

## PHILOSOPHY

The Chagrin Falls 7-12 Choral Program provides its members with a high quality of music education—emphasizing the fundamentals of music—while developing and nurturing a positive sense of attitude, discipline, honesty, integrity, respect, and responsibility. Beyond allowing the students to become better musicians, the high standards of excellence and ideals taught and demonstrated within the classroom will help the students become better prepared as individuals and citizens of our society.

## CHOIRS

- **MS Boys Choir & MS Girls Choir**
  - Open to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders
  - Meet during the school day.
  - Class participation and performances are MANDATORY and constitute a large portion of the quarter grade.
  
- **MS Select Choir**
  - Membership is by audition only.
  - Open to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders enrolled in band, choir, or strings.
  - Rehearse Friday after school from **2:45-4:15**.
  - Rehearsal attendance is MANDATORY. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> unexcused absence (as defined in handbook), the student may be removed from the group.
  - Performance attendance is MANDATORY. After the 1<sup>st</sup> unexcused absence (as defined in handbook), the student will be removed from the ensemble for the remainder of the school year.

## EXPECTATIONS

As a member of the Chagrin Falls 7-12 Choral Program, one will represent themselves, the choir, and the school. By following the stated expectations, we will ensure a positive representation of the group in and out of rehearsal:

1. **Respect Yourself**
  - a. Give 100% each day and you will become the best musician you can possibly be.
  - b. Bring a positive attitude to every class.
  - c. Bring a 100% level of focus and determination to every rehearsal and you will be greatly rewarded in the end.
  - d. Take care of your instrument (your voice)! It will stay with you your entire life!
2. **Respect Others**
  - a. Show proper courtesy and respect to others, including choir members and the director.
  - b. Exhibit responsibility for your learning and the learning of your classmates.
  - c. Remain quiet and attentive while the director works with others... the concept being taught to one section will, at some point in time, apply to all other sections.
3. **Respect the Environment**
  - a. Take care of your folder and music. Each student will be assigned a folder. Each student will also be assigned music (with a number corresponding to that of your folder). You are responsible for any “non-wear and tear” damage to your music or folder. Any fees incurred due to non-repairable damage to a folder or piece of music will be the responsibility of the assigned student.
  - b. Keep all four legs of the seat on the floor at all times.

- c. You may only play the piano with the permission of the director
4. Be Prepared
  - a. Have your folder with Music
  - b. Have a working pencil
  - c. GUM, FOOD, or DRINK are not permitted in the classroom (exception: water in a clear water bottle)
5. Have Fun!
  - a. If you are not enjoying yourself, you will never be successful.
  - b. Making beautiful music will teach you so much more than you can imagine.
  - c. You will be amazed how much you can accomplish by staying focused and positive during a rehearsal

### **CLASSROOM PROCEDURES**

By adhering to the following procedure, we will guarantee a positive and productive experience for every student during every rehearsal.

#### **Rehearsal Procedure**

1. Be Here, Be On Time, and Be Prepared
  - a. This means in **your seat** when the bell rings.
  - b. Excessive tardiness/absences will not be accepted (see Attendance Policy and Grading Procedure)
  - c. Each student is required to have his/her music and a working pencil at EVERY rehearsal (students are expected to mark their music during rehearsals....These markings MUST be in PENCIL)
2. Always sing (whether sitting or standing) with Correct Posture
  - a. Feet flat on the ground
  - b. Head up
  - c. Shoulders Back
  - d. Back AWAY from the back of the chair (when sitting)
  - e. Back STRAIGHT, Legs Straight (not locked), feet shoulder width apart, one foot slightly ahead of the other (when standing)
3. No Talking
4. Remain focused at all times
5. Return all materials at the end of class, AFTER being dismissed
6. You are dismissed by the director, NOT the bell.

#### **Possible Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior/Failure to follow Procedures**

- 1) Warning
- 2) Loss of Daily Participation Points
- 3) Classroom Detention (6:45 am) and Phone Call Home
- 4) 2 Classroom Detentions (6:45 am) and Parent/Student/Teacher Conference
- 5) Referral to Principal

## Hall Passes

Students will NOT be permitted to leave class during rehearsal with the exception of emergencies, at the discretion of the director. All personal issues such as using the restroom, getting a drink of water, etc. should be handled BEFORE or AFTER class.

## REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE POLICY

**Choir is a participatory activity.** One cannot and will not succeed if he/she is not at rehearsal. Also, one cannot and will not succeed if he/she misses the vocal warm-ups performed at the beginning of class. When one member of the ensemble is missing, the sound of the group has completely changed and that is time lost. It is understood that circumstances do arise and students may need to miss a class or come late on a very **rare** occasion.

Unexcused tardies and absences are NOT permitted at any time during the school year. Students will not be permitted to return to a teacher or to the office to get a pass; you must get a pass before you come to class.

### GRADING

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 90 – 100 %     | A |
| 80 – 89.9 %    | B |
| 70 – 79.9 %    | C |
| 60 – 69.9 %    | D |
| less than 60 % | F |

### *Breakdown*

#### Quarter

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Participation (5 points per day) | 70% |
| Classwork                        | 10% |
| Concerts                         | 20% |

#### Final Year Grade

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter | 25% |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter | 25% |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter | 25% |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter | 25% |

## Participation

Students will earn 5 participation points per day. Each student will begin class with a 5/5. Students will earn all 5 points by following the Rehearsal Procedures and meeting the expectations for the entire class period (including having a pencil, not talking, sitting with correct posture, etc.) The participation grade will make up 70% of the quarter grade.

## Classwork

Throughout the year, students will be required to complete various assignments; including, but not limited to: music worksheets, part checks, lyric checks, sight reading, and concert reflections/evaluations. The classwork grade will make up 10% of the quarter grade.

## Concert Attendance/Etiquette

Students are required to attend and participate in ALL scheduled concerts (see schedule at end of Handbook). Please schedule other activities and family trips around the established schedule.

**Unexcused absences are not permitted and will result in a loss of ALL concert points. Tardies are not acceptable at anytime. Times listed on the schedule are the time at which the concert starts. Students will be informed during class of the time at which they should be ready to begin warm-ups. Those students not in their assigned spot at the beginning of warm-ups will have points deducted from their Concert Grade.**

Students with an excused absence (listed below) will be required to make up the points from the concert. It is the student's responsibility to contact the director upon his/her arrival back to school to discuss the possible make-up options. Please inform the director of any last minute illnesses at your earliest possible convenience. All excused absences must also be communicated in writing to the director (again, at your earliest possible convenience).

## Excused Absences

- 1) Personal Illness
- 2) Death in the Family
- 3) Observance of Religious Holiday
- 4) Any scheduled conflicts must be communicated in writing to Mr. Hamid by **Friday, September 5, 2008**. All other "scheduling conflicts" will be considered.

## Unexcused Absences

Any absence not included in the "Excused Absences" listed above.

Along with learning the fundamentals of performing as an ensemble, students will be held to high standards in regards to being an audience member. Students are to sit quietly and listen to the other groups performing on the concert. By having all the choir groups perform on one concert, it is a great opportunity to listen and learn from these other groups. A more in-depth discussion about concert etiquette will be held in each class.

### *MS Concert Attire*

Each student will be responsible for purchasing his/her Chagrin Falls Music Polo. The cost of each shirt is \$20. Students who have already purchased a White Chagrin Falls Music Polo do not need to purchase a new one unless they need a new size, the old shirt is torn or dirty, or the polo has been lost. Students with an older sibling or friend who has a White Chagrin Falls Music Polo may use that polo as long as it is clean, A check needs to be made out to ***Chagrin Falls Music Lovers*** and turned in to Mr. Hamid by **Friday, September 5, 2008**. Along with the Polo, all choir members will need to wear the following:

Women: Black dress pants (full length...NO CAPRIS), Black Socks, Black Shoes (clean), NO JEWELRY  
Men: Black dress pants, Black Socks, Black Shoes (clean), NO JEWELRY

### **PRIVATE LESSONS**

Private voice lessons are available to interested students. All voice lessons will be setup through the private teacher. Please see me for the names of and contact information for the private teachers.

### **FEES**

The following is a list of classroom fees that need to be paid by **Friday, September 5, 2008**. Fees should be turned in to Mr. Hamid with the Agreement Contract, Transportation Release, and Medical Forms.

White Music Polo Shirt                      \$20      Check made out to ***Chagrin Falls Music Lovers***

I look forward to a great and successful year!

Sincerely,

Youssef Hamid  
7-12 Choral Director  
440-247-2072 ext.4360  
[youssef.hamid@chagrinschools.org](mailto:youssef.hamid@chagrinschools.org)

Lisa Bontempo  
MS Principal

# AGREEMENT CONTRACT

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**Must be signed and returned to Mr. Hamid by Friday, September 5, 2008.**

“We have read the contents of the *Chagrin Falls M S Choral* handbook and agree to the policies, procedures, and expectations contained within.”

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Print Student Name]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Student Signature]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Parent/Guardian Signature]

My child's photo

\_\_\_ May be posted on the school website.

\_\_\_ May Not be posted on the school website.

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Date]

\_\_\_ I am interested in being a parent volunteer with the choir.

Name, Phone Number(s), Email:

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## TRANSPORTATION RELEASE

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Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools  
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022

“My child, \_\_\_\_\_, has my permission to ride the bus to all choir performances.

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Parent/Guardian Signature]