

Autrey Mill Middle School Chorus Handbook 2022-2023

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Dear Autrey Mill Chorus Families,

Welcome to the Autrey Mill Middle School Choral Program! It is going to be an exciting year for all involved. Before we begin, I would like to share some thoughts with you about the importance of chorus in the life of your child.

I believe that every child can learn and extend that belief to the certainty that every child is musically expressive and deserves the opportunity to explore that capability. To that end, our program offers opportunities for the emerging music learner as well as the highly skilled, gifted musician. We will all learn and perform together to create beautiful choral music!

Throughout the year, we will address the individual singer by developing vocal skills, increasing knowledge of his/her own voice, developing music literacy and providing opportunities for solo performances. In addition, we will address the choral ensemble by developing group cohesiveness, building choral skills and fostering pride in participation and teamwork.

This handbook has been designed to acquaint you with information regarding grading, performance and rehearsal procedures, attire and various other aspects that pertain to the success of the program.

Please read and discuss the contents of this handbook as a family. A performance calendar is provided later in this handbook for your scheduling convenience. **Please visit the link on the last page of this handbook and digitally sign the confirmation form by August 19, 2022. If you would like a paper form instead, please let me know well ahead of the August 19th deadline.**

Welcome aboard! It is going to be a year of beautiful music making. I am looking forward to seeing you at our first concert, if not sooner.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Edwards
Choral Director

Chorus Help Sessions

8:00am by appointment – student/parent should email to make appointment.
All-State Chorus, 6th Grade Statewide Honor Chorus and District Honor Chorus help sessions will take place as needed throughout the year during morning/afternoon help session days.

Choral Guidelines

- ♪ Students will be respectful to other students, teachers and classroom materials.
- ♪ Students will listen to and follow directions given by the director/teacher/leader.
- ♪ Students will participate, have an open mind, and give their best effort at all times.
- ♪ Students will not chew gum at any time in the choral classroom.

Supply List

- ♪ ½ inch (.5 inch) binder with 25 sheets of notebook paper. Any color is fine!
- ♪ One box of tissues, one box of pencils, and one box of bandaids. (due by August 19th)
- ♪ Chorus Activity Fee – covers festival registrations, bus fees, spiritwear t-shirt, polo shirt rental, accompanist fees, student sheet music **\$50 online credit card payment only – see AMMS website at www.ammslions.org for payment link under Online School Payments. \$40 option available for families not needing a polo shirt.**

A payment plan is possible; just let me know if this is necessary for you. Also, some parents may choose to donate funds above and beyond the amount requested, and any such donation will go towards assisting other students in need.

Grading

Chorus meets on a daily basis for the **entire year**: when a student joins Chorus, it is with the understanding that they are joining for the entire school year – August 2022 to May 2023. Students are responsible for obtaining and making up all missed work following AMMS policies. Grades are based on the following:

	6 th and 7 th Grades	8 th Grade
Major Grades (Concerts, Performances, Assessment of Content Learning Growth and Competency)	50%	55%
Minor Grades (Quizzes, Class performance, sight singing, vocal development, demonstration of literature)	40%	35%
Practice Grades (bell ringers, written work, observation of skills)	10%	10%

*Accommodations and modifications may be made according to students' needs.

Performance Guidelines

- ♪ Proper concert attire **must** be worn during a performance.
- ♪ All students will remain for the entire performance.
- ♪ Students will refrain from talking during performances.
- ♪ Students will leave **personal devices** with a family member during a performance.
- ♪ **If a student misses a performance for an any reason (personal or immediate family illness), the following must occur:**
 - **Written notification must be turned in to Mrs. Edwards prior to the event. The student will be required to complete an alternate assignment in place of the performance grade within a week of the performance date.**

Performance Opportunities

Opportunities for all students to perform throughout the school year are:

- ♪ Fall Concert
- ♪ Winter Concert
- ♪ Pre-LGPE Festival Concert
- ♪ Spring "Pops" Concert
- ♪ Large Group Performance Evaluation (LGPE)
- ♪ Musical Theatre Productions
- ♪ 8th Grade Holiday Tour
- ♪ 8th Grade Six Flags/Southern Star Festival
- ♪ Other invitational events...

Additional auditioned opportunities for students at the local, state and national levels are:

- ♪ District V Middle School Honor Chorus
- ♪ 6th Grade Statewide Honor Chorus
- ♪ All-State Chorus for 7th and 8th Grade students
- ♪ Solo and Ensemble Evaluation

More information is available to students in class and online at www.autreymillchorus.com regarding each of these events/opportunities.

Performance Attire

All Grades Formal Attire

Worn to all formal concerts (Fall/Winter) as well as LGPE, Festivals, etc.

- Black Polo Shirt with AMMS Chorus emblem (rental included in Chorus Dues)
- Black dress shoes/flats (no sneakers, sandals, flip-flops or boots; heels must be 1-inch or shorter; **closed toe required**)
- Black socks (if socks worn)
- Black dress pants or long skirts (cotton and/or polyester blends are good materials for pants; **no** jeans, pouch pockets, extra zippers, leggings, jeggings, leather, velvet or other 'outside of the norm' materials)

Chorus Spiritwear Attire

Worn at sporting events, some daytime events and Pops Concerts

- Chorus Spiritwear shirt (included in Chorus Dues)
- Blue jeans (not capris or shorts)
- Comfortable shoes (i.e. sneakers)

Attire Reminders for All Students

- Pull or tie back long hair/bangs out of your face (simple black or brown barrettes / hairbands).
- Keep make-up to a minimum. **Please no perfume or cologne.**
- Please avoid wearing headbands, hair bows, necklaces, watches or bracelets.
- Stud earrings are acceptable (nothing larger, please).

Rehearsal/Performance Calendar

Please expect a required before or after-school rehearsal to be scheduled sometime before each performance. Also, additional performance opportunities will arise as the year progresses. You will be notified via email of performance and rehearsal reminders. Please understand that changes in either rehearsal or performance dates will be made only when absolutely necessary. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility!

Absences: Please notify Ms. Edwards **in advance and in writing** of any conflicts that you may have so a proper alternate assignment can be completed.

Concerts - Major Grades

Concerts will take place either at Autrey Mill Middle School or at Johns Creek High School. Students need to arrive dressed by 5:45pm. Doors open for family seating 15 minutes prior to concert time. Concerts should last about an hour. All concerts are free and open to the public.

Fall Concert - Thursday, October 6

Location - AMMS Gymnatorium. Time - 6:30pm

Winter Concert - Monday, December 5

Location - AMMS Gymnatorium. Time - 6:30pm

Pre-LGPE Concert - Monday, February 27

Location - TBA. Time - TBA

Large Group Performance Evaluation - Early-March, specific date and time TBA

Location - Northview High School. During school day (time TBA)

Spring Concert - Monday, May 15

Location - Autrey Mill MS Gymnatorium. Time - 6:30pm

Dates for Optional/Extra Choral Opportunities and Other Community Events

September 9 - GMEA District V Honor Chorus Applications and Audition Videos Due

September 13 - All State Chorus Applications and Fees Due

September 22 - Fulton County Tenor/Bass Chorus Day at Cambridge HS - 12-7pm

September 27 - 6th Grade Statewide Honor Chorus Applications and Audition Videos Due

November 5 - All State Chorus Audition #1 at North Gwinnett MS

November 11-12 - AMMS Fall Musical at JCHS

November 16-17 - GMEA Fall District V Honor Chorus Event at Johns Creek United Methodist Church

?? - Johns Creek Founders Day Parade Performance - all chorus students 6th-8th grades.

December 6 - JCHS Holiday Chorus Concert at JCHS - 7pm

December 9 - 8th Grade Chorus and Jazz Band Tour to ES Cluster Schools during day

(Spring Dates on Next Page)

January 6 - AMMS Music Department Yearbook Picture Day during class

January 19 - All State Chorus 2nd Round Audition at Centennial High School – 5-8pm

February 10-11 - 6th Grade Statewide Honor Chorus Event in Athens, GA

February 16-18 - All State Chorus Event in Athens, GA

March 25 - 8th Grade Music Department Southern Star/Six Flags Trip

TO DO BEFORE AUGUST 19th!!!!

Handbook Confirmation Form

After you have had a chance to read through the handbook as a family and mark down applicable dates in your calendars, please fill out the handbook confirmation form electronically using the QR codes below (links also on chorus website – www.autreymillchorus.com). It should take about 5-10 minutes of your time. **You will want to visit the credit card payment link prior to filling out the form, as it asks for a receipt number.**

All uniform sizing and spiritwear orders can be found within the one confirmation form this year. All spiritwear orders may be made online as well.

Syllabus Confirmation Form



Full Chorus Fee



Chorus Fee, No Polo



Optional Spiritwear
Order Form



Crewneck Sweater Fee



Hoodie Sweater Fee

