

Welcome to the **DAVIDSON** *Chorus*

Welcome to the Davidson Choral Department! The Davidson Choral Department is known for quality performance, outstanding musical skill, and superior student behavior.

How to prepare for this year:

Materials Needed: 1. Notebook; folder (with brads and pockets) with lined paper 2. PENCILS!!! (These must be with your child EVERY DAY in Chorus as part of their daily grade.) 3. A Water Bottle is highly recommended.

Costs: Uniform Costs (see handbook) & Voluntary Event Fees

Membership in the Davidson Middle School Choral program offers certain privileges to each performer in the organization. Along with these privileges come certain responsibilities. As in any group activity, both curricular and extra-curricular, each student must assume his/her responsibilities to ensure that the chorus is successful.

In order that you may be aware of the responsibilities and expected behaviors of the Davidson Choral Department, the policies and procedures by which the department will operate for the year have been organized and detailed in this handbook. Please read it very carefully, and go over the policies as a family. Please keep the handbook as a reference, and return the following forms:

- o Handbook Policy Agreement Form (signed by parent and student)/Chorus Member Information Sheet
- o On/Off Campus Form- signed and notarized (not valid if not notarized)
- o Uniform Order Form
- o Chaperone Interest Form
- o Volunteer Application- parent volunteers only (required for parent to volunteer in any capacity) Available at <https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/OTYyOmVuLVVT>

You will find a calendar for the activities for the entire year in the handbook. Please put this document in a prominent place so you will have it for reference when planning family activities, dental or medical appointments, etc.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to email.

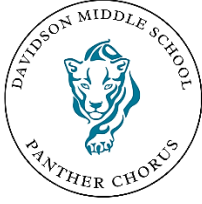
Thank you for the opportunity to work with you this year. I anticipate it being one of, if not *the* best year yet for the Davidson Choral Department.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hartzog,
Choral Director

Phone: (850) 683-7500

E-mail: lily.hartzog@okaloosaschools.com



DAVIDSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Chorus Handbook

Davidson Chorus Department Policies

1. CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

Because of the performance nature of the Davidson Middle School Choral Department, certain behavior standards are required. Davidson choral students are expected to show maturity of judgement and self-control in rehearsals, and on trips. Students are expected to treat others with respect, to include fellow students, instructors, and parent chaperones. Those who choose to disregard the rules and policies of the Davidson Choral Department may require disciplinary action. Minor discipline problems will be handled on site as they occur. Major discipline problems will be handled according to the Davidson Middle School school-wide discipline policy. Please be advised that because of the nature of the chorus classroom (performance based), students who are "off task" will lose grade points.

CHORUS CLASS RULES:

- BE IN YOUR SEAT WHEN THE BELL RINGS (WITH CLASS MATERIALS READY).
- LISTEN CAREFULLY.
- FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS.
- RESPECT OTHERS. BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER IN YOUR ACTIONS AND WORDS.
- RESPECT YOUR SCHOOL, AND THE PERSONAL PROPERTY OF OTHERS.
- GIVE YOUR BEST EFFORT DAILY.
- NO GUM, FOOD OR DRINKS (EXCEPT WATER) WITHOUT PERMISSION.

CONSEQUENCE OF INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

1. WARNING
2. PHONE CALL TO PARENTS*
3. TEACHER/STUDENT CONFERENCE
4. OFFICE REFERRAL

*A behavior infraction that comes under the Severe Clause of the DMS Discipline Plan will result in an immediate office referral.

2. GRADING

Student's grades in chorus are based on the following criteria:

- **Daily class performance-** These grades will be entered as an overall weekly grade. Students will start each class period with a total of 20 points for participation, for a total of 100 points for a 5-day week.
- **Worksheets, Quizzes, and Tests-** Assignments and Assessments relating to sight reading, music theory, analysis of performance, and demonstration of performance skills.
- **Concert Performance and rehearsal attendance/participation-** All after school rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and performances are mandatory. Each rehearsal or performance will receive a grade of 100 points. If a student is absent from a performance, he/she will be given the opportunity to make up 85% of the grade by completing an alternative assignment. Possible alternative assignments include singing the performance music individually at a time scheduled outside of class, a written report on choral music, etc. Students with a doctor's note will still be required to make up the performance grade, but will be able to receive 100% of the possible grade points.

3. EXTRA REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

Because this is a performance based course, there will occasionally be additional rehearsals and performances outside of the school day. The Teacher will try to give a minimum of 2 weeks advance notice of all performances and rehearsals. EVERY VOICE is important, and a performance can be hindered if even one person is missing. The following will serve as guidelines for those rehearsals and performances:

- Students are expected to attend **all** extra rehearsals and performances.
- Students will receive a **zero** in the grade book if they have an unexcused absence from a concert performance. Concert performances carry a higher grade weight percentage than rehearsals. (100 points weighted X5)
- Students will receive a **zero** in the grade book if they have an unexcused absence from an after school rehearsal. After school rehearsals carry a higher grade weight percentage than daily class participation. (100 points weighted X2)
- Excused absences are: Personal illness with a doctor's note OR parent contact, death of an immediate family member, unexpected family emergency, or authorized religious holidays. PLEASE NOTE: any other situation that may occur would require PRIOR notice to the director as soon as the conflict becomes obvious, and will be handled on an individual basis.
- Unexcused absences are any absence not included in the above definition. Please Note: Absences must be explained in order to be excused. The students should present the director with a note of explanation upon return to school. Parents are also welcomed to email or call and leave a message of explanation. If a note, email, or phone call is not received within 3 school days of the missed rehearsal or performance, or the student's return to school, it is registered in the gradebook as an unexcused absence.
- Every effort should be made to schedule family events, medical appointments and other non-school functions around the chorus calendar. Conflicts with Davidson activities should be brought to the choral director's attention as soon as they become obvious and will be handled between the adult supervisors of the events (parents, directors, coaches, teachers). Even though conflicts are to arise from time to time, we will all work together to try and make sure the student is able to participate in all DMS activities.

4. Conflicts

Students should be able to participate in a variety of school sponsored activities. Even with advanced cooperative planning, conflicts in scheduling school related activities are sometimes inevitable. **All Chorus rehearsals and concerts are required.** In the event of conflicts, the following guidelines will be used to resolve these conflicts:

- A Concert performance or game should take precedence over a practice or rehearsal.
- A student should notify the director and other teachers/coaches involved about a conflict as soon as possible.
- Davidson Middle School activities will take precedence over non-school related activities. Conflicts with non-school activities will be handled on an individual basis. **ADVANCED NOTICE IS REQUIRED.**

***Important Note:** Please keep in mind that the Winter Concert, Spring Concert and Choral Festival Performance (Concert MPA) are the Chorus Department's 3 biggest events. We work all semester to present those performances and they are the most heavily weighted grades. Every effort should be made for your child to attend these performances.*

5. UNIFORMS

A uniform is **required** for all chorus members, and will be worn at each performance. Having the correct uniform will be considered part of the grade for the performance. Uniforms are the financial responsibility of each individual choral student and **are not paid for by the school.** However, every effort has been made to keep uniform costs to a minimum. If you have concerns regarding the uniform cost, please contact the director.

Uniforms: Items in *italics and bold* will be ordered through the Chorus Department. All other items are purchased by the individual at their convenience. Some events will call for formal uniform- others will call for the Chorus t-shirts

6th Grade Treble Choir- *Chorus T-Shirt* (\$15.00), Black Pants, Black Socks/Stocks, Black Flats (Girls hair must be in a ballerina bun- neat and tight at middle of head. Should not be super high or low) If a boy has long hair, it will need to be pulled back.)

Men's 7th/8th Grade- *Black Dress Shirt* (\$25.00), ***Teal Silk Tie*** (\$15.00), Black Pants, Black Socks & Black Dress Shoes & ***Chorus T-Shirt*** (\$15.00) (Hair out of the face. If the hair is long, it will need to be pulled back)

Women's 7th/8th Grade- *Black Satin Washable Chorus Dress* (\$65.00), Black Flats, ***Pearl Necklace*** (\$5.00) * & ***Chorus T-Shirt*** (\$15.00) (Hair must be in a bun- neat and tight at middle of head. Should not be super high or low.)

**No accessories outside of the chorus uniform should be worn. This includes hair clips, headbands, and jewelry. No earrings should be worn unless ears have been recently pierced. In this case, a small stud may be allowed. Make up should be natural and not overpowering. Unnatural hair colors should be tamed down. Colored dry shampoo and temporary hair coloring spray can be used to do this for a performance.

6. FESTIVALS

The choruses will enter the Florida Vocal Association District Festivals. Members of designated choruses are required to attend the District Choral Festival in February/March. Participation in the District Solo/Ensemble Festival in February will be on a *voluntary basis, with the understanding that once a student has committed to participation, the student will accept the music responsibility to fulfill his/her obligation to rehearsals and the performance.* Fees for Solo participation will be the responsibility of the individual students involved, and are non-refundable. However, no accompanist fees will be assessed. The fee for vocal soloist is \$25 and is due when the registration is processed with the Florida Vocal Association. Ensemble costs will be divided between the students entered in the ensemble (minimum of \$10 per student) Transportation to this event is not provided and will take place at the University of West Florida.

7. TRIPS

All students will be well supervised on trips. Student conduct while riding the school buses is covered in the County Code of Student Conduct. Students who choose to behave in a manner contrary to the rules of the Davidson Choral Department can expect a parent/teacher conference upon return from the transported activity, with appropriate disciplinary action to follow. **ALL STUDENTS WILL RIDE THE BUS TO TRANSPORTED EVENTS!** The only exceptions will be due to medical necessity. If you wish your child to *return from the activity with you*, it will be necessary to have a signed release form or note from the parent/guardian stating intent prior to departure.

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE OKALOOSA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT STUDENTS ON A FIELD TRIP BE RELEASED TO THEIR OWN PARENT/GUARDIANS ONLY!! Permission to be picked up at an out of town event by someone other than the parent/guardian must be granted by an administrator of Davidson Middle School (in advance).

8. PARENT VOLUNTEERS

The Davidson Choral Department needs assistance from parents with a variety of chorus activities. We hope that each choral parent will be willing to volunteer some of their time and energy to assist with the many activities and facets of the department. We need chaperones, fund-raiser volunteers, classroom assistance, and many other types of volunteer help. The Okaloosa County School System has added a special volunteer affidavit that must be completed before anyone can volunteer in the school system, and must be renewed each school year. This application is now found online.

Volunteer Application- parent volunteers only (required for parent to volunteer in any capacity) is available at <https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/OTYyOmVuLVVT> or go to www.okaloosaschools.com and click on "volunteers"

9. CHORAL LITERATURE

Choral Literature is selected on the basis of musical and historical value, rather than the nature of the text. Specific musical concepts are taught using music from different style periods and cultures. Some patriotic and seasonal music is used to increase musical and aesthetic awareness. A large majority of the world's great art music is of a religious nature. However, it should be noted that all music in the program is taught from the standpoint of musical worth and not ethical, moral or religious significance. No student shall be forced to participate in rehearsal or performance of music that conflicts with their personal beliefs. Every attempt will be made to provide alternative musical experiences for those students. A written request from the parent or legal guardian is required for exemption.

Please send a written statement with parent/guardian signature if your choral student has any limitations regarding choral literature.

HINTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL CHORAL PROGRAM

- Try to get along with everyone. You are a team!
- No gossiping, or unkind words/language about students or teachers
- Always make sure you are striving to be the best chorus member possible
- If you have a question, concern or problem, see the director in private rather than classroom confrontation

10. Contact

- Contact the teacher at: lily.hartzog@okaloosaschools.com
- Phone number: (850) 683-7500 (click 8 for band/chorus, then 2 for chorus)
- Remind: text the following code to the number 81010 to join the class remind messaging system (include the @ sign)-
 - 2nd pd (Keyboards) - @dmskeyb
 - 3rd pd (Tempo) - @3rdtempo
 - 4th pd (Dynamics) - @4thdynamic
 - 5th pd (Grace Notes) - @5thchorusG
 - 6th pd (Keyboards)- @dmskeyb



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Website: www.davidsonchorus.com