

Oakleaf Junior High School

Yellow Jacket Chorus Handbook

2017-2018

Contact Information:

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Course Overview:

Chorus is a yearlong course open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students at OakLeaf Junior High School. Chorus 1(Introduction to Chorus) is for 6th graders regardless of experience. Chorus 2 (Beginning Chorus) is for 7th and 8th grade students with limited choral experience and music reading ability. Chorus 3 (Advanced Chorus) is for students with one year or more of choral experience and can read music well (Audition and teacher recommendation are required.) Students will focus on healthy vocal technique, fundamentals of music theory, history, sight singing and the rehearsal of music. Most importantly, students will develop self-discipline and learn to function as a group by working cooperatively. The most successful chorus students will strive for excellence both as individuals and as an ensemble.

Classroom Entrance Procedure:

Students are to wait quietly outside of the classroom until they are welcomed inside either by Mrs. Cole or a designated student. Once inside the room, students are to deposit their personal belongings in the designated area, gather any materials needed for the day (either from the student center or their bags) as listed on the daily agenda on the board and quickly be seated.

Daily Routine:

The following is a typical rehearsal day:

- Before bell rings - Students enter quietly, deposit their personal belongings in the designated area and gather any necessary materials listed on the board.
- Bell rings/Bell work - Students are in their seats doing bell work in their notebooks.
- Piano Chord - Students stand and begin warm-ups.
- Skill & Technique work - Music theory, rhythmic and melodic sight reading, current events in music.
- Singing - Working on performance pieces
- Announcements, music is returned to student center.
- Bell Rings - Students are dismissed

**NOTE: These are not in any particular order and are subject to change based on other events.*

Chorus Expectations:

- ABSOLUTELY no food, gum, candy or drinks (except bottled water) are allowed inside the chorus room.
- Everyone works all the time...Participation is essential to our success.

- No talking while the teacher is talking...especially when working with another vocal section!
- Be in your seat when the bell rings ready to work with your music, notebook, pencil and anything else listed on the board for class.
- We are a family. Even though we might not always get along, we don't disrespect each other in any way. This is a BULLY-FREE ZONE!

Consequences:

Any student, who exhibits excessive or severe misbehavior, whether during class, at a performance or while on an off-campus Chorus event, may be disciplined in any the following ways:

- Verbal Warning
- Refocus Seating
- Parent Contact (via email or telephone)
- Parent-Teacher Conference
- Detention/Referral
- Behavior Contract

Severe instances can result in removal from the choral program. Any fees paid will not be refunded.

Hall Passes and Bathroom Visits:

All students are expected to use the bathroom, visit their locker and attend to any other business they may have PRIOR to class starting. No passes to lockers, bathroom or any other school location will be given within the first fifteen minutes of class, except for at the request of school officials or another faculty member. There will be no passes written without a planner!

Communication and Cell Phones:

In an attempt to be as eco-friendly as possible, communication will consist of the chorus website (oljhchorus.webs.com) and Remind app. Remind is a free texting app that allows the teacher to communicate one way with the student. Cell phones are permitted in the chorus room for EDUCATIONAL purposes only with teacher permission. Educational purposes in the classroom can include (but are not limited to) playing background music for performance tests, audio recordings of themselves for vocal checks, sight-reading and rhythm assessments, etc. Those in violation of the cell phone policy will be subject to school wide disciplinary measures for this infraction.

Field Trips:

Field trips are perhaps the most exciting part of being in the chorus. They are a privilege and students who do not meet chorus guidelines or school guidelines may lose the privilege to travel with us. Grade checks will be conducted prior to field trips and special events. Students who do not have an acceptable GPA (see GPA section of handbook) will not be permitted to attend. Students must also have no referrals for the quarter. *Parent Volunteers are needed and appreciated!*

All students who wish to participate in choral activities not on school grounds (i.e. Music Performance Assessment, All County, etc.) must maintain a C average (2.0 GPA) in all of

their classes. Any student with an “F” in any class will not be permitted to participate. Grade Reports from all classes will be verified prior to any field trips and off-campus performances.

Chorus FUNdraising ☺ and Fees:

Having appropriate funding is a large part of any successful choral program to assist with the cost of purchasing new music, transportation, audition/adjudication fees, accompanists, End of Year Celebration, etc.

All new students are asked to pay a chorus membership fee. This \$100 fee (\$75 for returning students) covers only a bare minimum of all things necessary to make a successful choral program. Additional charges for those wishing to participate in All County or any other special event will be remitted separately. Chorus fees are due by the end of the first quarter and can be paid in installments if needed. (Please see the chorus website for the “Payment Plan” form. No fees will be accepted after December 1st.) Fees will not be refunded if a student is withdrawn from school or the class. Students who do not pay chorus fees will not be permitted to attend non-performance based field trips, participate in extra events such as All County and could possibly be excluded from school wide events such as end of year activities if they owe a debt to the school in any campus organization.

We will hold at least two fundraisers to assist in the purchase of new music and other miscellaneous costs (i.e. transportation, accompaniment, etc.) All students and their families are asked to participate in all chorus fundraisers. Each student is asked to sell a minimum of 10 items per sale. The more money we have, the more things we can do!

Performances & Special Events:

Chorus is a performing arts program; therefore students are expected to attend **ALL** performances. Whenever a student is absent from a performance it upsets the balance and flow of the concert. Please make every effort to attend all concerts as they are a large part of your grade. By choosing this elective class, you have committed yourself to attending all performances.

Should a student need to miss a performance for any reason, a parent note is required in advance. If a student is ill, all reasonable effort should be made to contact Mrs. Cole as soon as possible (i.e. email, voice mail.) A make-up assignment will be given, at the director’s discretion and choice, for half the point value of the event. Full point value for makeup assignments will only be given in the case of extreme emergency (not having a ride to the concert is not an emergency!), illness or other school date conflict.

We will have at least 3 major concert events each year at the school and 1 out of school. In addition, opportunities to perform around our area and at competitions may be available. Dates, times and locations of known concerts and rehearsals are posted on the chorus website. If anything should change, parents and students will be notified as soon as possible.

All performances held on school premises are free of charge and open to the public. Feel free to invite as many friends and family as you wish! We love performing for a full house.

Please note that there may additional costs for transportation and other assessment fees for performances off school grounds.

Students will also participate in an in-class event called “Free Sing Friday.” This event counts as an in-class performance grade once a month and is used to assess students on a variety of vocal techniques. Just like any other test or performance, these are mandatory. Not being ready to perform on the day of the event will result in zero points. Students may only make up the performance for full credit if they have an excused absence (with parent note) for the day.

Rehearsals:

Due the nature of the choral program it is often necessary to have extra rehearsals that occur outside of the school day. Occasionally extra rehearsals might be added and all efforts will be made to notify students and parents of these additional events in a timely manner. Attendance at this rehearsal is part of a student’s grade for the performance.

Concert Attire:

<u>Casual Dress</u>	<u>Formal Dress</u>	
*Chorus T-Shirt	Ladies:	Gentlemen:
Black Bottoms (No Shorts or Jeans!)	*Chorus Dress, Black Dress Shoes	*Chorus Tuxedo/Vest/Tie
Black Shoes (No flip-flops!)	No Necklaces. Only Small Earrings.	Black Dress Pants, Black Dress Shoes

Choral department will provide T-Shirt and formal uniform. Those who do not pay the membership fee will return the formal uniform at the end of the school year. Everyone must have a uniform to perform.

Chorus and Athletics:

While every effort has been made to ensure that chorus events do not conflict with athletic events, there are times when conflicts are unavoidable. In the event that a conflict should arise, students and their families will need to make the choice on which they will attend. Whichever the decision, it is the *students* responsibility to let the proper person know in a timely manner and complete any necessary alternative assignments. Alternate assignments are given at the choice and discretion of the director.

Grading Policy:

Grades will be determined by the effort a student puts into the choral program on a consistent basis. They are divided into the following categories:

- Participation—40 % (See class expectations)
- Assessments—20 % (Given weekly)
- Performances—40 %

Conduct will be evaluated as follows:

- O- Never or rarely displays off task behavior
- S - Sometimes displays off task behavior
- N - Often displays off task behavior

Things to do right now:

1. Visit chorus website (oljhchorus.webs.com)
2. Mark your calendar for all performance dates. (See next page)
3. LIKE our Facebook page—“Friends of OLJH Chorus”
4. Sign Chorus Contract. (See last page)
5. Send in Chorus Fee (or make payment arrangements by sending Mrs. Cole an email.)
6. Check out Chorus website: (oljhchorus.webs.com), Sign up for Remind.
7. Send Mrs. Cole an email if you would like to volunteer for any events/concerts this year. (*Parents/Guardians only!*)

Tentative Chorus Calendar: (Dates and times subject to change.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Event</u>
9/11/17	6:00-7:30PM	School Wide	Open House <i>Important information about chorus will be given, please make every effort to attend!</i>
10/2/17	8:00-9:15 AM	Chorus Room/Cafeteria	Morning Rehearsal
10/2/17	6:00-7:30 PM	Cafeteria	Fall Chorus Concert
12/4/17	8:00-9:15 AM	Chorus Room/Cafeteria	Morning Rehearsal
12/4/17	6:00-8:00 PM	Cafeteria	Winter Chorus Concert
4/7/18	TBA	St. Johns Country Day School	Middle School Music Performance Assessments
5/7/18	8:00-9:15 AM	Chorus Room/Cafeteria	Morning Rehearsal
5/7/18	6:30- 8:00 PM	Cafeteria	Spring Chorus Concert
TBA	3:45-6:30 PM	TBA	End of Year Banquet & Awards Celebration

- Students should report to the chorus room at time listed for warm up and attendance. Doors will open to the public at 6:00PM. Concerts begin at 6:30PM.

OLJH Yellow Jacket Chorus Contract

Student:

I, _____, understand that it is my duty as a student to do the following

- Demonstrate respect to Choir Director and fellow choir members.
- Be on time to class, rehearsals and performances.
- Do not talk or socialize during rehearsals or a performance.
- Exhibit a positive attitude and be invested in what we are working on.
- Follow all performance dress code requirements. School dress code is always in effect during performances.
- Represent my school, my community and my family with dignity at all times both in class and in performance.

Student Signature

Date

Parent:

I, _____, understand that it is my duty to ensure my child adheres to the guidelines set forth in this handbook. I understand that my child's grade is dependent upon their attendance at performances and rehearsals. In the event we cannot attend, advance notice will be given as soon as the conflict occurs. Should an emergency occur, we will make every effort to contact the Director. I also understand that we are responsible for assisting with fundraisers and paying the Membership fee by the end of the first quarter.

Parent Signature

Date

Email: _____ (Most communications home will be sent via email.)

Contact Number: _____

Uniform Sizes:

T-Shirt: Youth Adult S M L XL

Dress (*Ladies Only*): Youth Misses

 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 _____ (other)

♪ NOTICE ♪
Due by Friday, August 30, 2017