

# CHORUS EXPECTATIONS

2007 - 2008

## Brandon Middle School Chorus

**OBJECTIVES:** Emphasis is placed on developing fundamental vocal and choral techniques and on acquiring skills essential to accurate interpretation of a musical score. Students are exposed to a variety of vocal literature and provided with the opportunity to explore and develop their abilities in music.

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

- Theory
- Performing Skills
- Literature
- Rehearsal Skills
- Theory
- Vocal Production

**MATERIALS:** Students will be assigned a folder with music that will remain at school. Music will be issued by the school. Care should be exercised in order to keep the music in good condition. Fees may be assessed for damaged or lost music.

Students will need to bring the following items to class on a daily basis. All items must be labeled.

Three Ring Binder.

Dividers for the three ring binder.

The sections for the dividers are:

1. Expectations – must be kept in the binder at all times.
2. Warm – Ups / Music
3. Theory

Pencil.

Student work and notations written in the music should be done in pencil. No ink or gel pens of any kind are allowed. Points will be deducted from the student's daily grade if they fail to follow this directive.

**CLASSROOM PROCEDURES:** Students should arrive to class on time and be ready to begin the day's lesson. Books and personal belongings are to be placed in their designated area. Students should get their assigned music folder, and make sure that their pencil is sharpened. Students who are not seated and ready to begin at the start of class will be marked tardy. Ample time will be allotted to put away class materials and departure for the next class on time. Students should adhere to the school system's *Code of Student Conduct*.

**EVALUATION / GRADING:** Since Chorus is a performance-based course; students will be graded daily on tone production / singing. Points will be deducted for failure to demonstrate good choral skills or the ability to follow correct classroom / performance procedures. Written work / quizzes will be used to evaluate aspects of music notation and theory learned in class. Singing tests will be used to measure vocal development and music reading skills. In addition, students will perform on at least one evening concert. The concert is a necessary part of the learning process and students will be expected to attend the performance and remain for the entire concert.

Nine-week grades will be determined by the following:

*Tone Production (Singing)	50%
Music Theory	10%
Singing Tests	10%
Performance (Concerts)	20%
After School Rehearsal	10%

\*Attendance and participation will be 80% of the nine weeks grade when there are no concerts during the grading period.

### **GRADING SCALE:**

A	94 – 100
B	86 – 93
C	78 – 85
D	70 – 77
E	69 – 0

Parents are reminded that all student papers, tests, etc. are the property of Brandon Middle School and the instructor. These items may be sent home at the teacher's discretion. Any parent wishing to view any materials shall contact the teacher.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH GRADE:**

### **Tone Production\* - 50%**

Tone Production includes daily attendance, bringing supplies to class (pencil and binder), paying attention, participating in class, singing, using correct posture, and other elements.

### **Music Theory – 10%**

These assignments (written / oral / performance based) are given to compliment a well balanced music program.

### **Singing Tests – 10%**

This is done to assess the students' ability, growth and maturity.

### **After School Rehearsal – 10%**

Student participation is required. Rehearsals are normally scheduled the day before major concerts. Please try to schedule appointments on non-rehearsal days. If a conflict does occur, please contact the director before the scheduled event.

Advance notification will be sent home and placed on BMS Website / SharePoint Portal identifying any rehearsal or concerts. Students should also write the dates in their student planners. Parents may pick up students after rehearsals, or the activity buses may take them home. Activity passes will be given to students who need them. Activity buses run everyday at 5:30 PM except during special occasions such as SOL Testing.

### **Performance (Concerts)\* - 20%**

Chorus is a performance-based class. Performances are a required part of the quarter grade. The major form of evaluation of any program or individual is concert performance. It is, therefore, very important that concerts be treated with seriousness.

#### **Concert Attire – Chorus T-Shirt**

Black Pants

Black Socks

Black Shoes

**(TENNIS SHOES ARE NOT ALLOWED)**

**Concert Etiquette** – One group of singers will frequently be sitting in the auditorium while another group performs. Each performance is important. Please support the efforts of all performing groups by planning to stay for the entire concert performance and remaining quiet during the performances.

**NOTICE:** Possession of gum, candy, food,  
or participation in the ISS program  
will result in the student's grade being lowered.

**MAKEUP WORK:** Students are expected to make up all written work and quizzes within three days after returning to school. Make ups will only be allowed for excused absences. Refer to either the *Code of Student Conduct* or the *Students Planner* to determine what types of absences are excused. Concerts missed for an excused absence must also be made up within five days after returning to school.

The makeup work / assignment for a missed concert may consist of:

- A three page written report on an assigned composer.
- A three page written critique based on a video recording of the performance.
- A singing quiz.

**TARDY POLICY:** If a student is tardy and it is unexcused, the following will apply:

First Tardy - Verbal Warning  
Second Tardy - Teacher Detention

**Detentions will be held on Friday mornings  
from 8:30 – 8:50 in room 117 (Chorus Room).**

Third Tardy - Administrative Detention  
Fourth Tardy - Referral to Office

**STUDENT PLANNERS**  
**BRING THEM TO CLASS EVERYDAY!**  
**NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Without a student planner students may be denied  
the privilege to leave the classroom.

Points will be deducted if a student arrives to class tardy and or unprepared.

**AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS:** Students will be **required** to attend after school rehearsals to prepare for concerts. These rehearsals will be 10% of the nine weeks grade. Advance notification will be sent home and posted on BMS web site identifying any rehearsals or concerts. Students should also write the dates in their student planners. Parents may pick up students after rehearsals, or the activity buses may take them home. Activity bus passes will be given to students who need them. Activity buses run everyday at 5:30 PM except during special occasions such as SOL Testing.

**PERFORMANCE ATTIRE:** Students must be dressed in full performance attire in order to participate in a concert.

*Tennis shoes and jeans are unacceptable.*

**LADIES / GENTLEMEN:**

**Chorus T-Shirt**

(Cost is \$10.00 – checks payable to Brandon Middle School Chorus Boosters or BMSCB)

**Black dress pants**

**Black dress shoes**

**Black socks**

**FUNDRAISING:**

Several programs will take place during the year. They will be designed to defray the expense of purchasing music, supplies, uniforms, fieldtrips, and the Choral Awards Banquet. You will receive notification in regards to what each fundraiser will be and what the funds will be designated for. Parent and student participation is greatly appreciated – great or small.

**TELEPHONE CONTACT:**

366-4545 ext.71237

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

[Mipowell@VBSCHOOLS.COM](mailto:Mipowell@VBSCHOOLS.COM)

**FIELD TRIPS:** Students will have the opportunity to attend several field trips during the year. In order to participate each student will:

- Pay the assessed fees. Signed forms and fees will be submitted in a sealed envelope with the students' name, bell, and grade level printed on the outside of the envelope two weeks prior to the scheduled event.
- Have participated in all performances.
- Loose the opportunity to participate if they have served in ISS or OSS during the current school year.
- Demonstrate satisfactory classroom performance and participation skills.

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

**Chargers** – participants are selected by the chorus teacher. Selection is based on class participation, dependability, and musical ability. This will be the group that will represent our school at choral festivals and designated events. Students will be required formal concert attire that is different from the fore mentioned concert attire.

**All-City Chorus** – This activity is sponsored by VBCPS. Sixth and Seventh Grade students are selected by the chorus teacher based on class participation, dependability, and musical ability. Brandon will receive a quota n January of the students that can be placed in the program based on overall program enrollment. Selected students will participate in two days of intense rehearsal and perform on a concert on the second day, usually a Saturday in March or April.

**ALL-DISTRICT CHORUS** – is comprised of students in grades seven and eight from over the district (Norfolk and Virginia Beach) who have been selected by audition. The auditions are normally held in November. Each student will have to pay the assed fee in order to participate in the audition process. The event is scheduled during the second week in February.

---

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM

---

REV3/97

VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FIELD TRIP  
MEDICATION  
PERMISSION FORM

My child \_\_\_\_\_, grade level \_\_\_\_\_,  
will be going on a field trip with the chorus during the current school year.  
My child takes medication during the school day that is administered by  
school personnel.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that it will be necessary for my child's teacher to administer  
this medication during the field trip and I give my permission for my child's  
medication to be administered by his or her teacher.

---

Signature

---

Date

**Parental Release for Interviewing, Photographing, and Videotaping /  
Audio-recording of Students**

School Year 2007 - 2008

Refer to the attachment..

**PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM**

Parent / Guardian and student, please sign below indicating that you have read these classroom expectations.

Student's Name (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_ Core Team's Name \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size – Small / Medium / Large / X Large / XX Large / XXX Large

Parent's Name (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Parental Contact Information:**

Telephone # (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Together We Can Do It!*

*Strive for Musical Excellence*

## Field Trips / Performance Opportunities / Special Events

First Semester



### September

- 4 First day of an exciting school year
- 13 Chorus Boosters Meeting 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Fieldtrip Money Due
- 26 Virginia Opera Fieldtrip 6:30 PM – 11:00 PM (Tales of Hoffman - \$14.00)

### October

- 4 Money Due for T-Shirts and District Chorus Auditions
- 11 Chorus Boosters Meeting 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- 12 Start Fruit / Fudge / Pie Sale
- 29 Begin Cookie Dough Fundraiser
- 31 Fruit / Fudge / Pie Orders and Money Due

### November

- 2 T-Shirt Distribution
- 3 District Chorus Auditions
- 7 Virginia Opera Fieldtrip 6:30 PM – 11:00 PM (Pirates of Penzance - \$14.00)
- 14 Final T-Shirts Distribution
- Cookie Dough Orders and Money Due
- 19 Pie Delivery
- 27 Classes meet in the auditorium
- 28 Classes meet in the auditorium
- 30 Club Pictures

### December

- 3 After School Rehearsal 3:45 PM – 5:20 PM
- 4 Winter Concert 7:00 PM
- 5 Cookie Dough Delivery
- 8 Holiday Lights Fieldtrip 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM
- 13 Chorus Boosters 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- 14 Recruitment Tour at the Feeder Schools 9:15 AM – 1:00 PM
- 19 Lunch Concerts
- 21 Caroling in Charger Country

### January

- 2 Joe Corbi Pizza Sale
- 10 Chorus Boosters 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

## Field Trips / Performance Opportunities / Special Events



### Second Semester

#### February

1	Joe Corbi Pizza Delivery
6	Virginia Opera Fieldtrip 6:30 PM – 11:00 PM (Eugene Onegin - \$14.00)
8	District Chorus event
9	District Chorus event
14	Chorus Boosters 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
19	Multi-Cultural / Black History Program
29	Exchange Concert

#### March

3	Spring Fundraiser
13	Chorus Boosters
14	Choral Festival
15	Choral Festival

#### April

4	Spring Pictures
10	Chorus Boosters 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
17	Virginia International Tattoo Festival Fieldtrip
28	After School Rehearsal
29	Spring Concert 7:00 PM
TBA	All-City Chorus

#### May

17	Paramount Kings Dominion Choral Festival
23	Chorus Banquet – Brandon Middle School Auditorium - 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

#### June

TBA	Grandparent's Day Concert
7	Busch Gardens Fieldtrip