

Riverside High School Band

2017 Chorus Handbook

Alisha Cardwell, Music Education - acardwell@martin.k12.nc.us

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year as a member or supporter of the Riverside High School Chorus! In this handbook, you will find everything you need to know about classroom expectations, performances, grading, and other important information. If you have any questions, please email me at acardwell@martin.k12.nc.us or call the school at 252-792-7881.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Music Department at Riverside High School is to provide students with a quality education that contributes to their knowledge of music, incorporates elements from core subjects, and builds 21st century skills.

Overview

In this class, students will be asked to work individually and as a team daily to accomplish goals and meet expectations. Individually, students will be responsible for being on time and prepared for class each day. They will also be expected to fully participate in all rehearsals, lessons, and other given assignments. Being prepared includes: having all necessary materials to be successful for rehearsal, completing assignments by the due date, as well as practicing at home to prepare for rehearsal the next day. As a group, students will work together toward the advancement of the entire ensemble musically. This will be accomplished by students' full participation in all rehearsals and performances.

My vision as the teacher is for all students to develop an appreciation for music of all periods, types, and genres while they learn musical and personal skills. It is a sincere goal for students to develop a strong sense of professionalism and musicianship, as well as personal responsibility, self-discipline, leadership, communication, and collaboration before they exit this class. Students will accomplish this through performing, being exposed to new styles of music and experiences through music, working together to complete tasks, class assignments, and creating class goals and plans to achieve those goals.

Communication

The best way to reach me is through my school email at acardwell@martin.k12.nc.us. Before school, during planning periods, or after school you may call the band room phone by calling the school at 252-792-7881. I will not take phone calls during instructional class time. If there is an emergency or urgent situation that I need to be made aware of involving your student, please notify the front office when you call and that information will be relayed to me.

For quick information for all students and parents, we use the Remind 101 app. To join a class, text the code (including the @ symbol) to the number 81010. The Martin County Schools digital communication permission form must be on file for students to receive information through this outlet. These code to join is: @k2ge4

This fall we will be launching a Riverside High School Music Department Website that parents and students should check often for updates and information. The website URL is:

www.riversidehighschoolmusic.weebly.com

Supplies and Materials

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Students should have the following materials the first day of class:

- Notebook (composition or spiral) dedicated to only chorus class
- Pencil
- Binder*

*Music folders will be provided for students this fall; however, students may opt to have their own music binder with sheet protectors if they choose.

Attendance

The only excusable absences for concerts and rehearsals are prearranged school conflicts and those that would be excused by the school for regular attendance records, e.g. illness, a death in the family, or a religious holiday. Individual needs will be addressed as they occur. This system is a subject to modification by the director.

Band Curriculum

Classwork Grades

This year in band, we will be focusing mainly on developing the individual musician first, then developing the ensemble. Most days we will begin with bell work at the beginning of class which will sometimes be a review of the lesson the day before, or ask an essential question to get the students thinking musically at the beginning of class. Every day we will go through a developmental series of exercises at the beginning of class, then put it all in context with the full ensemble for the end of class. Both of these sections will be graded for completion and participation in the classwork category. The *developmental series* includes:

- Warmup exercises
- Scales and arpeggios
- Solfege
- Rhythm exercises
- Note Reading and sight singing
- Articulation and diction studies

Notebook Grades

Students should have their notebook every day. We will use the notebooks to take notes and do exercises for music theory, history, listening, and ear training lessons. The notebooks will be collected and graded for completion at the end of every grading period. If a student is absent on the day of a notebook lesson, it is their responsibility to make sure they get the notes from the day(s) they missed copied into their notebook. **I will always keep a copy of the notes available for students to look at for makeup work.**

Singing Tests

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At the beginning and end of each semester, students will complete an IDP (Individual Development Plan) which will be used to track their musical growth throughout the semester. Periodically, we will have IDA days (Individual Development Assessment) in which the student will choose an area from their IDP that they need to work on and sing it for me as a grade toward their playing test grade. Regular singing tests will be announced to students the week before. These will be conducted on sections of music or the development series that we are working on in class at that time. The rubrics for playing tests, IDA's, and IDP's will be posted on the student section of the band website and reviewed in class prior to the playing test.

Final Exam

The final exam will consist of a written section and a singing section. The singing portion and rubric will be announced to students in advance as well as posted on the band website in the student section. The written portion will be a comprehensive exam of all notebook lessons taken over the course of the semester. Review sessions for the written section will take place during class.

Rehearsals and Performances

Please refer to the attendance policy for more information on what is an excused and unexcused absence.

Grading Policy

6 Weeks Grading:

Classwork- 30%

Notebook- 30%

Singing Tests- 15%

Quizzes- 15%

Performances- 10%

The Importance of Attitude

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any individual or organization is attitude. The kind of person you are is an individual choice, and how you feel about something is one of the few actual independent choices you have in life. It takes intense dedication to reach goals. Students should learn to discipline themselves to practice fundamentals daily. The right attitude must be present along with sincerity, concentration, and dedication as the basic foundations. The chorus can do much for you. Make the most of it in every rehearsal and performance.

The Importance of Discipline

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must be strict! Chorus students and parents must believe in the ideals, principles, and philosophy of the organization. Each member must always be

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aware of good behavior and think for him or herself. Any misconduct casts a bad light on the school, community, and band program. Any member who discredits the organization by his or her conduct or action in band, in another class, or on trips shall be subject to dismissal from the program or may lose a privilege within the program. These decisions will be made at the discretion of the principal and director.

How Parents Can Help

When a question arises, it is important that you get factual information before discussing it with others. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please speak with me directly.

Here are ways parents can help support their child and the band program:

- Show an interest in the musical study of your child.
- Arrange a regular time for your child to practice.
- Teach your child to be fully prepared and on time to each rehearsal
- Attend school music activities.
- Keep a chorus calendar visible in your home.
- Refer to the chorus handbook often.

Rules and Procedures

- Chewing gum is not permitted during a rehearsal or in the classroom.
- Be in your seat/section ready to begin on time.
- Respect authority and others, including their personal property.
- Students may practice in the classroom before and after school.
- No students will use the back door of the classroom during school hours.
- Put books away in designated areas after use.
- Keep the classroom clean and organized.

Performances

Performance Attire

For concert band, students will be required to wear “concert black” attire. Students should wear professional dress clothes to concerts and strive to look their best. This means: Females (a combination or choice of): Black pants, black skirt, black dress, black blouse, black shoes, black stocking tights, etc. Males: Black pants, black shoes, black socks, black tie or bowtie, white dress shirt.

Attendance

Students are required to attend all performances. Please refer to the attendance policy for more information about what is an excused and unexcused absence. Attendance to rehearsals and performances is 10% of the student’s grade.

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Some ideas, sections, and quotes in this handbook were taken from the book "Habits of a Successful Band Director" by Scott Rush

Please sign, date, and return this portion of the handbook.

I have read the 2017-2018 chorus handbook entirely. I understand its policies, standards, and procedures that are required for membership in the Riverside High School Chorus.

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Student: _____ Date: _____