



Martin Middle School Chorus

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Welcome to the MMS Chorus Program 2025-2026!

Welcome to the Martin Middle School Chorus! The music program at MMS not only provides students with a strong musical foundation and opportunities to perform, but also fosters invaluable lessons in the areas of self-discipline, dedication and teamwork, and leadership, all of which are life skills that students carry with them far beyond our classroom. Our program consists of the following courses:

➤ **6th Grade Chorus:**

The 6th grade chorus is an entry-level class for boys and girls interested in vocal music and builds the foundation for successful participation in a performing choral ensemble. The following musical skills for ensemble singing will be stressed: music literacy, tone, blend and balance, expansion of vocal range, intonation, ear training, and sight-reading. Students will explore and perform various styles of choral literature throughout the year.

No experience is necessary to join the 6th grade chorus, but students must show a willingness to learn, work hard, work together to improve, and to have fun! Most students register for chorus in the spring of their 5th grade year, or at the start of the school year. However, students may occasionally be added throughout their 6th grade year by interview or audition as long as roster spots are available.

6th grade chorus students are grouped into two classes that meet separately every day, and combine for group rehearsals prior to performances. Participation in various rehearsals and performances is a requirement of the class. The 6th grade chorus performs two main concerts per year, the Winter and Spring concerts. *(Please see the schedule below for details.)*

➤ **7th Grade Chorus:**

The 7th grade chorus is a full-year class for students with prior experience in chorus and an intermediate understanding of music literacy and sight-reading. New students must possess basic musical ability, and may join either by audition or interview with the Chorus Director. While most new students start in September, occasionally students may be added throughout the year if roster spots are available.

This class continues to build the foundation for successful participation in a performing choral ensemble. The following musical skills are further developed and refined: music literacy, tone, blend and balance, expansion of vocal range, intonation, ear training, and sight-reading. Additionally, both girls and boys are introduced to the physiology of the changing voice, and are given the tools to understand, identify, and resolve vocal issues.

7th grade chorus students are grouped into two classes that meet every day. Classes rehearse together prior to performances, both during the school day and after school. Participation in various rehearsals and performances is a requirement of the class. Performances include our Winter and Spring concerts and one adjudicated festival. Select students may also audition for All-State ensembles.

(Please see the attached schedule for details.)

➤ 8th Grade Chorus:

The 8th grade chorus is a full-year, upper-level performance class offered to experienced music students who are accomplished in vocal performance at the middle school level. Students without prior experience may only be accepted by audition or interview and must possess appropriate musical ability.

Students continue to develop vocal technique, musicianship and literacy, as well as critical thinking skills through the analysis of musical elements, including form and text. All students will continue to expand their vocal range and develop a maturity of tone.

8th grade chorus students are grouped into one class that meets every day and combines for group rehearsals prior to performances. Participation in various rehearsals and performances is a requirement of the class. Performances include our Winter and Spring concerts, a collaboration concert with both middle schools and EPHS, and an adjudicated festival. Select students may also audition for All-State ensembles. *(Please see the attached schedule for details.)*

Guidelines and Expectations

- **Grading**

1. **Rehearsal Skills**: Students earn credit by taking care of their **materials**, demonstrating appropriate **behavior** by putting forth their best **effort**, and having a positive **attitude**.
2. **Progress/Achievement**: Students earn credit by showing progress on their music, both in class as well as quarterly recording assignments. (Performances count as 2 test grades. (With an acceptable excuse, students can make up grades for missed performances by submitting voice recordings of concert music)
3. **Important**: Since chorus as a performance-based ensemble class, it is expected that students work hard to achieve both individual and group success. Therefore, students that don't meet these goals or earn a grade below an 80 may not be permitted to perform or be removed from chorus.

- **Materials** – Required materials include a half-inch binder or strong folder to keep sheet music organized. You **MUST** bring this binder to class everyday.

- **Google Classroom** - All students will be enrolled in Google Classroom which will contain a multitude of resources for both students and parents. Resources include copies of emails, schedules, announcements, assignments, tutorials, etc... **When in doubt, check it out!**

- **After-school Attendance** – There will be several after-school rehearsals in preparation for performances. There is a late bus that arrives at 3:30-4pm Monday-Thursday which is available for regular bus students. Please refer to the attached schedule.

- **Performances** – Concert and festival attendance is both necessary and expected by virtue of being a choir member. An outline of upcoming events is attached so that you can plan accordingly. Performances count as 2 test grades.

- **Dress Code** - **6th grade**: chorus polo shirt, black pants, black socks/shoes
7/8 grade: chorus dress or blue shirt (provided) or White button down shirt, black pants, black socks/shoes (bow tie & jacket will be provided)

MMS CHORUS Full Ensemble Rehearsal Schedule

After-school rehearsals run from 2:40 - 3:40. A "late bus" will be available for regular bus students.

If a student is absent from school the day of an after-school rehearsal, then they receive an "excused absence", and no note is necessary. However, if a student is in school, then they are expected to attend rehearsal unless I receive a note from a parent/guardian stating that they need to miss rehearsal. This rule is in place for safety concerns. Sports students should see me in advance so that we can plan ahead.

Winter Concert Rehearsals

Monday, 12/8	AFTER-SCHOOL (in MMS auditorium) grade 7 & 8 only
Thursday, 12/11	AFTER-SCHOOL (in MMS auditorium) grade 7 & 8 only
Monday, 12/ 15	Rehearsal DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Choral Festival Preparation

Tuesday, 3/24	AFTER-SCHOOL (on risers)
Thursday, 3/26	AFTER-SCHOOL (on risers)
Wednesday, 3/31	AFTER-SCHOOL (on risers) IF NEEDED

Spring Concert Preparation - dates may change if we can use the MMS Auditorium!

Monday, 4/27	DURING THE SCHOOL DAY (in chorus room)
Tuesday, 4/28	AFTER-SCHOOL (in chorus room)
Wednesday, 4/29	DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

EVENT CALENDAR - SAVE THE DATES!!!

*This is a **tentative** list of upcoming events. Detailed permission slips will be sent home prior to each event.*

Event	Event	Time/Place	Participants
Fri., Oct. 8	All-State Registration Deadline	Forms by 2:30pm	Select Students (7/8)
Thursday, Oct. 23	8th Grade Collaboration Field Trip	Morning @ EPHS	8th Grade Chorus
Thursday, Oct. 23	8th Grade Collaboration Concert	6:30 @ EPHS	8th Grade Chorus
Saturday, Nov. 15	All-State Auditions	TBA @ Ponaganset HS	Select Students (7/8)
Monday, Dec. 15	MMS CHORUS Winter Concert	7:00pm @ EPHS	ALL CHORUS STUDENTS
Tuesday, Feb. 4	Junior All-State rehearsal	Evening - TBA	Select Students (7/8)
Saturday, Feb. 7	Elementary All-State Rehearsal	9am -12pm	Select Students (grade 6)
March 13,14,15	RIMEA All-State Festival Weekend	TBA	Select Students (6/7/8)
April 1st and 2nd	RIMEA Jr. Choral Festival	Barrington MS	Select Students (7/8)
Wed., April 29 or TBA at MMS	MMS CHORUS Spring Concert *in case auditorium isn't ready	7:00pm @ EPHS or TBA at MMS	ALL CHORUS STUDENTS

Please *acknowledge that you have read and understand the requirements of participation in the MMS Chorus* and return this bottom portion to Mr. Rappa by **Monday, September 12th.**

We have read the Guidelines and Expectations associated with being a member of the MMS Chorus program and we are prepared to participate in the necessary rehearsals and events as part of our commitment to the program.

Student's Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Grade