

# **Lewis F. Mayer Middle School Choir Handbook \* Grades 6, 7, & 8 2022 - 2023 Mrs. Christine M. Karliak, Director**

The Lewis F. Mayer Middle School Choirs are open to all middle school students. Members of each choir are introduced to basic vocal skills and techniques for performing in a choral ensemble. Music selections will consist of a variety of 2 and 3-part music. Students are given opportunities to perform at higher levels as skills improve. There will be a concentration on sight singing and music reading skills. During the fourth quarter, the Choirs will incorporate the element of movement with choreography as well as Pop and Broadway vocal techniques.

The performing uniform for the for all choirs will be as follows:

Red Polo Shirt w/ Choir Logo

Black Socks (that cover the calf )

Black Dress Pants

Solid Black Shoes (no sandals or open toe shoes)

## **Guidelines for the Choral Room**

- Leave all gum, candy, food, etc. in your locker. Capped bottles of water are permitted.
- Enter the room, gather music folder and a pencil, and prepare for warm ups immediately.
- Cooperative behavior and attention are expected at all times.
- Be respectful of your teacher, officers, and your fellow classmates.
- Remember, there is a world of music to explore, keep an open mind and a positive attitude!
- **Expect to sing and fully participate every day!** That is what we do in choir!

## **Grading**

Each class period is worth 5 points. Points are earned in the following ways:

1. Active, and **cooperative participation** in class (5 points daily)
2. Arriving for class on time (2-3 points deducted if tardy)
3. Completing concert reviews on Google Classroom (25 points/once per quarter)
4. Attendance at a dress rehearsal (20 points) Dress rehearsals will take place the day of or day before a concert depending on the availability of the stage. *Please avoid these days when scheduling doctor & dentist appointments as well as college visits! Mark your calendars now!*
5. Active, prompt, and cooperative participation in concerts (150 points) Excused absences with 30 days advance written notice will be allowed to complete a make-up assignment. Excused absence with less than 30-day notice will be handled on an individual basis.
6. Additional points will be added for occasional theory homework assignments and vocal part evaluations, supply checks (folder/pencil), and music collection each quarter.

## **Class Attendance**

In the event that a student is absent from a class, no points will be lost providing the student puts forth the effort necessary to make up the lost rehearsal time upon their return for the first 5 excused absences in a semester. The participation and cooperation grade you receive the day you return from an absence is the grade that you will receive for the missed class. After 6 or more absences in a semester, the student may be asked to complete a recording of the concert literature to earn the participation points.

## **Make-Up Assignment for an EXCUSED ABSENCE from a Concert**

Video record yourself singing the music for the missed concert. The recordings may be sung with accompaniment tracks when available or a cappella if no track is available. Students may not sing along with a vocal track. You must start on the correct pitch for a cappella recordings. The recording will be graded on the following criteria: *correct notes, phrasing, intonation, rhythm, diction, memorization and most importantly holding your part!* Recordings may be sent before the concert, but must be submitted no later than 3 calendar days after the concert to receive full credit. The student must contact Mrs. Karliak before the due date if this timeline needs to be altered for any reason.

Our concerts are enjoyable community events, but also serve as the primary performance assessment for this class. **Missing a concert should be avoided at all cost!**

Conference ATHLETIC EVENTS that have been cleared with the choral director and the coaches at the beginning of an athletic season prior to the concert are considered an EXCUSED ABSENCE and make-up work will be required. Excuse requests must be submitted in writing as soon as the athletic schedule is posted. The request must be dated and signed by a parent/guardian and the coach. Only athletic contests that occur during the exact time of the concert will be excused. Parents may need to arrange transportation for their student back to school if a game or meet is completed but the team is not expected back by bus in time for a concert. Every effort is made to avoid these conflicts between the music staff and the Athletic Director.

### **\*\*\* Communication \*\*\***

All grades are posted on Power School every other week. Parents and students are encouraged to use Power School to keep track of the student's progress. Power School is a wonderful communication tool between school and home. It is very important that parents update their email address on the Parent page of Power School. I will send out email notices for very important information about concerts and choir information as needed. If your email is wrong in that system, you will miss these important messages. I try not to inundate your inbox with emails, so if I send something out, please take a few moments to look over the information!

The students will be using Google Classroom in choir this year to receive class material and assignments but the you should consult Power School for grades. Not every grade is posted in Google Classroom so it will not reflect your child's progress.

PARENTS~ Concert information is always available on Fairview Choirs website:

<https://sites.google.com/a/fairview.k12.oh.us/fcp/>

*Additional information is available by following the Fairview Park Music & Theatre Association on Facebook & Twitter!*

### **\*\*\* Concert Schedule 2022-2023 \*\*\***

**Mandatory choral concerts** are as follows:

Wednesday, October 13	Fall Concert w/ MS Bands, Choirs & Orchestras
Wednesday, December 14	HS Holiday Concert w/ MS & HS Choirs
Wednesday, March 15	All District Choral Concert- <b>(Senior Night!)</b>
Sat, May 7 or Wed., May 17 ~ TBD~	Super Pops (Gr. 5-12 Bands, Choirs, & Orchestras) ****Admission charged for this concert only****

**All concerts will begin at 7:00pm unless otherwise noted.**

Attendance at these concerts is **mandatory**. Only personal illness or serious family emergencies will be excused. Written notice is required for all absences and must be submitted 30 days in advance for an absence that involves a vacation in order to be considered excused. Written notice is appreciated as soon as possible for all other circumstances. In the event of illness on the day of a performance, please email me before the concert. Please

understand that on concert days I am not in my classroom and often do not receive phone messages until the evening of the concert or later. If you need to get a message to me on a concert day, call the office and have it sent to the stage. **The decision whether the absence is excused or unexcused is solely at the discretion of the director.** Points lost for an excused absence due to a family emergency can be earned back. (See makeup work.) An unexcused absence from a mandatory concert will result in a failing grade for the nine-week grading period. Unexcused absence points cannot be made up. This is the policy of the entire music department.

**Please note that students will be asked to arrive 30-45 minutes before concert time.** The exact call time for concerts will be determined the day before the concert based on the rehearsal needs of each group. The concert dates are subject to change but adequate time will be given in the event this happens.

**PARENTS are always encouraged to attend concerts whenever possible. We prepare our concerts for your enjoyment!** If you cannot attend, please arrange for a ride to the concert for your child. In addition, it is important that all students be picked up within 10 minutes of the end of the concert. If transportation is a problem, consider contacting the parent of another choir member to help out!

### **Other Important Dates**

March 11	OMEA Honors Choir (selected 8th grade students)
April 15	OMEA MS Solo & Ensemble Adjudicated Event
TBD	National Anthem performance for the Cleveland Monsters (All MS Choirs)

### **Choir “Folder”**

Students need to have a single pocket, plastic, portfolio-style folder not to exceed 11” x 9” x 3/4” for their music. Look for one with a Velcro, Ziploc or string closure rather than a snap. Students will be charged for music that is lost or damaged. Damaged music includes: rips, tears, and excessive writings or markings that will make the music unusable in the future including but not limited to markings in pen. The price of the music will vary according to each arrangement depending on current replacement cost including shipping. This year you will receive points for turning in your music in good condition.

### **Cell Phones**

Mobile phones should not be used in class unless specific instructions to take out your phone have been given. If I see it, you will be asked to put it in your folder slot and half of the participation points will be lost for the day. If you refuse to put your phone in the slot, all points will be lost and a detention will be issued.

### **Pops T-Shirts**

Traditionally T-shirts are ordered for the Pops concert in May. If the group decides they want a themed shirt for this concert, it usually cost between \$8-\$10. The Fairview Park Music & Theatre Association collects money for these shirts.

### **Mrs. Christine M. Karliak**

Director of Choral Music

(440) 356-3500 x4124

[ckarliak@fairview.k12.oh.us](mailto:ckarliak@fairview.k12.oh.us)

<https://sites.google.com/a/fairview.k12.oh.us/fcp/>