

Owosso Middle School Choirs Handbook 2016-2017

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Please sit down with your parent/guardian(s) and familiarize yourself with all of the handbook material. Then sign and return the back page to Miss Schaffert by Thursday, September 1.

JOIN REMIND

Text **@OMSChoirs1 to 81010** to join! It's free! I strongly encourage both parents and students to join our choir Remind. It will be my primary method of contact when I need to communicate with everybody, and it will be used sparingly and only for important communication (I won't spam your inbox with annoying stuff). With Remind, you can get important information from the teacher, and also respond if you have questions/concerns. Your phone number will remain private.

REQUIRED CLASS MATERIALS

- Pencil
- Composition Notebook
- Black Pants/Skirt (knee length)
- Black shoes/socks (closed toe, 1-inch heel or less)



OMS Choir Calendar 2016-2017

(Please put this in your calendar immediately. Or tear it out and stick it on your fridge!)

(Bold events are REQUIRED)

Report time for students is **15 minutes prior** to all performances

DATE	EVENT/LOCATION	TIME
Friday, September 30	OMS Choir T-Shirt orders due	Class
Thursday, October 27	Fall Concert (OMS Auditorium)	7:30 PM
Wednesday, November 2	Fundraiser Kickoff	Class
Monday, November 14	Fundraiser Forms and Money DUE	Class
Tuesday, December 13	Holiday Concert (OMS Auditorium)	7:30 PM
Saturday, January 28	Vocal Solo and Ensemble Festival (CMU)	TBD
Thursday, February 23	Pre-Festival Concert (OMS Auditorium)	7:30 PM
Monday OR Tuesday, March 6 OR 7 (TBD)	District Choral Festival (Central Michigan University)	TBD
Thursday, May 11	Spring Concert (OMS Auditorium)	7:30 PM

Uniform/Concert Attire Policy

Please let Miss Schaffert know if you have trouble providing parts of your uniform.
You need to have your full uniform for all concerts.

- Black pants / skirt (below knee)
- Black shoes ("Nice" shoe. Closed toe, 1-inch heel or less. Flats are suggested)
- Black socks or hose.
- School-issued OMS Choirs Polo, **tucked in.**
- Hair out of eyes (ponytail, bun, bobby-pin bangs back)
- No excessive make-up
- Simple or no jewelry

GRADING POLICY

Grades are earned from the following four areas:

30% DAILY PARTICIPATION

Good self-discipline is rewarded. Students are expected to be quiet while the director is working with other sections or individuals. Students should not disturb the class in any manner. Students are expected to come each day to class fully prepared with their music, folder, pencil, etc. Gum, candy, or food will not be allowed in the choir room for the protection of classroom equipment. Every student starts each week with 10 participation points. Students will lose points in this category for any of the reasons listed above. Points can be earned back if student exhibits improvement in behavior.

40% CONCERT ATTENDANCE

Maximum credit can be earned in this section by attending the full length of every concert, arriving on time, being in full uniform, having all required materials, and of course behaving with appropriate concert etiquette both on and off stage.

Concert Behavior Policy:

- Sit quietly while other groups are performing
- Do not distracting those around you
- Walk on and off the stage in a professional manner
- Respect the equipment in the auditorium

Failure to follow the concert behavior policy may result in that student's removal from the auditorium and a failing concert grade.

Concert Attendance Policy: Your attendance at all performances is **REQUIRED**. When you get this handbook home, please put the dates in your calendar to avoid all possible conflicts. A concert or choir festival is considered a major test in choir. Plan ahead so that work, vacations, sports, and other activities do not conflict with our concerts. If a conflict cannot be resolved and you must miss a concert, I must be notified by a parent by e-mail, voicemail, or written notes AT LEAST 2 WEEKS before the concert. This is imperative for the sake of our choir and late letters will not be accepted. We will then work out an assignment that may allow you to make up the concert points.

As always, I understand that emergencies and illnesses will occur. In this case, a simple phone call from a parent within 24 hours of the concert will be needed in order for the student to be allowed to make up the points. If a student simply does not show up for a concert, they will lose all concert points and will not have an opportunity to make them up.

15% IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

The students will be working weekly in their writing notebook and on written assignments.

15% QUIZZES

Throughout the year we will be studying music theory, vocabulary, sight-reading, musical notation, and music history. These assessments will reflect these categories, and students will learn everything in class needed to be successful on their quizzes.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR EXPECTATIONS

Participating in a music class takes an organized, responsible, and disciplined person. The group as a whole music strive to create a safe environment where students can come to class to learn without fear of being judged, bullied, or excluded. To create this environment we will follow the rules and consequences outlined below.

Rules:

- Be kind, always
- Show **respect** to your teacher
- Show **respect** to others and their property
- Show **respect** for school property
- Think before you act or speak
- Don't talk about others behind their back
- Treat others how you would like to be treated
- Be prompt, and be prepared

Consequences (in order of severity):

1. Verbal Warning
2. Deduction in classroom behavior grade
3. Meeting with teacher
4. ISS (In School Suspension)
5. Meeting/phone call with parent
6. Meeting with parent and principal
7. Removal from the choir program

RESPECT and **KINDNESS** are the keys to a positive experience in choir!

HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Fill out and return. This is your first In-Class Assignment. Turn it in for 10 points.

Due Date: Thursday, September 1

Dear Choir Parents,

I am looking forward to another incredible year of making music with your kids! To make the year run smoothly, it is important that everyone understands the policies of our class. Be sure to read through the handbook thoroughly, noting policies, grading, and concert dates.

STUDENT NAME: _____ GRADE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S): _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN PREFERRED PHONE: _____ TEXT? Yes / No

PARENT/GUARDIAN E-MAIL: _____

BEST WAY TO REACH YOU (Circle any that apply): Call Text E-Mail

Would you like to be contacted for choir volunteer opportunities? Yes / No

Remember to join **REMIND**, which will be my primary method of contact for both students and parents.
Text @**OMSChoirs1 to 81010**.

_____ I have read the 2016-2017 handbook and understand the contents. **I have entered all of the choir dates in our calendar and will let Miss Schaffert know immediately of any conflicts. I understand the concert attendance policy, and that Miss Schaffert needs to know of concert conflicts a minimum of 2 weeks ahead of time.**

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____