soon becomes deeply interested and may practice more than the agreed time.
6. If at all possible, obtain private lessons with a qualified instructor. (see below)

Important: Should there ever be any doubt in your mind about any phase of your child's participation in the choral program, I am always willing to talk with you. Feel free to call or e-mail anytime!

PARENT VOLUNTEERS: If you are interested in helping at concerts, fundraising, field trips, etc. please check the appropriate box on the student information sheet at the end of this handbook.

IX. RELATED DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Our district offers many performing opportunities for choral students. We encourage all young musicians to take advantage of these many opportunities provided and the experience of meeting and performing with other choral students in the district. Dr. Lovell will provide detailed information on all district events to students/parents as events approach during the school year.

- **All-State Chorus:** This district event is for those advanced music students (grades 7-8) who feel comfortable with theory, sight-singing, dictation, and vocal skills and wish to audition and test for an invitation to perform with other choral students from the state at the Florida Music Educators Association Conference held in Tampa in January 2010. For those students interested, mandatory preparatory rehearsals will be held after school (schedule TBA).
- **ACDA Middle School Male Honor Chorus:** This statewide event is for 6th-8th grade boys who are interested in auditioning for this chorus. Two all-day rehearsals and the performance are held at Seminole Community College (Sanford/Deland, FL) November 2009. Dr. Lovell will give information to any boys who are interested.
- **Middle School Solo and Ensemble Festival:** This district event is for young musicians who would like to prepare and perform a solo, duet, trio, quartet or small ensemble piece. Each performance will be given comments and a rating by an adjudicator. Soloists must take private lessons or work with Dr. Lovell and provide their own accompanist.
- **Middle School Chorus Music Performance Assessment:** This district event allows our OCPS choral ensembles to perform and receive comments and a rating by a panel of adjudicators.
- **All-County Honor Chorus:** Members of this chorus are chosen by their school director to participate. Audition and testing is not required. Students are chosen based upon their musicianship and leadership in class. Rehearsal and performance information will be sent home in a letter prior to this event in November 2009.

X. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

A. The Chorus Web Site: The Maitland Chorus hosts an interactive and informative web site that I have created and keep updated on a regular basis. On the site, there is important information for parents, students, and visitors. I post pictures of concerts, festivals, and classroom activities on the web site. In addition, there will be audio and video clips from our performances available to download and playback on your home computer. I urge you to take advantage of our web site and this technology, as it is accessible 24 hours a day! Also, please do not hesitate to e-mail me. I am always online and check my e-mail several times daily!

** If your child's picture is taken while in class or during a concert, I am asking your permission to allow it to be posted on our web site. I will not include names or any personal information of students on the site. I feel that it is safe and most students agree that it's cool to be "on the web!!" At the end of this handbook, there will be a permission form to allow your child's picture to be posted on the web site. If I do not receive your approval, your child's picture will not be posted, or if in a group photo, their face will be digitally blurred and will be unrecognizable.

B. Concert / Festival Behavior: Learn these rules and enhance our chorus' image, as well as your own, at the next concert!!

Guidelines for PERFORMERS!

1. Students should be in uniform (with music, if allowed) at the performance site at least 30 minutes before the performance begins. Once you have arrived, go directly to the assigned room to unpack and warm-up. Do not wander around the school.
2. No gum chewing, eating or drinking.
3. Show good posture: head forward, shoulders rolled back (no slouching), arms/hands relaxed at the sides of the body, knees not locked, feet shoulder-width apart with weight balanced evenly on the balls of the feet.
4. Wear correct concert attire - shirts tucked in, etc.
5. Walk (do not stomp!) on the risers single-file, in a quiet and orderly fashion.
6. Know the correct order of music for the performance.
7. No giggling, laughing, or fooling around on stage. No waving to anyone in the audience!!!!
8. Keep your eyes on the Director, no looking around, watch for dynamic changes, cut-offs, the starting and stopping of each piece, etc.
9. Maintain your professionalism on stage, even if your audience does not know how to behave.
10. All concert participants must leave the concert area after the performance. Please make sure you have transportation to and from the concert site. There have been several evenings when teachers and administrators have had to wait with students who have been picked up late.

Guidelines for THE AUDIENCE!

1. Absolutely no talking during the performance.
2. Performance begins when the director takes the podium or walks on stage, and ends when he/she steps away from the podium and leaves stage.
3. If you enjoyed the presentation, let the performers know.
4. Whispering is only permitted between musical selections, and should be avoided completely, if possible.
5. Applause is the ONLY form of giving approval for a performance.
6. No whistling, shouting, or yelling throughout a concert performance.
7. No walking around while a piece is being performed, as it distracts the performers. If you have small children or know that you might need to excuse yourself during a performance, please sit near an exit; wait until the piece is finished to exit and re-enter. Remember, almost all of our performances are being recorded - what happens in the performance hall will be on the recording (this includes talking, coughing, crying, doors slamming, etc.)
8. If there is a mistake, do not ridicule, laugh, point or say anything; remember, at the next concert it may be you.
9. Do not applaud until the Director puts his arms down and turns toward the audience as the piece may not be finished.
10. As a participant or a member of the audience, you should show common courtesy by remaining for the entire concert. Please do not ask to leave early. It is very distracting and rude for people to be entering and exiting.
11. If you come in late for the performance, stand at the door until the composition is completed, then take a seat.
12. Do not pop bubble gum, because it distract performers.
13. If you see someone who is not using good behavior, do your best to discourage it, for they might not be aware of the "correct" way to behave.
14. Give your full attention to the performance and use common sense; save the other behavior for athletic events or rock concerts, not choir, orchestra, or band concerts.
15. Please turn off or turn to silent mode all cellular phones, pagers, or any other noisy device.

XI. 2009-2010 PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	WHO
Chorus Fundraiser – Enjoy the City Coupon Books	September 2-14, 2009	---	---	All Students are expected to participate.
All-State Chorus Audition Test #1	Saturday, September 26, 2009	7:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Timber Creek HS	Select 7-8 grade students
Fall Chorus Concert	Wednesday, October 14, 2009	7:00-8:45 p.m. (students arrive at 5:45 p.m.)	WPHS Main Campus Auditorium	All Students are REQUIRED to participate.
All-State Chorus Audition Test #2	Saturday, October 24, 2009	7:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lake Nona HS	Select 7-8 students chosen from audition #1
ACDA Male Honor Chorus	November 6-7, 2009	TBA	Seminole Community College	Select male students by audition
All-County Honor Chorus Rehearsal #1	Tuesday, November 10, 2009	5:00-7:45 p.m.	Howard MS	Director's Choice
All-County Honor Chorus Rehearsal #2	Monday, November 16, 2009	6:15-8:00 p.m.	Dr. Phillips HS	Director's Choice
All-County Honor Chorus All-Day Rehearsal	Tuesday, November 17, 2009	8:00 am - 6:00 pm	Dr. Phillips HS	Director's Choice
All-County Honor Chorus Concert	Tuesday, November 17, 2009	7:00 p.m.	Dr. Phillips HS	Director's Choice
Winter Chorus Concert	Wednesday, December 16, 2008	7:00 p.m. (students arrive at 5:45 p.m.)	WPHS Main Campus Auditorium	All Students are REQUIRED to participate.
FMEA All-State Conference	January 7-9, 2010	---	Tampa Convention Center	Select students chosen by audition
Chorus Solo & Ensemble	Friday <i>or</i> Saturday, March 19 <i>or</i> 20, 2010	Times to be assigned in March 2010.	Colonial HS	Select 7-8 grade students
Chorus MPA (equivalent to a Music FCAT!)	Thursday <i>or</i> Friday April 15 <i>or</i> 16, 2010	Times to be assigned in April 2010. Mark ALL dates on your calendar!	Apopka HS	All Students are REQUIRED to participate.
Spring Show FINALE Staging Rehearsal	Saturday, May 15, 2010	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	WPHS 9 th Grade Center Auditorium	All Students are REQUIRED to participate.
Spring Show Small Group Rehearsal	Monday, May 17, 2010	5:00-6:45 p.m.	WPHS 9 th Grade Center Auditorium	Men's Chorale
Spring Show Small Group Rehearsal	Monday, May 17, 2010	6:45-8:15 p.m.	WPHS 9 th Grade Center Auditorium	Maitland Singers
Spring Show Small Group Rehearsal	Tuesday, May 18, 2010	5:00-6:45 p.m.	WPHS 9 th Grade Center Auditorium	Beginning Chorus - Period
Spring Show Small Group Rehearsal	Tuesday, May 18, 2010	6:45-8:15 p.m.	WPHS 9 th Grade Center Auditorium	Beginning Chorus - Period
Spring Show Small Group Rehearsal	Weds., May 19, 2010	4:00-6:00 p.m.	WPHS 9 th Grade Center Auditorium	Musicale
Spring Show Small Group Rehearsal	Weds., May 19, 2010	6:00-8:00 p.m.	WPHS 9 th Grade Center Auditorium	Chamber Singers
Spring Show DRESS REHEARSAL	Thursday, May 20, 2010	5:00-8:30 p.m.	WPHS 9 th Grade Center Auditorium	ALL STUDENTS are REQUIRED to participate!
SPRING SHOW	Friday & Saturday, May 21 & 22, 2010	7:00 p.m. (students arrive at 5:45 p.m.)	WPHS 9 th Grade Center Auditorium	ALL STUDENTS are REQUIRED to participate in BOTH performances.

**Orange County Public Schools
P.O. Box 271
Orlando, FL 32802**

Model Release Form

CONSENT, WAIVER AND RELEASE

For and in consideration of benefits to be derived from the furtherance of the educational programs of the School Board of Orange County, Florida, (I) (We), personally and on behalf of _____ the undersigned parent(s) or legal guardians of _____, a student entered in the Orange County School System, do hereby consent, authorize and grant permission to the School Board of Orange County, Florida, its agents, employees or duly authorized representatives to take photographs, motion pictures or video tapes of said student, and do further consent to the publication, circulation and dissemination of said photographs, motion pictures or video tapes or any duplication or facsimile thereof for any purposes it may deem proper, including but not limited to use on the internet.

In granting such permission, (I) (We) hereby relinquish and give to the School Board of Orange County, Florida, all right, title and interest (I) (We) may have in the pictures, negatives, reproductions or copies, and further waive any and all right to approve the use of such photographs, motion pictures or video tapes and further do waive any right to compensation for the publication or other use of said photographs, motion pictures or video tapes and do release the School Board of Orange County, Florida, its agents, licensees, representatives and assigns from any and all claims of any nature whatsoever arising from their use.

Signature _____ Date _____

Permanent Address _____
(Number/Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Relationship _____ Phone _____