

Welcome to the Rochester High School Chorus!

The Rochester High School Chorus is open to all students enrolled at Rochester High School who have a desire to learn, a great work ethic and a positive attitude. We have three distinguished choirs. Concert Choir, Chorale and Chamber Choir.

Students and parents should understand that choir is a performing arts class that requires student involvement in rehearsals and performances scheduled outside of, and in addition to regular daily class meetings. Each student and parent is expected to read this choral handbook and **sign the acceptance letter and Ichat form** to be turned in to Mrs. Lykins for a grade.

Also, every student needs to turn in a **media release form** so that we may video and record performances.

We ask that each choral student pay **\$50 “dues”** to cover the cost of: Formal Attire cleaning, Informal shirt, Cabaret shirt, classroom supplies/activities. There are other *optional* payments throughout the year as well. Fundraising opportunities will be provided to help students pay for any potential choir costs. More information about dues is detailed in this handbook.

We are going to have a busy and exciting year. We cannot wait to make memories and continue the RHS Chorus Tradition of Choral Excellence. Remember to check our website whenever possible for updates and reminders (www.rochesterhschorus.com) and to turn in the signed Contract and Media Release forms by September 14.

Catherine Steen Lykins
Director of Choral Activities
CLykins@rochester.k12.mi.us
www.rochesterhschorus.com

STUDENT SUPPLY LIST:

- 1 inch binder**
- Pencil**
- Dues** (payment explained in handbook)

CHORUS GRADE:

- 50% Performance** (Concerts, Rehearsals, Rehearsal Techniques)
- 40% Classroom** (In class assignments, quizzes, sub assignments)
- 10% Final Exam**

Rochester High School Chorus Policies Regarding Make-Up Assignments

The performing choirs of Rochester High School have various after-school rehearsals and performances throughout the year. These activities are considered co-curricular requirements for the course. The student will receive a grade for required rehearsals/performances and make-up assignments are offered for "excused" absences only. Examples of "excused" absences might be sickness with a Doctor note, school-related activities, funerals, religious activities etc... This assignment is offered for such occasions. Work is not considered an excused absence.

If an event on the choral calendar changes, students will be given ample notice to check their calendars for conflicts. It is important to note that this optional make-up assignment is not a punishment but a make-up for a grade missed. An after-school rehearsal/ performance is equivalent to any other out-of-school project like a term paper or science project. Since a student cannot make up a choral concert by himself or herself, this is a chance for them to make up the grade missed. A student's grade will not suffer provided they complete the assignment as prescribed below.

Please do everything you can to inform Mrs. Lykins of an absence BEFORE the concert.

Email: CLykins@rochester.k12.mi.us

Make Up Report is a PowerPoint Presentation about the composer of a song you are learning in class.

PowerPoint Presentation:

*Concert = 8 pages, Festival = 12 pages, Rehearsal = 4 pages per hour,
Missing all Cabaret rehearsals and performances = 25 pages*

- Due date for the report is one week after the event missed
- Late reports will be lowered by one letter grade each day
- The following items must be included and explained in the presentation: birth and death dates (___/10pts), style period (___/10pts), country of birth (___/10pts), and at least 3 famous works (___/30pts/work).
- At least two Sound clips of the famous works (___/20pts)
- At least 3 pictures of the composer (___/10pts)
- Grammar, punctuation, flow of presentation etc... (___/10pts)

Overall Grade: _____/100

NOTE: Be sure to follow these guidelines exactly to receive full credit.

Rochester Choral Booster Association

The Rochester Choral Booster Association has been created to help parents and students achieve greater success, collaboration and financial independence for the RHS chorus department.

Cost \$50: To be paid during first semester.

Paying the dues will make your family a participating member in the Rochester Choral Booster Association.

Dues can be paid in one lump sum or in smaller increments of \$10 monthly.

September (informal Shirt), October (Formal Attire), November (Formal Attire), December (Chorus Misc.) and January (Cabaret Shirt).

People who pay Dues by September 14 will receive an additional free Chorus TShirt.

BREAKDOWN:

\$10: Chorus Informal TShirt to be worn at events like: National Anthem, Caroling, Trips

\$10: Chorus Cabaret TShirt to be worn for the Cabaret Concert at the end of the year

\$20: Rental/Cleaning fees for Formal Concert Attire

\$10: Toward program costs detailed below:

WHY ARE THERE DUES IN CHORUS?

- We must pay for expenses like: music for concerts, awards, office supplies, clinician fees, publicity, props, concert decorations, accompaniment CD's, recording fees, sound reinforcement expenses, choreographer expenses, paper, and many other miscellaneous expenses.
- Chorus dues are one of the least expensive on campus and you get the most for your money.

Any payments made to the Rochester Choir Department can be paid by cash or check made out to Rochester Choral Booster Association- or- RCBA

Student Financial Accounts

Students will be given the opportunity to open a fundraising account to help with expenses for dues, trips, S&E and other miscellaneous chorus expenses. Dues will be taken out automatically at the beginning of the year often leaving a negative balance. When dues are paid (either through fundraising or directly) then the account is active for the year and may be debited from to pay for any chorus related expenses. Accounts will be updated monthly and accessible to the students/parents.

CLASSROOM INFORMATION

Folders/Music

Each student needs a 1" 3 ring binder. These binders will be given a number and may be stored in the choral cabinets in the chorus room. Folders are used to hold music that we are working on and must contain loose leaf paper and a pencil. Students will be required to make notes in their music with pencil daily. If a student loses his/her folder, they will be asked to pay a minimum of \$10 to replace the music lost. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with folders. Students are welcomed to take folders home as long as they bring it back daily. The suggested method is to leave your folder in the chorus folio cabinet and make sure you always put it in the right spot every day. If another folder is found in your slot, bring it to the Director to correct the problem. Do not just take the other folder and place it in a random spot.

Care of the Rehearsal Room

NO FOOD OR DRINKS: are permitted in the chorus room. Water in a bottle with a top is acceptable during rehearsals.

No Chewing Gum: Gum must be thrown away before rehearsal starts.

Bags/phones/electronics: Please leave all books, backpacks and technology in the assigned area, not be kept at your seat.

Chairs: Do not lean your chair back, move the desks or move the chairs from their assigned position unless instructed to do so.

Restroom

One restroom pass per semester will be given to each student for emergencies only. An actual printed pass will be given to students that you may keep in your music folder or someplace very secure. 10 extra credit points will be awarded on the final grade to students who still have their bathroom pass at the end of the semester.

Tardy Policy:

Students must be in the classroom **BEFORE** the tardy bell begins to ring and then proceed immediately to their seats. If you are not in the room by the time the tardy bell begins to ring, you are tardy.

Cell Phones:

The Rochester High School Policy for Cell Phones is that Cell Phones may be used in between classes only. From bell to bell if a cell phone is seen during class, Mrs. Lykins may take it up and turn it in to the office. Same rule for iPods. You may not use your iPod in chorus class.

Daily Routine:

- No Food/Drink
- Spit out Gum
- Leave book bag/gear/phone/ipod by the wall
- Grab Folder/Pencil
- Be in assigned seat, when class begins
- Announcements
- Warm Up
- Sight Reading Activity
- Rehearse
- Tidy up chairs and put binder away correctly

Theory Thursday:

Every Thursday when students enter class there will be notes on the board pertaining to music theory. The students will take the notes in their folder. These concepts will be reviewed throughout the week.

Demerits

If a student is doing something he or she should not, he or she will be given a demerit. Demerits may be given for any of the following, but may include ANY action that detracts from the teaching/learning process in the classroom: talking, food, candy, gum, drink, not doing class-work, not participating in class, not following instructions, disrespect, not following class procedures, etc... A record of all demerits will be kept. When a student reaches 10 demerits- the student's parent will be contacted. If the student receives another demerit after the parent has been contacted the student will be sent to an administrator.

Grading Procedure

50% Performance (Concerts, Rehearsals, Rehearsal Techniques)

Concerts: Mandatory Concerts are Chorus Test Grades

Rehearsals: Mandatory Rehearsals are also counted as a grade.

Rehearsal Techniques: Once a week students will be given a Daily Classroom Procedures grade. Following directions, being prepared with binder and pencil etc. fall under this category.

40% Classroom (assignments, quizzes, binder checks, projects)

Theory Quizzes: Students will occasionally have short Theory Quizzes based on the material covered on Theory Thursday.

Singing Quizzes: Occasionally students will be given a singing quiz. The students will sing in groups of 3-8 people. The students will sing a section from one of their songs or will sing a sight singing example. Singing quizzes will be announced ahead of time.

Projects: Occasionally students will be given a project in chorus. These will always be in class projects, and students will be given ample time to complete the assignment during class time.

Binder Checks: Once a month the teacher will check to make sure students are maintaining their choir binders and that they are in the correct slot.

10% Final Exam

10% Written: A short written final exam is given at the end of each semester. Students will be given a study guide to prepare. Topics covered in Theory Thursday will appear on this section of the Final Exam.