

Millbrook Choral Department Policies and Procedures

We are excited that you have chosen to explore the MHS Choral Program. The MHS Choral Program has been recognized as one of the finest choral programs in the state of North Carolina. Recently, our choirs were featured on WRAL, a regionally streamed performance of Faure's Requiem, presented at the North Carolina Music Educator's Convention in Winston-Salem, NC, and at Duke Chapel. While these performances only included the advanced choirs, it gives you an idea of our goals as a program.

The goal of this document is to provide you with information that will help us have successful year:

Concert Dates: Please refer to Choir Calendar for Concert Dates

*Concerts are at 7pm in the Millbrook H.S. Auditorium

*Concerts serve as an exam grade for each singer

*We charge \$5 for adults; \$2 for seniors, MHS students, and children. If you're unable to afford tickets for your family, please contact Mr. Adams who can help. Money will never stop your family and supporters from enjoying our choral concerts.

Expectations

Like any respectable program, I expect that others will be able to see our commitment to our craft and each other. Additionally, if you're going to devote a portion of your school day to a subject, then you commit wholeheartedly to that subject. If nothing else, while you're in room 1702, give me half of the enthusiasm and energy that I give you; the end result will be a fine choir and a memorable experience for all.

Grading

Rehearsal Technique 40% (Posture, preparedness, engagement, etc)

Performance Attendance 20%

Quizzes/Tests 20%

Classwork/homework 20%

Materials

Pencil

Black Binder for your music

Loose-leaf paper

Music (provided by the choral program)

Attire

VOCAL MUSIC I

The following will be rented through the choral department, \$10 (make checks payable to MHS Choral Department). They should be cleaned and returned after the final concert of the year.

- Neoclassic Tunic

NOTE: Sizing will take place during class

The following items will need to be purchased on your own:

- Floor-length black pants or skirt (nothing tight)
- Closed-toe shoes

MEN'S CHOIR

The following will be purchased through the choral department, **\$100** (make checks payable to the MHS Choral Department):

- Tuxedo Pants
- Wing Collar Tuxedo Shirt
- Cummerbund
- Bowtie

The following will need to be purchased on your own:

- Black dress socks
- Black dress shoes

This attire was chosen for two reasons:

1. It helps us look uniform. The better you look the better you sound
2. The men who move on to the Madrigals will only need to purchase a Tuxedo Jacket. You may also supplement the accessories and use this tux for prom and/or other formal occasions, saving you money in the future.

WOMEN'S CHAMBER

The following will be purchased through the choral department, **\$75** (make checks payable to the MHS Choral Department):

- Chorale Dress – Royal (color)

NOTE: Sizing will take place during class

The following will need to be purchased on your own:

- Black nylon hose and closed-toe shoes
- Pearl necklace that fits the bottom of the neckline. Not a "choker," but also not one that hangs down.

MADRIGALS

Women:

The following will be purchased through the choral department, **\$75** (make checks payable to the MHS Choral Department):

- Chorale Dress – Black

NOTE: Sizing will take place during class

The following will need to be purchased on your own:

- AllBlack nylon hose
- Black closed-toe shoes
- Pearl necklace that fits the bottom of the neckline. Not a “choker,” but also not one that hangs down. s

Men:

The following will be purchased through the choral department, **\$100** (make checks payable to the Saavi Formal Wear):

- Basic Tuxedo
- Studs (Comes with Tuxedo)

NOTE: Sizing and pick up will take place during class.

The following will need to be purchased on your own:

- Black dress shoes
- Black dress socks

All Madrigals:

All Madrigals will need to purchase a music folder from www.JWPepper.com. Please order the Black Folder – item number 10376487 - \$21.95

Used Attire

As an alternative to a new dress, the boosters have a limited number of used dresses available at a discounted rate of \$30.00. If you would like a used dress, the boosters will make every effort to find a dress that works for you; however, the number of dresses is limited and they cannot guarantee the availability of a dress that suits you.

About your teacher, Mr. Adams

I will support you, to the best of my ability, in all of your endeavors. I approach the classroom environment as an ecosystem where all are striving to improve, to learn, and to grow. I also believe that the way you treat people matters; not just for adults, but for you. The days of the drill sergeant are dwindling, making way for leaders who have tact as well as skill. That doesn't mean that we will not be disciplined, organized, and polished, it simply means that the methods of motivation adhere to a humane mode of instruction and strategies. Lastly, I'm a man of passion-I LOVE my job, working with young people, studying music, etc. If you find that choir isn't your passion, I strongly encourage you to keep searching for that subject which resonates with you.

Contact Information:
jadams@wcpss.net

I strongly encourage you to use email when contacting me with questions. I teach from 9-until? Monday through Friday, leaving much of the workday consumed with student interaction. Therefore, getting to a phone during those hours can be a challenge. Your questions and concerns are important and I will return your email as time permits (but often within 24 hours).

Commitment

The majority of commitments take place during your regularly scheduled school day. Outside commitments increase with the level of the choir. At the most, you may have:

1. After School rehearsals prior to the concert
2. Local concerts (Duke Chapel, Governor's Mansion, etc.)
3. Trips
4. We are always willing to work with students who have conflicts with sports and/or other activities, but remember, the concerts are a part of your grade. In the event that a concert is missed, you will complete a "missed concert assignment" to replace your missing grade.

Concert Attendance

Concert participation is a major part of chorus. Therefore, it is crucial that students attend concert. Exceptions can be made, but they need to be communicated to Mr. Adams at least two weeks prior to the concert date. Missed concerts require an alternative assignment, which is located below.

There is a \$5 admission fee for adults; \$2 for MHS students, seniors, and children. Please see Mr. Adams if you're unable to honor the admission fee. Scholarships are available for families with financial needs.

Missed Concert Assignment

Include your name, your choir name (e.g. Women's Chamber, Madrigals, etc.), and the date of the concert. For your assignment, choose a musician/singer/band. Research their life, their music, and any information you think is important about them. Then compose a 2-3 page typed paper about this musician/singer/band and what they contributed to their style of music. Consider what makes this musical group significant? You could write about the Beatles and their part in the British Invasion; about the evolution of the spiritual; research a composer (Eric Whitacre, Thomas Tallis, J.S. Bach, etc.); a songwriter, or any performer whom you greatly respect.

This assignment should include proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation. It should have an introduction, at least three body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Your paper should also have a logical flow of information.

Please keep in mind that plagiarism is a federal crime and will result in a zero as well as a referral to the administration. You may use other's ideas only when you cite them in the paper or if you put it in your own words. The "Missed Concert Assignment" is due within one week of the concert date.

Payments

Most payments will go through the MHS Choral Boosters. Therefore, please make all checks out to MHS Choral Boosters unless instructed otherwise. The drop box is mounted to the wall, next to the bookcases, and is cleaned out in-between classes. Please make sure all payments are in a sealed envelope, clearly labeled with your name, your choir's name, and the purpose. I can't stress this enough-make sure all submissions are clearly labeled. Payments can include fundraising efforts, trip payments, registration fees, etc. You may also make payments through "Charms" using paypal. Any questions concerning payments should be directed to: MillbrookHSChoralBoosters@gmail.com.

Fundraising

The majority of fund-raising we facilitate is for the students. Those funds are then put towards their trips and other expenses. This information is documented through "Charms Office Assistant."

Choir Fee

The choir fee is **\$50** per student. This fee helps us purchase sheet music, supply classroom materials, music folders, piano tuning, etc. Active programs like the MHS Choral Program are expensive. The boosters work to offset MANY of the costs. Students who fail to pay their “Choir” fees may not be allowed to participate in concerts and/or trips. PLEASE see Mr. Adams if you’re unable to make this payment. There are scholarships available for our families with financial needs.

Discipline and Decorum

Membership in the MHS Choral Program is contingent upon absolute excellence of musicianship, attendance, focus, citizenship, and vocal artistry. This goes for your conduct outside of choir as well. You all need to be model ambassadors of our school artistically, academically, and socially. This needs to be a choir of Millbrook High School Poster Children! Help each other. We all need to excel in our studies, socially, our lives, and our various individual interests. Naturally, those selected to be in the choral program are at different stages of vocal and musical development – different ages, etc. It is crucial, however, that the rehearsal pace, energy, and aesthetic be paced for those singers at the top 15% of the experience and ability spectrum, rather than those at the lowest. This needs to be the cream-of-the-crop choir of LEADERS. I will do my part (meeting after school, providing diverse learning opportunities, and seeking resources/experiences for you within and outside of school) to help you develop into independent musicians.

Performances

For performances, remember the following acronym, PAP.

Punctuality – arriving 15mins late, or later, can cause your performance privileges to be revoked

Attire – Arrive with your attire neat and worn appropriately (this includes all accessories)

Prepared – Be prepared mentally, physically, socially, and musically

Marley Scholarship

Each year the choral department grants a one-time scholarship of \$500 to a deserving senior with at least six –semesters of experience with the choral department. The requirements can be viewed on the Marley Scholarship Application Form available on the Chorus boosters website.

Calendar

Please include all important dates of performances and payment due dates into your calendar early in the academic year. You are responsible for these dates. Our boosters are great about sending out periodic updates. If you find you're not receiving the updates, contact the boosters at: MillbrookHSChoralBoosters@gmail.com

Field Trips

The choirs at Millbrook will occasionally participate in functions off campus; this normally involves the advanced choirs, with the exception being MPA (Music Performance Assessment) which is held in early March and where all choirs participate. All school rules are applicable if a student is on a school-sponsored field trip. This includes, but is not limited to, dress code, medications, behavior, etc. Please see the student handbook for more questions. Additionally, I always encourage my students to consider that they, a single person, carry the reputation of Millbrook High School and its choral program. Make sure your behavior is beyond reproach at all times. Failing to represent Millbrook High School may result in your parents having to come and pick you up, and/or exclusion from further excursions. In extreme cases, poor behavior can result in being removed from the trip, and ultimately, the ensemble.

Field Trip Forms

Field trip forms must be filled out completely and turned in at least two-days prior to the field trip. Failure to turn your field trip form in on time could result in the revoking of your trip privilege. An extra field trip form can be found on the Chorus Booster web site as well as:

MHSCHORALBOOSTERS.ORG, under the Quicklinks section.

Charms Office Assistant

The choral department has a license with "Charms" which helps us keep track of your student's private choral account. Login information will be disseminated after school starts in August. You will be able to view your student's balance, fund-raising information, make payments, etc., from this website.

<https://www.charmsoffice.com/>

MHS Choral Boosters

We have a panel of parent volunteers who serve as our choral boosters. They help with everything from concerts, to fund-raising, to chaperoning field trips. Feel free to contact our booster president with any questions related to these types of activities. If you'd like to volunteer, or join our boosters, please contact us via the email below! Other questions could involve your student's personal choral account, trip payments, etc. Please remember, all booster related questions, whether the question be for our president, treasurer, fundraising chair, etc., all go through the email address below. In short, send your booster related concerns to this address and we will make sure the correct booster board member will receive it.

MHS Choral Booster Board Members

Jim Luke	Booster President
Brian Kindl	Vice President
Brian Baker	Treasurer
BOOSTER EMAIL ADDRESS:	MillbrookHSChoralBoosters@gmail.com

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE BOOSTERS. CONTACT THEM AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE.

Booster Membership Levels

Every year a number of parents, family friends, and businesses decide to join the MHS Choral Boosters. Your names will be included in our concert programs and your support is greatly appreciated! Membership forms can be found on the Chorus Booster web site.

Membership Levels:

\$250 – Angel = 10 free concert tickets
\$100 – Benefactor = 8 free concert tickets
\$75 – Sponsor = 6 free concert tickets
\$50 – Patron = 4 free concert tickets
\$25 – Friend = 2 free concert tickets
\$10 – General Member = no free concert tickets

Closing

There are many unwritten aspects to learn when joining a new team, but we've outlined enough to start us out on a productive path to excellence. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

-be well,
Eddie Adams
jadams@wcpss.net