

Central Choirs Handbook 2008 - 2009

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CALLING ALL PARENTS! We Need You!

ALSO INCLUDED IN THIS PACKET
to be SIGNED and RETURNED by Friday, September 12th:

-
- (1) CMS Choirs Contract
 - (2) Parent Volunteer Form

PLEASE SEND IN MONEY FOR YOUR CHOIR T-SHIRT (\$5).

Welcome to 2008-2009!

Dear Choir Families,

WELCOME to all returning choir families, and to all of our new choir folks. I am glad that your child has elected to take choir this year. I am excited to be the new choir director at Central Middle School. Building on the wonderful tradition of Mrs. Grady, we will continue to work together to become outstanding musicians and students.

I have taught singers of all ages. I was a high school and middle school choir teacher before coming to Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. Most recently I was the music teacher at Bird and Eriksson Elementary Schools. I studied music teaching and learning in graduate school. I earned a Master's Degree in Music Education and a Doctorate in Music Performance from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) in 2002. I also enjoy my work as a professional church musician and recitalist (organ) in the metro Detroit area.

In choir we will continue to build musical skills and knowledge, focus on music literacy, learn proper vocal technique, and stress overall musicianship. Students will perform daily music-reading exercises, work from a Music Theory Workbook, participate in music listening lessons, and participate in the occasional "Open Mic Friday." Students are required to keep a Choir Binder in which they will keep their music octavos, written assignments, music theory work, and a pencil.

Please consider posting our Schedule of Events in a prominent location in your home so that you'll be sure not to miss anything! Dress rehearsals and concerts are required and constitute the majority of each student's grade in choir.

E-mail is the best way to reach me. Although you are welcome to leave a message in the office for me, I find email more efficient. I will do my best to answer you, either way.

Please read our Choir Handbook. Have your child return all forms to me, signed by both you and the student, no later than **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2008**. Thank you for your support and encouragement of your child's involvement in choir! Hopefully this will be a positive experience for your child.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sean Jackman
Choir Teacher
jackmas@pccs.k12.mi.us
416.6187

Performance & Events Schedule 2008-2009

SEPTEMBER

9 (Tues) – Central Middle School Open House

12 (Fri) – All CMS Choirs Forms & Fees Due

16 (Tues) – MSVMA Honors Choir Audition Application deadline – *interested 7th and 8th graders only*. See Dr. Jackman if interested.

OCTOBER

18 (Sat.) – MSVMA Honors Choir Auditions – *interested 7th and 8th graders only*.

23 (Thurs) – FALL CONCERT, 7pm Curtain, CMS Gym; student call times TBA (approximately 6-7pm)

NOVEMBER

Choir Fundraiser TBD

JANUARY

8 (Thurs) – CLUSTER CONCERT, Logan Auditorium (P-CEP), evening time TBA – 8th grade only.

12 (Mon) – WINTER CONCERT, 7pm Curtain, CMS Gym; student call times TBA (6-7pm)

24 (Sat) – MSVMA Honors Choir Performance (*if accepted*) at the Michigan Music Teachers Conference in Grand Rapids.

MARCH

10 (Tue) – Pre-FESTIVAL CONCERT: 7pm Curtain, CMS Gym

13 & 14 (Fri & Sat) – MSVMA DISTRICT 12 CHORAL FESTIVAL: Each choir attends ONE day, festival is an all-day event with school bus transportation provided.

MAY

Spring Fundraiser TBD

28 (Thurs) – SPRING CONCERT Evening Performance, 7pm Curtain, CMS Aud.; student call times TBA (6-7pm)

Please Note:

- Attendance at ALL concerts in **Bold-Faced Type** is mandatory for your child.
- Failure to attend will result in your grade being lowered **TWO FULL LETTER GRADES**.
- Knowing about a conflict in advance does **NOT** constitute an excused absence.



Concert Attire

What do I wear to concerts?

All Choir Students will purchase a CMS Choir T Shirt (through Dr. Jackman). Each choir has a different color shirt. The T-shirt, with the CMS Choirs logo on the upper left chest, is \$5 (five dollars).

What You Wear On TOP:

The **T-Shirt** for your grade level choir. Your shirt needs to be tucked in.

What You Wear On BOTTOM:

- **Nice All-Black Dress Pants:** loose-fitting, no holes, full-length pant legs (no gauchos, capris, etc.)
- **All-Black Socks:** you must wear socks, just all black
- **All-Black Shoes:** please no open toes, no sandals

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What if I don't have these clothes? *It's a great chance to get some new clothes.* What if I can't afford it? *See Dr. Jackman privately.* Can I wear a skirt? *No.* Can I wear black jeans? *No.* Do I have to tuck in my shirt(s)? *Yes.* What if I show up in the wrong uniform? *You will not be allowed to participate in the concert and your grade will be lowered two full letter grades.* Can I wear flip-flops? *No.* Can I wear navy blue, dark brown, or gray? *No.*

ALL BLACK WILL HELP MAKE THE GROUP LOOK UNIFORM.



CLASS RULES & PROCEDURES

Follow these CLASS RULES to be successful in Choir:

- Chewing Gum is not allowed in Choir!
- Since some students have severe allergies, the choir room is peanut and nut free.
- Always have a sharpened pencil in your Choir Binder.
- Have your REQUIRED CLASS MATERIALS with you in class every day:
Choir Binder with music, pencil, and Redbook.
- Participate every day.
- Abide by the Central Middle School Code of Conduct.
- Save conversations for an appropriate time.
- Come to class with a positive attitude and be ready to WORK HARD!
- Be friendly, open-minded, and supportive of teacher and classmates.
- Be bold and take risks in your music-making!

DAILY CLASS PROCEDURES:

Beginning of Class:

Enter the classroom in an orderly fashion

Get your Choir Binder from your slot (it should contain your music & pencil)

Leave other belongings in the designated space in the classroom

Be seated in your assigned place – BEFORE the bell rings! If not, you are TARDY.

Read the board; get to work on the Daily Sight Reading

End of Class:

- Remain quiet and orderly
- Clean up the floor around you & under your section of risers
- Put your Choir Binder away in your slot; get your other belongings
- Classes end when you are dismissed by the teacher. Dr. Jackman will dismiss the class when everything is cleaned up & put away, and everybody is seated and silent.



GRADING POLICY

Class Participation & Formal Assessments – 50% of Marking Period Grade

Class Participation & Preparedness: Students are expected to come to class prepared every day, and are expected to participate fully every day. Students must have their **DAILY CLASS MATERIALS** with them every day:

- Choir Binder with Music
- Pencil
- Music Theory Workbook
- Redbook (YES, you need your REDBOOK for CHOIR!)

In addition to being prepared, students will be graded on their individual musical growth, music literacy, overall musicianship, attitude & effort, exhibiting behavior that is conducive to the educational process of all students, and contributing to class musicianship. Students can earn “bonus points” for exhibiting outstanding performance, attitude, and effort; students can also lose participation points (“minus points”) for inappropriate behavior.

Choir Binder & Music Theory Workbook: Students will be provided a 3-ring binder specifically for choir to keep their music octavos, Theory Workbooks, notes from class, a PENCIL, etc. Binders will be kept neat and may be graded. Theory Workbook assignments will be graded. Students will be able to store their Binders in their slot in the choir room.

Daily Sight Reading: Students will participate in daily sight-reading and music literacy activities either individually, in small groups, or all together as a class. Whether these activities are completely oral/aural or involve writing, they are graded activities worth points.

Part-Singing: Students will be assessed on singing of their part of any piece of music we are currently working on. These assessments (which may be in large or small groups and/or individually), will take place often in class and will neither feel like, nor be considered a “singing test.” Our classroom environment will be warm, supportive, and conducive to musical growth, learning, and creativity!

Performance Participation – COMPLETELY MANDATORY
(50% of Marking Period Grade)

All students are required to attend and perform in all mandatory events in which their choir is performing (see Performances & Events Schedule). **Failure to attend any mandatory event will result in the student’s MARKING PERIOD GRADE being lowered by TWO FULL LETTER GRADES.**

Conflicts: Knowing in advance about a conflict with a mandatory event does not necessarily constitute an excused absence. If you think that you may have reason to have an excused absence, your **parent/guardian must submit a written request for excusal at least two weeks in advance** which will be reviewed by Dr. Jackman and a school administrator. Requests for excusal will be approved/disapproved on an individual basis.

Transportation Problems: You are responsible for making your own transportation arrangements in advance. Plan ahead!

Weighting of Grades

Marking Period and Semester Grades will be calculated according to the following percentages:

Marking Period Grade	
Class Participation	50%
Formal Assessments:	50%
Choir Binder & Workbook (35%)	
Daily Sight Reading (7.5%)	
Part-Singing (7.5%)	

Semester Grade	
1st / 3rd Marking Period Grade	43%
2nd / 4th Marking Period Grade	43%
Final Exam / Final Project	14%

Grading Scale	
100%	A+
99-95%	A
94-90%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-
67-69%	D+
63-66%	D
60-62%	D-
0-59%	E

Parent Volunteer Form 2008 – 2009

Please mark below which choir event (s) you would like to volunteer with. I would appreciate any assistance you could offer. Have your child return this form to me no later than Friday, Sept. 12th.

~ Dr. Jackman

I would like to volunteer to help with:

CONCERTS

- Fall Concert
- Winter Concert
- Cluster Concert (8th Grade only)
- Pre-Festival Concert
- District Choral Festival
- Spring Concert

FUNDRAISERS

- October/November Fundraiser
- May Fundraiser

CONCERTS

- Fall Concert
- Winter Concert
- Cluster Concert (8th Grade only)
- Pre-Festival Concert
- District Choral Festival
- Spring Concert

I have a talent or skill that I would like to share:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Student Name (PRINTED):

Grade:

6 – 7 – 8

Choir Hour:

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5

Central Middle School Choirs

`CMS Choirs Contract



Please read the Choir Handbook and have your child return this Contract, signed by both and the student, no later than **Friday, September 12th**.

I have read the CMS CHOIR HANDBOOK. I understand and will comply with all the CMS policies as stated in the Handbook.

Student Name	Student Signature	Grade	Choir Hour
_____	_____	6 7 8	1 2 3 4 5

I have read the CMS CHOIR HANDBOOK. I understand the expectations of the choir program for my child.

Parent/Guardian Name	Parent/Guardian Signature
_____	_____

Email address of parent/guardian: _____

I communicate mainly through email. Please provide an email that you check the most.
Thank you. ~ Dr. Jackman