

H.B. du Pont Middle School Chorus Handbook



2018-2019

Andrew Trites, Choral Director

andrew.trites@redclay.k12.de.us

302-239-3420

www.hbmsmusic.org

Last Updated: 8-22-2018

Student Name: _____

Grade - Period: ____ - ____

Chorus Handbook Signature Form

- YES**, we have read the Choir Handbook and agree to uphold the rules and responsibilities of the H.B. Choirs.
- YES**, we understand that performances are a required and graded part of the course curriculum.
- YES**, we understand Mr. Trites is using the contact information in HAC as well as Remind.com to keep in touch with parents.

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Today's Date: ____ / ____ / 2018

NEW: \$20 for Music Necessities*

- YES**, we have included \$20 for Music Necessities
 - Cash in a sealed envelope or bag with your student's name
 - Check payable to "**HB du PONT MUSIC**" with your student's name
- Please contact me to discuss a payment plan or deferred payment.
Best phone: _____
Best email: _____

*This year, Mrs. Letts and I are asking for music necessities to be paid at the beginning of the school year. This money will include the cost of the following items for each student:

1. The 2018-2019 H.B. Music T-shirt (which you will need for trips)
2. Entrance to the Fall Social in September
3. Classroom supplies for student use including pencils, paper, and music
4. Bus Fees for the Band Winter Trip and Choir DE ACDA Festivals (Festival Women's Voices, Men Only Aloud, and Delaware Choral Fest)

Please return to Mr. Trites by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th!

Welcome to H.B. Chorus!

Students, welcome! I am excited for another great year of singing here at H.B. du Pont Middle School. We will be continuing many of the great traditions at our school, including concerts, festivals, trips, and more!

Parents, I am very excited to work with you to provide the best possible music education for each student. H.B. Chorus is for everyone, regardless of previous experience or level of "talent." Every student will learn and hone skills to help them succeed in music both at H.B. and beyond. We will create a positive learning community that embraces artistic performances in concert and contest.

Keeping in Touch

Email - andrew.trites@redclay.k12.de.us

Phone - 302-239-3420 x 131

Website - www.hbmsmusic.org

Remind.com - Sign up to get text reminders from Remind.com! It is a safe and easy way to stay in the loop with all things H.B. Chorus:

6th Graders & Parents - Text @**hb6choir** to **81010**

7th Graders & Parents - Text @**hb7choir** to **81010**

8th Graders & Parents - Text @**hb8choir** to **81010**

Daily Materials

1. Chorus Folder with Music & Other Handouts (graded)
2. Pencil with Eraser (graded)
3. Capped Water Bottle (not graded, but often useful!)

Students: Please write lightly in pencil when we mark music, treat your music gently, and put away your folder correctly after each class..

NEW: \$20 for Music Necessities

This year, Mrs. Letts and I are asking for music necessities to be paid at the beginning of the school year. This money will include the cost of the following items for each student:

5. The 2018-2019 H.B. Music T-shirt (which you will need for trips)
6. Entrance to the Fall Social in September
7. Classroom supplies for student use including pencils, paper, and music
8. Bus Fees for DE ACDA Festivals (Festival Women's Voices, Men Only Aloud, and Delaware Choral Fest)

Trips including Hershey Park and Dorney Park will still have separate costs and payments for tickets, performance, and transportation

The Money Thing

Choir is for everyone. We will do fundraisers to help offset the cost of choir events throughout the school year. If your family has financial concerns with providing a uniform or paying Music Necessities for your student, please let me know as soon as possible.

Course Objectives

Per our National Core Arts Standards and music curriculum:

1. Students will learn to be independent musicians by singing alone & with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Students will learn to sing as a group in multiple parts with & without accompaniment.
3. Students will work on their music literacy skills by learning to read & notate rhythms & melodies.
4. Students will compose & improvise rhythms & melodies.
5. Students will evaluate musical performances, & demonstrate knowledge & understanding of musical terms & other concepts such as good choral tone, balance, blend, & intonation.
6. Students will analyze texts of various choral pieces, understanding how they relate to various cultures and moments in history.

Student Warriors: What Mr. Trites Expects of You

1. Only Your Best, No More No Less!
2. Please be in your seat with your pencil and music by the time the bell rings.
3. Show determination by participating to your best ability every single day.
4. Respect everyone and everything, including students, teachers, administrators, chaperones, materials, music, and resources.
5. Enjoy our successes, learn from our mistakes, and take on the responsibility of being a part of a great ensemble!

Student Warriors: What You Can Expect of Mr. Trites

1. Mr. Trites will provide you the opportunity to experience success in choir every day.
2. You will have the opportunity to perform for friends, families, and adjudicators.
3. Chorus will include team-building activities and exercises to strengthen our sense of community, an invaluable non-musical asset to every choir.
4. We will track the musical achievements of each member of each choir and use these achievements as a part of our grading scale.
5. Mr. Trites will communicate early and often about choir events so you and your family will know what is coming up.

Daily Attendance and Participation

Daily Attendance and class participation are critical to our individual and group success! Participation is a graded component of our class.

Daily Procedures

1. Class begins when the bell rings. Students are expected to enter the classroom, store their personal belongings in the cubbies. Make sure to bring your music folder, pencil, and water bottle to your seat!
2. Check the Board or screen for our Bell Ringer, Daily Objective, Agenda, and Announcements

3. Please use the restroom between classes! We will follow the school's 10/20 Minute Rule
4. Please only bring water into the choir room (No gum, food, soda, etc.)
5. Work on staying actively engaged in singing, listening, evaluating, and connecting with the activity at hand.

Parents, a note on discipline procedures: H.B. duPont is blessed to have a large number of students enrolled in choir. If a student breaks a rule or procedure, it is the director's prerogative to either give the student a warning or to send the student to the ISS/break room (depending on the severity of the incident). I will keep in contact with you about any issues that might spring up during the course of the year.

Grading

Chorus is a graded, academic course with a curriculum. Grades include:

1. Attendance at rehearsals and performances
2. Daily Participation in all aspects of the rehearsal (including bell ringers, warm-ups, vocalises, sight-reading, repertoire, and assessments)
3. Completion of assignments including singing quizzes, literacy concepts, terms, vocal concepts, etc. (Multiple per marking period)
4. Informal and Formal Assessments that grade student learning in vocal pedagogy, vocal technique, music literacy, and performance.

Grades will be updated regularly online. It is the student and guardian's responsibility to check his/her grades on the Home Access Center (HAC).

Performance Attendance

Attendance at all performances is mandatory. Performances count as a summative grade, and make up a large portion of the student's grade for the marking period.

Excused absences fall into 3 categories:

1. Student illness with a parent, guardian, or doctor's note
2. Family emergency with a parent or guardian note
3. A pre-approved conflict
(Conflicts are approved by communication between a parent/guardian and Mr. Trites **before** the date of an event. Please get in touch with me ASAP!)

Unexcused absences include all other absences. These absences will count as a **zero (0)** for the student's performance grade. Some examples include:

1. Forgot there was an event
2. Didn't have a ride*
3. Didn't want to come

*I know many of our students travel a long way for concerts. If transportation will be an issue for an event please let me know so I can help coordinate a ride for your student: andrew.trites@redclay.k12.de.us or 302-239-3420 x 131.

Concert Dress - Concert Black & White

Women

- Plain black dress pants or long black skirt (at least knee length)
- Plain white dress shirt/blouse (no exposed shoulders)
- Black dress flats or low-heeled shoes
- Black socks, black tights, or flesh-tone pantyhose

Men

- Plain black dress pants
- Plain white collared dress shirt and any color necktie
- Plain black non-athletic dress shoes and black socks.

We are a team and we want to look as good as we sound on stage! Please make sure you have your uniform **ironed** and **ready before the night of a concert!** If a student reports to a performance out of uniform, s/he may not be able to perform at the discretion of the director, thus losing performance points and the joy of singing on stage.

Festivals and Field Trips

All chorus students have the opportunity to attend a festival/participate in a field trip with the choir this year. Students must meet the following requirements in order to participate in these awesome events:

- S/he has the correct uniform (concert black & white or HB Music t-shirt)
- S/he has attended all prior concerts and dress rehearsals.
- S/he demonstrates mastery of performance on our repertoire
- S/he has an acceptable school attendance record for the year.
- S/he has earned less than 10 referrals throughout the school year.

It is the director's prerogative to restrict attendance on a fieldtrip if a student's behavior or musical contribution is not to the standard to the H.B. du Pont Middle School Choirs.

***Students may apply any fundraiser credit that they have earned through the music department toward their field trip/festival cost.*

Thank you so much for your time and support of the H.B. Choirs! I am looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Andrew Trites, Choir Director
(@) andrew.trites@redclay.k12.de.us
(W) www.hbmsmusic.org
(P) 302-239-3420