

# *Fort Valley Middle School*

## Choral Music Department

### Choral Handbook

2014-2015



Mr. Aaron-James Young, Choral Music Director

Fort Valley Middle School

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Greetings Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2014-2015 Fort Valley Middle School Chorus. I am very excited about this upcoming year and the opportunities it holds for us all.

This is your chorus handbook. Enclosed in this handbook are important details about the choral program. Please keep this handbook. It will answer most of your questions regarding information for the chorus program. This handbook sets goals and guidelines that each student must follow to ensure an exciting choral program.

Please review this handbook very carefully and refer back to it throughout the year as questions arise about the Chorus procedures. If we all agree on the goals, expectations, purpose, and procedures of the Choral Department, the year will go smoothly.

Please, at any time, feel free to contact me by phone either at the school (478) 825-2413 or by e-mail [ajyoung@peachschools.org](mailto:ajyoung@peachschools.org) should you have any questions regarding the Choral Department.

Musically Yours,

Aaron-James Young, Choral Music Director

## Chorus Goal

The main goal of the choral department is to SING. Every part of chorus is designed to create energized singing, produce awareness, understand singing styles, and create good singers.

## Chorus Description

Chorus is designed to provide students with many opportunities to experience many different styles of choral music. Performances include both on-campus and off-campus venues. Students will develop strong musicianship skills including note recognition, understanding rhythms, performance etiquette, and vocal techniques. From time to time, I will incorporate music from a variety of religious backgrounds and different languages which covers a diversity of ethnic cultures. Concert music WILL also include BOTH secular and sacred music.

## Classroom Rules

*Be Respectful Be Responsible Be Self-Motivated!*

*The following rules have been established to create a positive and structured learning environment.*

### ALL SCHOOL RULES STILL APPLY!!!

1. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized before you speak.
2. Stay in your assigned seat unless you have permission to leave.
  3. Follow instructions the first time they are given.  
*(Listening to instructions the first time saves time.)*
4. Be courteous, positive, and supportive of fellow choir members.  
*(Positive attitudes produce success.)*
5. No gum, candy, food, or drinks are to be in your mouth in the Chorus room.  
*[A foreign substance (gum, candy, food, pen caps, etc.) in the mouth while singing can be very dangerous.]*

## Daily Procedures

The FVMS Chorus will use the following guidelines to maximize class time, practices, and after school rehearsals

1. Enter the Chorus Room quietly.
2. Chorus members should ONLY have the following items with them at their seat every rehearsal: *(Without causes points from participation to be lost)*
  - a. **Black Folder – 1” Provided by the school.**
  - b. **Sharpened Pencil – sharpened before rehearsal begins**
  - c. **POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND BEHAVIOR**
3. Be in assigned seat unless otherwise intruded by the director.
4. Social talking keeps the choir from creating beautiful music - it isn't the talking that creates the music, it is the wonderful voice you sing.
5. Every student is required to sing = **PERFORMANCE BASED CLASS.** *(No participation leads to loosing participation points in class. You always start with a 100)*
6. The Bell/Clock does not dismiss the student, the teacher does!!!

# Discipline Policy

Discipline problems can be very disruptive in the chorus classroom and prevent the students' ability to learn and prepare for performances. If expectations and rules are broken, the following consequences will occur:

1. Written or Verbal Warning
2. Changing of Seat
3. Alternate Assignments
4. Parent Contact
5. After School Detention with parent contacted
6. Parent Conference
7. Cut from a performance, field trip, or extra activities
8. Office Referral

Depending on the nature of the infraction, steps can be omitted to better address the problem.

# Attendance Policy

## Public Performances, Practices and After School Rehearsals

1. Public performances are important to being in chorus and missing a performance is unacceptable.
2. Attendance at any choral concert and dress rehearsal are mandatory.
3. After school practices will only be called if students do not accomplish the daily goals set in class.
4. Excused absences from public performances will be granted in case of genuine emergency only.
5. The following are excused absences from Choral events:
  - a. Personal sickness (note required)
  - b. Death in family
  - c. Prior written excuse presented and excused by the director and/or principal.
    - i. **Written note by the parent/guardian explaining the reason for their absence.**
  - d. **Students are to make up the performance with a written assignment due at 2 days after the missed performance.**
    - i. **Excused absence assignment: One (1) page paper**
    - ii. **Unexcused: Three (3) page paper**  
**(Topics will be posted in the missed work folder located in the chorus room)**
  - e. **If student misses more than 2 performances, a parent conference will be scheduled and the severity of the absence will be discussed with an administrator.**
6. Please call the school or email me before the concert begins if an emergency arises.
  - a. **Jobs, family trips, birthday parties, etc. do not justify absences.**
7. Choir students are often involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities. If conflicts occur in the scheduling of practices, rehearsals, games, and performances, the following guideline will be used:
  - a. Conflicts should be avoided as much as possible. Check the FVMS Chorus Calendar regularly for scheduling information.
  - b. A performance or game should take precedent over a practice or rehearsal with no penalty involved in the missed practice or rehearsal, **provided the director and coach are notified in advance.**
  - c. **LET THE DIRECTOR AND COACH OF THE OTHER CONFLICTING SCHOOL-SPONSORED EVENT HANDLE ALL SCHOOL CONFLICTS.**

**The date and time for each performance and after school rehearsal will be announced as far in advance as possible (generally a month ahead of time for a performance and two weeks for a rehearsal). A list of events already scheduled is included in this handbook.**

## **Chorus Grading Policy**

- Every Student will receive a daily participation grade. This daily grade shows each student's participation in accomplishing class goals and objectives.
- Major concert performances and rehearsals are the equivalent of a major test grade. They are the culmination of many hours of class rehearsals. They are part of the class curriculum and, therefore, are graded.
- **Absences from a concert or rehearsal will result in an alternative written assignment in order to place a make-up grade in the grade book.**
- Major performances and rehearsal will include:
  1. Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal
  2. Winter Concert
  3. Mock-LGPE Concert Dress Rehearsal
  4. Mock LGPE
  5. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus LGPE Rehearsal
  6. FVMS Concert Choir Rehearsal
  7. LGPE Dress Rehearsal
  8. Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal
  9. Spring Concert
- Written and oral assignments, singing tests, and quizzes are counted as test grades.

## **Chorus Supplies**

Students will be supplied with a black one inch binder. If the binder is damaged or lost the student is responsible for replacing the binder as soon as possible. This class does not have traditional textbooks and the binder will serve as a "textbook" for chorus. It will include music, warm-ups, and other learning materials for chorus.

Students also need to have notebook paper and pencil EVERYDAY.

## **Performance Attire** (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)

### **Formal Performance Attire**

#### **Boys:**

- Black dress slacks with a **BLACK** belt. (NO jeans or shorts)
- Long sleeved white dress shirt with collar, buttoned and tucked into pants. (Please do not wear colored shirts or tank tops under your white shirt.)
- \*Ties will be provided\*.
- Hard-soled **BLACK** dress shoes with **BLACK** dress socks. (NO flip-flops or athletic shoes.)
- NO JEWELRY (Earrings, watches, chains, etc.)

## **GIRLS:**

- Black dress slacks or below the knee length or longer **BLACK** skirt. (No Black, Black and White, or White Dresses)
- Long sleeved white dress shirt with collar, buttoned and tucked into pants. (NO tank tops, spaghetti straps, or plunging necklines.) Please do not wear colored shirts or tank tops under your white shirt.
- \*Ties will be provided\*.
- Hard-soled dress shoes with a maximum of 1.5 inch heel. (NO flip-flops, high-heels, or athletic shoes.)
- Wear shoes with black socks, **NATURAL** colored hosiery, or without socks. (No colored or patterned hosiery)
- **ONLY** stud earrings may be worn. (No large earrings, medium earrings, hoops, any dangling jewelry, watches, necklaces, etc.)
- Hair should be worn so the face is visible.

## **Informal and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Performance Attire**

### **ALL:**

- FVMS Chorus Polo Shirt
- Solid **BLACK** pants (NO capris, shorts, or jeans)
- Black belt
- Black shoes

*(Students not in the proper uniform will not be allowed to perform with the group. This will count as an unexcused absents from the performance.)*

## **REMIND**

This great application helps parents and students be reminded of events that happen in the classroom and outside of the classroom. It is **FREE** and helps you to know what to expect for upcoming concerts, rehearsals and other such events.

@FVMSC

Text to (478) 387-4052 so you may be reminded of events, and remember it is **FREE!**

## **Fundraisers**

This is one very important part of our program. Without fundraisers, we do not have the funds to pay for music, equipment, accessories, and help offset the cost of programs, auditions, field trips, and other choral expenses. We need for every student and parent to participate in each fundraiser to help support our choral department.

## **Parent and Guardian Volunteers**

Every parent is important to our choral department. There are several opportunities where parents can volunteer in this department as well. We will need several chaperons for various trips and off campus performances. We will need parent volunteers for various programs throughout the year. We will also need parent volunteers and participation in the fundraisers that we will have throughout the school year. All parents and guardians are welcomed.

## Calendar of Events

(Events are subject to change and added. Prior notices will be grated in such event immediately.)

### August

9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> District Honor Chorus 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
(Location TBA)

### September

2<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting Performance (Peach County  
Board of Education)

11<sup>th</sup> National Anthem Project/Patriot Day  
(FVMS Gym)

TBA Hispanic Heritage Month Program (FVMS  
Gym)

### October

18<sup>th</sup> Sacred Heart Fall Festival (Warner Robins,  
GA)

TBA Retirement Home Concert (Fort Valley,  
GA)

### November

12<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day Program (FVMS Gym)

15<sup>th</sup> All State Auditions (Crisp County High  
School Cordele, GA)

### December

8<sup>th</sup> Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal (FVMS  
Gym)

9<sup>th</sup> FVMS Christmas Concert (FVMS Gym)

### January

29<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> GMEA In-Service Conference  
(Savannah, GA) *Mr. Young will attend.*

### February

6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Sixth Grade Statewide Honor Chorus  
(Tifton, GA)

TBA Black History Program (FVMS Gym)

### March

5<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> All State Chorus Event (Athens, GA)

TBA Mock LGPE Dress Rehearsal (Chorus  
Room)

March 8<sup>th</sup> Mock LGPE Showcase (Peach County  
High School Auditorium)

TBA LGPE Dress Rehearsal (Chorus Room)

19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Middle School LGPE (Large Group  
Performance Evaluation) *Location TBA*

### April

23<sup>rd</sup> FVMS Talent Show (FVMS Gym)

### May

5<sup>th</sup> Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal (FVMS  
Gym)

7<sup>th</sup> FVMS Spring Concert (FVMS Gym)

TBA 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Recruitment Showcase (Kay  
Road and Hunt Elementary) *Selected 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>  
Grade Only*

TBA 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Program (FVMS Gym) *6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Chorus only*

TBA 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus  
Members only)

22<sup>nd</sup> Honors Day Program

## Acknowledgement Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the expectations, grading policy, rules, and attendance policies for FVMS Choirs. I understand that my participation in choir requires me to be a model for others not only at FVMS but in the community as well. I understand that failure to comply with these guidelines will reduce my grade and could lead to removal from the choral department.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I have read the expectations, grading policy, rules, and attendance policies for FVMS Choirs. I understand that my child's participation in choir requires them to be a model for others not only at FVMS but in the community as well. I understand that failure to comply with these guidelines will reduce their grade and could lead to removal from the choral department. I also understand that successful organizations that work require teamwork between the parents, students, and teachers.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please sign this form and return it no later than **Friday, August 29, 2014.**

## Polo Shirt Order

All choir members are required to purchase a polo shirt for use during informal concerts, activities, and trips. The shirt cost is **\$15**

*Please circle your size below.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth S    Youth M    Youth L    Youth XL    Adult S    Adult M  
Adult L    Adult XL    Adult XXL

## Volunteer Information

Yes, I would like to volunteer for: (circle all that apply)

Chaperone    Program Committees    Fundraising Committees

I will support my child in every aspect, but I do not wish to volunteer.

Other (Please Explain)

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## Parent Contact Information

Parent/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Number \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Work Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_



# Fort Valley Middle School Chorus

## Field Trip / Medical Release Form

(Revised 2013)

Print Clearly

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

D.O.B. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Work # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

In Case of Emergency, please contact:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

### Medical Information

Allergies: (Drug or Otherwise) \_\_\_\_\_

Current Medication: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe any history of Heat Conditions, Diabetes, Asthma, Epilepsy, or Rheumatic Fever etc.:

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### Medical Insurance Information

Name of Carrier: (Medicare, Medicaid, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that school officials will plan for the safety of my child, and where sound judgment has been shown regarding my child's welfare, I will not hold the school liable for any harm that may come to him/her. I agree for school officials to take whatever steps necessary to care for my child and I agree to pay for this medical care. In addition, my child has my permission to participate in conferences and all chorus field trips away from Fort Valley Middle School's campus. Furthermore, I understand that for any reason my child violates school policies he/she will be disciplined accordingly.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Learning today- Leading tomorrow!*