**Welcome to the Bonaire Middle School Chorus**

 **August 6, 2019**

**Dear Students and Parents,**

**Welcome to the start of a fantastic year in the Bonaire Middle School Chorus! Enclosed are policies and procedures as well as a tentative calendar and uniform info for the Chorus this year.**

**Purpose**

**The purpose of the Bonaire Middle School Chorus is to train musicians who will grow in their ability to read music independently and expressively and to instill a love for many different styles of music.**

**Classroom Expectations:**

**1. Be on time and bring materials to class.**

**2. Follow directions the first time given.**

**3. No chewing gum or other foods.**

**4. Respect yourself and others (including classroom equipment, books and music).**

**5. Try your personal best to actively participate in all class assignments and activities.**

**All rules in the BMS Handbook apply.**

**Remember- WE….**

**are Focused**

**have Integrity**

**are Engaged**

**are Responsible**

**have Compassion**

**seek Excellence**

**Consequences:**

**All policies in the BMS Handbook apply.**

**Materials Needed:**

**Students will need a Three-ring binder (if possible white with a transparent sleeve on the cover as demonstrated in class) for Chorus with paper, pencil bag and pencils every day. Students will need a formal and informal uniform for performances. A uniform order form is attached. If you are in need of help to afford the uniform, please let us know. All checks can be made out to Bonaire Middle School.**

 **Topics of study are based on the National Standards for Music Education:**

**1. Singing alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music**

 **This includes both sacred and secular choral music- Because at least 50% of all Choral music ever written is sacred music, students would not receive a quality music education without the inclusion of both sacred and secular music.**

**2. Performing on instruments, alone or with others**

**3. Reading and notating music**

**4. Improvising melodies, variations and accompaniments**

**5. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.**

**6. Listening to, analyzing and describing music**

**7. Evaluating music and music performances**

**8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.**

**9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture**

**(additional) 10. Values: taught through discussion of the text of songs- including courtesy, commitment, perseverance, cooperation, pride, accomplishment, patriotism, respect of authority, etc.**

**Course content:**

**1. Making Music- students will be able to:**

**Demonstrate good posture and breath control.**

**Sing with a free tone and accurate pitch over their appropriate range.**

**Sing with correct phrasing and expression.**

**Sing with pure vowels and clear consonants.**

**Interpret notational symbols through singing and playing keyboard.**

**Sing accurately an appropriate part in an ensemble.**

**Respond appropriately to the conductor.**

**Demonstrate growth in musicianship.**

**Sing a repertoire of choral literature of a varied nature.**

**2. Understanding Music- Students will be able to:**

**Demonstrate knowledge of music notation and symbols.**

**Describe the forms and structures of music.**

**Evaluate performances of choral ensembles.**

**3. Valuing Music- Students will be able to:**

**Demonstrate an enjoyment in singing.**

**Demonstrate a respect for quality music.**

**Demonstrate a respect for music performances.**

**Demonstrate a commitment to the ensemble.**

**Demonstrate a personal aesthetic response to the music experience.**

**4. Performing Music- Student will be able to:**

**Participate in choral performances as an extension of classroom work.**

**Participate to develop a sense of individual responsibility and pride.**

**Participate to develop a sense of group/team responsibility and pride.**

**Participate to represent our school in an appropriate manner.**

**This course content is based on the Georgia performance standards for Choral music.**

**Grading Scale**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Grade | 6th | 7th | 8th |
| Major -Performance in class and at concerts, Projects | 50% | 40% | 40% |
| Minor- Quizzes and other written assignments | 25% | 25% | 25% |
| Daily-, Handouts, notebook, journals | 15% | 15% | 15% |
| Final | 10% | 20% | 20% |

**Rewards:**

**The greatest reward is feeling the inner pride of individual accomplishment one has when he or she knows they did their very best!**

**Related rewards are praise, encouragement, selection for special activities, etc.**

**Medals are given for at GMEA Allstate Chorus & GMEA Sixth Grade Honor Choir.**

**8th Grade students who have demonstrated excellent behavior and excellent participation will be eligible to receive a three year trophy.**

**After-School Rehearsals:**

 **After-school rehearsals are sometimes necessary to combine grade levels and to prepare for a performance. A rehearsal calendar will be posted on Edmodo monthly letting you know the dates of these rehearsals in advance.**

**Eligibility for Performances:**

**Eligibility for performance is determined by several factors:**

**1. The student’s excellent participation in class and extra rehearsals.**

**2. The student’s ability to follow procedures and follow expectations.**

**3. The student’s ability to perform his/her part correctly.**

**4. The student should be academically eligible for performances. No student should be failing or in danger of failing any classes.**

**4. The student’s ability to be a positive role model both in class and out of class.**

**5. If the student displays lack of preparedness for any of the above reasons, the director may not allow the student to perform with the Chorus. This decision can be made by the director at any time up to the performance (even the moment before the performance begins).**

**Attendance and Grading Policies**

**Please mark your calendars: our major performances this year for all grade levels will be:**

 **Winter Concert-Dec. 3, Large Group Performance Evaluation March 9 or 10,**

 **Spring Concert-May 5.**

**Attendance to all rehearsals and concerts is vital to the success of the Chorus. Excellent participation in our Winter and Spring concerts will exempt students from their written final project ☺ This means that if the student has excellent participation at our Winter and Spring Concerts, they will not have to have a written final exam ☺ If a student is unable to attend, he or she must provide a signed note from the parent or guardian giving an excuse for the absence.**

 **Personal illness, family emergency are the only excused absences for performances. Students who have an excused absence from a major performance (concerts, LGPE) will be given an alternate written assignment. Failure to complete this assignment or an unexcused absence will result in a test grade of zero. If a student has repeated unexcused absences for performances, they may be removed from Chorus at the discretion of the director.**

**Performance Expectations:**

 **The experience of performing is very valuable to help middle school chorus students to grow in so many ways! Performances help the students demonstrate what they know as well as providing valuable learning experiences. Critical thinking and creative problem solving are a key part of a live performance ☺ Below are the performance expectations that every BMS Chorus Student must follow:**

**1. Be 100% all in- Eyes focused on the director & let the words of the music be expressed on your face ☺ Also, be a mature, attentive audience member when you are not on stage.**

**2. Be on time and in uniform.**

**3. No cell phones or other distractions. (if you must have a phone, check it in with Ms. McCoy for safe keeping when you arrive at the concert venue. )**

**4. Remember- After performances (until you arrive home) you wear the Bonaire Middle School Chorus Name. Your behavior represents yourself and the group.**

**Performance Opportunities**

**The BMS Chorus Program includes many different types of performing groups and opportunities during the school year including:**

**6th Grade Chorus and 7th & 8th Grade Chorus- these groups are the main performing groups for our Winter concert, Large Group Performance Evaluation and Spring Concert. These groups rehearse in Chorus Class during the school day. There will be a small amount of after school rehearsals for 7th & 8th Grade Chorus in order to combine classes to prepare for a performance.**

**You will receive a rehearsal calendar each month.**

**GMEA Allstate Chorus (7th & 8th Grades only), GMEA District Honor Choir, GMEA 6th Grade Honor Choir-**

**These groups are selected through an audition process. You will receive more information on the audition process later in the fall. To receive more info now you may visit** [**http://www.gmea.org/choral/**](http://www.gmea.org/choral/) **for details**

**Show Choir , Young Men’s Ensemble, Guitar Club, Keyboard Club & Drama/Musical Theater –**

**These groups are optional groups. They do require after- school and some Saturday rehearsals. You will receive a rehearsal calendar each month giving you more details ☺**

**Communication to Chorus Parents will be done through e-mail and Edmodo this year.**

**As your first homework assignment- Please go on edmodo.com and use the following codes:**

**Parents are encouraged to sign-up as parents in Edmodo on the student page.**

**6th Grade Chorus- 25sf57**

**7th Grade Chorus- dhv98v**

**8th Grade Chorus- 2hf7xf**

 **You can view announcements, calendars, newsletters, forms, etc on Edmodo.**

**BMS Chorus Uniform & Music order form 2019-2020 ( Due by Sept. 5 if possible)**

**Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Grade\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Formal Uniform**

**For Girls:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1 formal dress 60.00 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **( girls will provide black dress shoes to be worn with the formal dress)**

**For Boys:**

**\_\_\_\_\_ 1 black shirt 20.00 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_ 1 black tie 10.00 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Boys will provide 1 pair of black dress pants, black dress shoes and black socks.**

**To insure uniformity, black shirts and black ties should be ordered through**

**the school.**

# Informal t-shirt- $20.00

**Please circle shirt size:**

**Adult S M L XL Youth L**

 **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_shirts @$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Optional Hoodie Sweatshirt: $25.00**

 **Adult S M L XL**

 **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_hoodies @ $25.00. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Total \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Bonaire Middle School Chorus Parent’s Organization***

Parent’Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Grade\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The BMS Chorus needs your help to have a successful program in 2019-2020. The following are areas in which we need help this year. Please choose one or more categories in which you can help.

\_\_\_\_\_\_Uniform Assistant- helps with measuring and distribution of uniforms

\_\_\_\_\_\_Costume Assistant- I can help to design or sew costumes

\_\_\_\_\_\_Fundraising Assistants- aid in the planning and implementation of fundraising

\_\_\_\_\_\_Publicity Assistants- ensure that all events are well publicized

\_\_\_\_\_\_Chaperone Field Trips- serve as a chaperone for field trips

\_\_\_\_\_\_Sound System Assistants- Help with the sound system equipment as needed

\_\_\_\_\_\_Photographers- take group and candid photographs of the Chorus at special events and concerts throughout the year.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Video Assistant- Record performances for the students to view in class

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Carpentry- I can help to build props.

\_\_\_\_\_\_Community Donations Recruiter- recruit donations from local businesses

\_\_\_\_\_\_Concert Set-up and Chaperones- help decorate and chaperone concerts.

\_\_\_\_\_\_I can help with activities during the school day.

\_\_\_\_\_\_I am artistic and can help with set design.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ I can help paint sets.

Other talents that you would like to contribute:

**Bonaire Middle School Chorus**

**2019-2020 Calendar**

**August 20 BMS Open House 6-7:30pm**

 **(Chorus parent meeting following Open House)**

**August 26- Sept 6 Auditions for Musical (Choose one 30 min. time slot on one of these dates)**

**Sept. 6 Allstate Registration Fee Due**

 **($25 7th & 8th Only)**

**Oct. 19 Show Choir Performance at Sacred Heart Festival – Time- TBA**

**Oct. 15-17 Auditions for BMS’ Got Talent**

**(Chorus students audition in class)**

**Oct. 29 BMS’ Got Talent 6:30pm**

**Nov. 9 GMEA Allstate Chorus District Auditions**

 **@ Crisp County HS. Eligible 7th & 8th Graders**

**Nov. 18 #realmensing- Young Men’s Choral Clinic 9am-1:30pm @ Southside Baptist church**

**Nov. 19 Houston County Choral Extravaganza**

**@ Southside Baptist Church 6pm**

**Dec. 3 Rehearsal in Chorus Room- 8:30-10:30am**

**Dec. 3 Bonaire Chorus Winter Concert 6:30pm VHS\*\***

**Dec. 14 Voluntary Performance at local Nursing homes**

**Jan. 16-17 GMEA District Honor Choir**

**Jan. 16-17 2nd Auditions for GMEA Allstate Chorus @ GMEA District Honor Choir event**

**Feb. 27-29 GMEA Allstate Chorus**

**Feb. 27-28 GMEA 6th Grade Honor Choir in Athens, Ga.**

 **( 4 selected sixth grade students will attend this event at the Classic Center Center in Athens)**

**Feb. TBA Pre-LGPE Clinic**

**March 9-10 GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluation\*\***

**March ? Performance for 5th Graders at BMS**

**March 20-21 Performance of Musical 6:30pm**

**May 5 BMS Chorus Rehearsal @ BMS Chorus Room**

 **8:30am-10:30am**

**May 5 BMS Chorus Spring Concert @ VHS 6:30pm\*\***

**May 7-9 8th Grade Chorus and Band Trip to Universal**

**May TBA Performance at Elementary Schools**

**May /June TBA Possible Performance at Atlanta Braves**

 **Game**

**\*\* these events are vital and help students exempt their final ☺**

**(Some of these dates may change however, you will receive monthly updates to make you aware of any changes)**

**We will have our first Choral Parent meeting on Tuesday evening, August 20 at 7:30pm in the Chorus Room directly following Open House. During this meeting we will briefly review the Calendar of Events for the year. All parents are encouraged to attend.**

**I am looking forward to a wonderful year working together!**

**Julie McCoy**

**Music Education Specialist**

**Bonaire Middle School Chorus**

**julie.mccoy@hcbe.net**

**All info and calendar updates will be posted on Edmodo – see info above and on our BMS Website:** [**www.bms.hcbe.net-**](http://www.bms.hcbe.net-) **go to “Academics” tab, then choose “fine arts” and then choose” Chorus” ☺**

**BMS Chorus Handbook Parent/ Guardian Signature Sheet**

**Please print or detach this sheet & return to Ms. McCoy by Friday, August 16, 2019.**

**Student’s Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Grade\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand the Choral Policies and Procedures.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I also understand that my child is responsible for any damage done to his/her instruments or equipment.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ I give my permission for my child’s photo to be included on our BMS website.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ I give my permission for my child’s photo to be included on our BMS facebook page.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ I have completed my first Chorus homework assignment by signing onto Edmodo.com. Codes are :**

**6th Grade Chorus- 25sf57**

**7th Grade Chorus- dhv98v**

**8th Grade Chorus- 2hf7xf**

 **You can view announcements, calendars, newsletters, forms, etc on Edmodo.**

**My e-mail is: (please print clearly ☺)**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**My cell phone is :\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature of Parent/Guardian Date**