

MONA SHORES MIDDLE SCHOOL
2020-2020 7th & 8th GRADE CHOIR HANDBOOK
Rory Cloz, Director



Dear 7th and 8th Grade Choir Students and Parents:

Welcome to a new school year and to the great experience of being involved in the MSMS choir program for 2020-2021. While our learning may look different, students will still sing a variety of music while practicing rhythms and note reading skills. Students will learn vocal techniques to strengthen the voice, sing in two-, three- and four-part harmony, develop sight singing skills and learn about a wide variety of musical styles and sounds.

As we continue to move forward in these uncertain times, please be aware that our number one priority for the MSMS Choirs is to create an environment (both in-person and virtual) where students are able to feel that they are a part of the MSMS Choir Family. It is my personal philosophy that every student is a unique individual who comes to rehearsal with a variety of needs and abilities, with the potential to grow as both musician and human. Establishing a **positive atmosphere of mutual respect** within the classroom is *vital* to the process of learning vocal music, and my classroom policies reflect this. This includes our virtual classroom environment as well. My goal is that students will develop a love and appreciation of the many parts of the arts, while striving to meet and expect high standards of excellence.

Since our ability to rehearse in person is greatly changed due to our current situation, it is extra important that students feel comfortable rehearsing while away from the classroom. For this reason I have created this [Practicing at Home Guide](#) to aid you in your support for your student's involvement with the MSMS Choirs.

Thanks for your support of the MSMS Choirs and we look forward to performing for you soon! If you have any questions, please e-mail (fastest way to contact) or call the number listed below and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Yours in Music,

Mr. Rory Cloz
MSMS Vocal Director
759-8506 x8540 (choir office) or x8324 (choir room)
E-mail: closzr@monashores.net
MSMS Choirs Website: www.msmschoir.weebly.com



CLASS SYLLABUS

Class Rules and Expectations

-Absences: It is the student's responsibility to make up missed work. All lessons can be found in Google Classroom.

-SING!: In Choir students receive a large part of their grade through participation in warm ups, sight singing and song rehearsal. It is expected that all students use their voice as an instrument in the MSMS Choirs. This includes completing and submitting video work outside of class.

-Beginning and end of class: Students should be in their spots when the bell rings. Being late for class is not acceptable. It is the student's responsibility to get to class on time in an orderly fashion. The teacher will dismiss students at the end of class.

-Discipline procedures: Students who choose not to follow class or school rules may be entered into the school disciplinary system, following the procedure below:

1. Verbal warning from teacher.
2. Parent contact from teacher.
3. Administrative involvement with students, possible removal from class.

SERIOUS OFFENSES will be referred immediately to the office.

**All choir materials are the responsibility of each student (folder, music, pencil).*

**Students will be billed for lost or damaged materials: \$15 for choir folder, unit price for music.*

Grading

Grading will be based on student's participation in class, as well as online. Assignments will be communicated to students and parents via Google Classroom; this will generally include 3-5 lessons and assignments each week.

***Students who receive a grade lower than a C- in any trimester may be asked to attend a conference with the director, parents/guardians and administrators to determine the student's future status in the elective choir class.*

Choir Skills

By the end of the year 7/8 MSMS Choir Students will:

- develop the singing voice through active participation
- develop the ear and sing in two- and three- part harmony
- sight-sing and read music at primary/intermediate level set by the MSVMA
- respond to music aesthetically, intellectually and emotionally
- use correct musical vocabulary and notation
- support the musical life of the community and encourage others to do so

**Students will be tested through spoken, sung, written and electronic testing.*

Extra Credit Opportunities

Students have the opportunity each trimester to earn extra credit, up to **10** points per trimester:

- **Facial tissue** -- **2 points per box**
- **Starburst** -- **2 points per bag**
- Program or ticket of **musical event** outside of curriculum -- **2 points with program/ticket**
- Written one-page review of **musical event** outside of curriculum -- **5 points per review**

Fundraising

Maintaining a choir program is expensive. Through the efforts of the students, the choirs have been able to supplement the school budget regularly, using funds for supplemental classroom technology, instruments, transportation expenses, food expenses, rewards for classroom contests, videography of concerts. We are currently working to find safe, socially distant fundraising opportunities for our program and will keep you informed as we move forward. If you have ideas for a fundraiser, please contact Mr. Closz!

Feel free to DONATE to the choir program through cash or checks (made out to MSMS Choir).

Philosophy

All 7/8 Choir Students should demonstrate:

-Communication: Be able to *share information* with your choirmates, with teachers, with the audience.

-Leadership: Be a *good example* and *inspiring* to others: in the hallways, in the classroom, on the stage.

-Integrity: *Do what's right*, especially: if it's tough, if nobody else is, you haven't always in the past.

-Friendship: *Be nice*, especially: to friends, to those you don't know well, to yourself.

PARENT SIGNATURE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Please complete this online [MSMS Choir Parent Information Form](#) by the first Friday of the school year (September 11th) to acknowledge your reading and acceptance of this handbook.