

Chorus Handbook

2017-2018



Congratulations on your decision to become a member of the Raymond B. Stewart Middle School choral program. As a member, you will learn to sing, meet new friends, participate in fun activities and develop a greater appreciation of the performing arts.

To be a successful choral member you must make the commitment to always strive to do your best. It is important to conduct yourself with good character, and to have pride and respect for others and their property. As a choral member, you not only represent yourself, you represent the choral program and the entire school. The pleasure of performing good music for an appreciative audience is matched only by the personal satisfaction of playing for one's own enjoyment.

It has been our experience that much of the information given to students rarely makes it home. It is with this in mind that we have created a band website. You can access the website by going to <http://www.rbsmsband.com>. You may also follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or YouTube. If you ever have a question or concern, you may call the Music Suite at (813) 794-6696 or leave a message at the Main Office (813) 794-6500. Usually the best time to reach me is before or after school. You can also e-mail me at bschmidt@pasco.k12.fl.us.

Class Requirements

In order to begin to learn how to sing, you must acquire a certain amount of supplies. Obtaining the following list of items is the responsibility of each student and/or parent. These materials are easily found online and in most reputable music stores. The RBSMS Music Program has a very limited supply of materials available to issue to students (free of charge).

- Chorus T-Shirt (available in August)
- Notebook/Binder (1-inch, white, 3-Ring Binder) and a Pencil
- Method Book: Essential Musicianship for Choir by Emily Crocker and John Leavitt

Rehearsal & Performance Attendance (during, before and/or after school)

To have a truly successful program it is imperative that every chorus member attends and participates in **ALL** the scheduled rehearsals and performances of their respective class. The District School Board of Pasco County lists Chorus as a co-curricular course, which means attendance, before, during, or after school, is an essential and required component of the course.

To help facilitate scheduling concerns, all students and parents will have access to our calendar on the band website at <http://www.rbsmsband.com>. **Performances and rehearsals are considered grades and cannot be made up. An absence from any performance or rehearsal will directly affect a student's grade.** Please contact the director if there is an extreme circumstance that needs to be considered. It is also important to know that if you are absent from school due to illness, Pasco County guidelines state that you may NOT participate in any after school activity.

Practice/Private Lessons

Practice is an integral part of learning how to sing. Students should plan to practice a minimum of 15 minutes a day outside of class. Students excel quickly when they establish a practice routine. Practicing daily develops tone, technique and endurance. You will progress much slower if you don't practice every day. The music facility is open most days from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. for students to practice, get help, or complete Pass-offs. Unless prior arrangements have been made, students who choose to stay after school must to have a ride home by 3:30 p.m.

Uniform/Dress Code

All Students - black dress slacks (not jeans), chorus shirt (tucked-in), and appropriate socks/shoes. We recommended that girls wear closed toe shoes. No spaghetti dresses or skirts are allowed.

Policies and Expectations:

- Students will show respect at all times toward the directors, parents, chaperones, school officials and other students. They will also be respectful of school property and the property of others.
- Gum, candy, food, or drinks are NOT allowed in the music suite, on busses, or during rehearsals or performances without director permission.
- Smoking, tobacco products, and alcohol are prohibited by anyone entering the RBSMS campus. This policy also applies to anyone representing RBSMS Chorus during off campus activities.
- Students and Chaperones are required to ride the bus when it is provided for scheduled events. Prior arrangements need to be made IN WRITING if a parent plans to transport a student to or from an activity where bus transportation is provided. This policy assures the safety and accountability of all students.
- Always be on time! Every effort will be made to start and end rehearsals or performances on time. If a rehearsal is scheduled to end at 5:00 p.m. you should plan to pick up your child at that time. You are always welcome at any rehearsal or performance. The ending times for some performances are more difficult to estimate. Your flexibility on this issue is greatly appreciated.
- For sanitary, safety, and liability reasons, students should not play or use any equipment in the music room that is not their own personal property.
- Demonstrate positive behavior at all times. Disruptive, irresponsible, or inappropriate behavior cannot be tolerated while representing the Raymond B. Stewart Middle School Chorus.
- Students are responsible for issued items. This may include, but is not limited to books, music, music folders etc. Replacement or repair fees may be assessed if items become lost or damaged.

Grades:

Grades are based on many factors, that include:

- Class Participation
- Performance Tests (playing and written)
- Music Preparation
- Performance Objectives
- Special Projects
- Rehearsals and Performances
- Following Classroom Policies and Procedures

Students will receive a passoff list, which lists specific performance requirements. Students are required to bring their music notebook, and a pencil to class everyday. All students enrolled in chorus are expected to participate and perform in all the required activities of their class. Again, Chorus is a "co-curricular" course which means attendance at any required activity before, during, or after school is part of a students grade.

Discipline Policy
(for class, rehearsals and performances)

1. Verbal reminder
2. Student will be removed from the activity with a deduction in participation points
3. Parent contact: conference, note home, phone call, etc.
4. Exclusion from a rehearsal, performance or activity
5. Detention, discipline referral, and removal from activity/class.

Severe discipline issues will result in an immediate discipline referral.

Chorus Handbook Form

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We encourage all parents to get involved in their child's musical experience. Many of you probably played an instrument or sang in a choir while you were in school. If so, you know that the time spent in music was one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. It can be equally rewarding for your child. All it takes is commitment and a love for music.

I have read and understand the information included in the Chorus Handbook.

Date: _____

Class: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Please, fill in out your contact information below. It will be used to send home weekly emails and reminders about class. In addition, parents and students are encouraged to follow us on our website (rbsmsband.com), Facebook (@rbsmsbandprogram), Twitter, (@rbsmsmusic) or Instagram (@rbsmsmusic).

Parent Name(s): _____

Parent Phone #: _____ Alternate Parent Phone #: _____

Parent Email: _____ Student Email: _____