

# Mannford 6th Grade Vocal Music Handbook 2023 -2024

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## **Vocal Music Handbook Purpose and Overview**

This handbook is designed to keep students and parents informed of class requirements and expectations. It is the responsibility of the student and his/her guardians to read the handbook in its entirety and contact the teacher if there are any questions or concerns.

**All students/ guardians must agree to the terms of this handbook to be in choir. If you do not contact me regarding your concerns and you remain enrolled in choir, you ARE agreeing to the terms of this handbook. Your signature and emergency contact information is requested at the end of this packet or to be completed online.** Please also be advised that the choir event calendar is a separate document that will be available on our web page. Periodic updates with changes, revisions, and more detailed instructions will also be provided on the choir web page.

## **Mannford Vocal Music Statement of Purpose**

### **The Mannford Vocal Music Program Seeks To Fulfill the Following:**

Students will learn the basic techniques of good singing and music reading and to manifest those techniques in a performance setting. Students will receive a foundation in Music Theory and Music History knowledge and skills. Students will explore, experiment, and express the deepest aesthetic aspects of music. Students may develop a lifelong appreciation of many types and styles of music. Students will draw connections to other arts and disciplines outside the arts which supplements and supports the student's overall learning and educational experience.

## **Vocal Music Curriculum**

**Mannford Choirs will pursue the basic curriculum outline as follows:**

### **I. Performance**

- A. Variety of Repertoire
- B. Correct Vocal Technique

### **II. Reading and Notating Music**

- A. Rhythm
- B. Pitch
- C. Expressive Techniques

### **III. Evaluation of Music**

- A. Students will listen to and evaluate the quality of musical performances (of others and of self).
- B. Students will respond emotionally and intelligently, using music terminology, regarding how the elements of music evoke feelings and mood.

### **IV. Connections Between Music and Other Subjects**

Students will make connections between music and other disciplines.

- A. Vocal Music as related to other music disciplines
- B. Music as related to visual art, drama, and other fine arts.
- C. Music as related to the core disciplines of math, science, language arts.

### **V. Music in Historical and Cultural Contexts**

Students will demonstrate knowledge of music in historical and cultural contexts as well as how these aspects influence musical qualities. Students will address historical and cultural aspects such as the composer's biographical information, world events, musical eras and their trends, public perception of musical works, etc.

## **Music Literature**

The choirs will prepare, study, and perform a variety of musical styles. These styles include, but are not limited to: sacred, secular, pop, patriotic, jazz, folk, and ethnic music in a number of foreign languages. Each student must participate in every performance. Please understand that the repertoire I select is based on musical merit, historical significance, and learning goals. That being said, if you have any objections to performing a particular piece(s) of music, please communicate in writing (email is fine) any concerns you may have regarding the literature. I will be happy to provide the student with an alternative assignment that reaches similar objectives.

## **Performance Requirements**

**All choir performances are mandatory for the students enrolled.** Concerts are a joint effort by the entire choir and each member needs to be present for them to be successful. There is no acceptable excuse to miss a concert short of a serious illness or a family emergency. Please inform me of the situation in writing (email is fine). When possible, please notify me in advance rather than after the concert/event. Please include doctor's notes and other materials that I can keep on record to defend your student's grade.

Please refer to the calendar and check for calendar updates and plan your year accordingly regarding appointments, transportation, etc. If you are aware of transportation problems before a performance, please inform me and we will work together as a choir family to get you there on time! I am happy to help in any way that I can.

In the event of another student activity conflict, the principal, other activity sponsor, and myself will meet and decide which event has priority. In some cases, we may leave the decision up to the student. We try not to have overlap in activities and performances. However, sometimes it does occur. In this case, the student will not be penalized if it is decided that the student must miss an event.

***Any unexcused absences for performances, rehearsals, or other choral events will result in a deduction of the student's grade. Chronic unexcused absences are grounds for dismissal from the program.***

### **Concert Etiquette**

***It is extremely important that all choir members and their families show respect to the other choirs onstage. This means that every choir student is required to stay for the entirety of every performance. I understand that your family is very busy and has many commitments. This is why I make a conscious effort to keep all concerts under one hour in length. Please make it a priority to stay for the entirety of every performance.***

### **Behavior Expectations**

In order for the choirs to be successful, each student must exhibit appropriate behaviors and conduct that is supportive to the learning environment. Becoming a musician takes practice, dedication, and discipline. In order to be successful in choir, you must demonstrate the following behaviors:

Respect for teacher and classmates	A cooperative attitude conducive to learning
Willingness to be a team player	Regular practice and preparation for class
Completion of written assignments	Materials with you every day (music, pencil, water)
Arrive on time and ready to learn every day	Regular attendance- We all depend on your voice!
Always put forth your best effort	

### **How Your Grade is Determined**

Students' grades are determined based on total points received versus total points possible.

Grading scale will be as outlined in the Mannford Middle School Student Handbook.

### **Performances**

- This portion of the grade includes ALL concerts, performances, contests, and related rehearsals
- Excused absences from performances will be given only for emergencies and serious illnesses when written notification has been given. (Please read "Performance Requirements"). Students with excused absences may be required to complete an alternative assignment in order to receive credit for the performance.
- Unexcused absences from any extra rehearsals called or performances will result in a lowering of the grade.

### **Daily Participation**

- Appropriate behavior and conduct (Please read "Behavior Expectations").
- Each class period is worth 5 points. If a student is not exhibiting the expected participation, his or her participation points for the day will be lowered.
- If a student is well enough to be in class, the student is expected to participate. Students will not be allowed to "sit out" if they "don't feel well." Every day is important.

## **Written Work**

Examples of written work include but are not limited to: music theory worksheets, music history assignments, sight reading assignments, writing in solfege, marking or highlighting music, etc.

- Some assignments are taken as a completion grade while others are graded for accuracy.
- Students will be informed of their grades in a timely manner via online gradebook. It is the student's responsibility to come to me for extra help or concerns regarding grades. Concerns regarding grades on written work will be handled on an individual basis.
- Late work will receive a deduction of 10% of the points. It is always better to turn in work late than to receive a 0.

## **Uniforms**

Every single choir member is visible to the audience. The philosophy of a choir uniform is to enhance the visual aspects of our performance by creating a professional, uniform look. Care must be taken to avoid any and all individual distractions from the overall group appearance. This includes, but is not limited to the following categories: hairpieces, jewelry, makeup, and nail polish.

### **T-Shirts**

- Students will borrow a MMS Choir T-Shirt for concerts
- Students will wear a NICE pair of jeans OR other SOLID-COLORED pants or skirt with no tears, holes or stains. (If you need help with this, please let me know.)

### **Hair**

- Must NOT contain distracting hair pieces, clips, barrettes, etc. They should not be visible.
- Bangs must be pinned back (bobby pins are recommended) so that the face and eyes are entirely visible.

### **Jewelry**

- Students may wear small "stud" earrings that are plain silver or gold colored or crystal.
- No other jewelry is permitted, especially facial jewelry.
- If you have other piercings that you cannot remove entirely, please use clear plastic "studs" that can be purchased at any jewelry store.

### **Makeup**

- Must NOT contain bright colored products or dark eyeliner or anything that draws attention to the individual.
- Makeup should be kept very simple and natural looking.
- No makeup is required.

### **Nail Polish**

- Must NOT contain bright colors or designs or anything that draws attention to the individual.
- Nail polish should be clear, French Manicure, light pink.
- No nail polish is required. Natural nails are preferred.

### **Attendance Policies**

Absences and tardies during the regular school day will be handled in the same manner as set for all classes. The student will be excused if his/her absence was excused by the school. They will be expected to make up any work missed. An unexcused absence from class may result in additional disciplinary action. Multiple unexcused absences and/or tardies from choir may result in removal from the respective choir. A tardy is defined as any time the student is not at his or her seat and ready to begin at the appropriate time. Students should use the restroom and get a drink BEFORE coming to class. Students will not be allowed to leave.

**Extra Rehearsals:** The success of our program is due to the sacrifice and hard work of each member. Extra time and effort is essential- whether it be individual work or additional rehearsals. Additional choir rehearsals may be called as needed. Dates will be announced well in advance so individual plans can be made accordingly. Please make these rehearsals a priority. Unexcused absences WILL result in a lowering of your participation grade.

### **Eligibility**

Please be advised that non-passing grades received in any class can keep a student from participating in extracurricular activities. Please refer to the Mannford Middle School Handbook section. Choir classes are co-curricular and all concerts/performance count for a grade. Therefore, you must be at all local events even if you are on the ineligible list for another class. If a student is on the ineligible list, he/she is not allowed to participate in any social events or optional events that the choir may have on the calendar. If a student is consistently ineligible, he or she may not be recommended for enrollment in the future. A failing status in choir will put you on the ineligible list just like a failing status in any other course. This is absolutely possible if a student does not do the work assigned or participate appropriately.

### **Hall-Passes**

Hall passes are for emergencies only. Please use the restroom before you come to class. Inappropriate conduct outside of the classroom during class time (ie. graffiti in the bathroom or disruptive behavior in the hallways) may result in dismissal from the vocal music program.

### **Paperwork**

- NEAT and legible
- In pencil or blue/black ink only
- Not torn out of binder (holes intact)
- First and last name on front
- Late work will be accepted with a 10% deduction in credit. In the case of an excused absence, the student has one extra class day to make up the assignment without a deduction in points.

## **Photographs and other Recordings**

### **Terms and Conditions**

**There are several instances in which photographs and/or recordings will be used.**

To analyze my own teaching or have the class listen to themselves and analyze their own sounds.

To send to colleagues, and/or state/regional judges to get feedback.

To put together an audio CD that parents and/or students may wish to purchase as a memento. To use photos and recordings as promotional material on our web page and social media. To use for virtual performances.

If you have concerns regarding your student's privacy, please contact me and I will take care to accommodate your concerns. Your agreement to this handbook serves as your agreement to these uses of photos and recordings.

### **MORE Opportunities to Study Music**

If you are interested in taking private lessons on voice, piano, music theory, or another instrument, please contact me! I would love to help get you started in the right direction! I also receive information frequently about camps, workshops, and other organizations in the area that promote music enrichment.