

**RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL
CHORAL DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK
Advanced Men & Women
2021 - 2022**

Classroom Expectations

1. Be on time to class and be ready to go when the bell rings.
2. Students must be inside of the classroom when the bell stops ringing to be counted on time (unless they have a signed pass from a teacher or administrator).
3. Do not bring food, candy, drinks, or **GUM** in the chorus room (except water).
4. Upon entering the classroom, make sure your cell phone is on silent and put it in a zipped portion of your book bag or purse. Place your bag in the same place each day. Only take your notebook and writing utensils to your seat. Apple Watches (or any device that can send/receive messages) must be in theater mode.
5. After the first week of school, students will be assigned a numbered pocket on the cell phone charging station. Each student must place their cell phone in the pocket corresponding with the assigned number in the cell phone charging area. USB ports will be provided for students to charge their phones. Students must provide their own cord. Attendance will be taken from the charging station. If a student does not have a phone, they will be given a card to put in the pocket of their assigned number.
6. Materials needed for class:
 - 3-ring, one-inch binder (any color or design)
 - Students must designate this binder for chorus only!
 - Dividers and/or tabs
 - Writing utensils (must use a pencil for staff paper, written quizzes & tests)
 - Highlighters
 - Students may trade an item of value for a highlighter to use during class if they do not have one of their own.
 - Masks that are comfortable to sing in – you do not want the mask to go inside of your mouth when you breathe!

7. Be respectful to **EVERYONE**. You must give respect in order to receive it. 😊

Course Objectives

This class is designed to follow the North Carolina Essential Standards for Beginning Vocal Music.

1. **Musical Literacy**

- A.ML.1- Apply the elements of music and musical techniques in order to sing and play music with accuracy and expression.
- A.ML.2 – Interpret the sound and symbol systems of music.
- A.ML.3 – Create music using a variety of sound and notational sources.

2. **Musical Response**

- A.MR.1 – Understand the interacting elements to respond to music and music performances.

3. **Contextual Relevancy**

- A.CR.1 – Understand global, interdisciplinary, and 21st century connections with music.

School Board Policy 3030.3

In teaching about great works of music, art, and drama, religious themes are permitted if presented in a prudent and objective manner, within the context of a broader cultural heritage, and without promoting a religious point of view.

Grading System

Chorus is a performance-based course, therefore your attendance is extremely important in class and MANDATORY for all rehearsals and performances.

1. **Concert Performance**

30%

- Students are required to attend all rehearsals and performances listed in the syllabus.

- Students must have the appropriate costume pieces for the performance. Students will lose points for missing components of the attire.
- Students must be on time to all rehearsals and performances. Students will lose points for tardiness.
- Students must demonstrate proper concert etiquette on and off stage.
- Students must demonstrate the correct singing and performance skills learned in class during the rehearsals and performances.
- Any student that has a conflict with a performance or rehearsal must have his/her parent contact me in writing **ASAP!!!!**
- Students with an excused absence (with written notification from a parent) for a performance will have to come after school and sing his/her part for the entire concert. If there is choreography, it must be performed as well. A written assignment will be given for excused absences during rehearsals.
- If the excused absence is not pre-arranged before the performance or rehearsal (excluding emergencies), the student will receive a zero.
- **WORK AND DRIVER'S EDUCATION CLASSES ARE NOT EXCUSES!!!!**

2. Classroom Performance

30%

- Students will receive **eight points per day** for the following:
 - Students must be inside of the classroom at the end of the bell and in their seat within a timely manner. **(2 pts.)**
 - Students must bring their chorus notebook and writing utensils to class each day. **(2 pts.)**
 - Students must use correct posture and mouth position while singing, sitting or standing. **(2 pts.)**
 - Students must use the solfege hand signals and/or takadimi pulse during class. **(2 pts.)**
- Students must complete a make-up assignment for each day missed in order to receive the missed points.

3. Tests

25%

- Students will have notebook checks each quarter to test their knowledge and skills of writing in their music.
- Students will have an end of quarter test that will be a culmination of written quizzes and assignments throughout the grading period.
- Students will have singing tests throughout the year in which they must demonstrate knowledge of their voice part in the concert repertoire. These tests will be done through Canvas.

4. Written Assignments & Quizzes

15%

- Students will be assigned written work to reinforce their music notation and literacy skills.
- Students will be given written quizzes to assess their knowledge of music notation and literacy.
- Students will be given singing quizzes to assess their ability to demonstrate proper singing technique, intervals, scales, and sight-singing skills. These quizzes will be done in class and through Canvas.
- Students will write reflective responses after each concert.

Financial Obligations

In performing arts ensembles, there are uniform attire and extra costs that are not fully covered by the school system. To help cover these costs, we offer three individual fundraising opportunities:

- Coupon books (August)
- Cheesecake and cookie dough (October/November)
- Shop with Scrip (yearlong – see handout)

Students may collect donations that will go directly to his/her chorus account.

Students may also use a payment plan (see attached form). If you need to use the payment plan option, please return the payment plan form to Mrs. Boliek no later than **September 10th**.

In order to participate in extra-curricular chorus activities (All-County Chorus, Evening to Shine, spring trip, etc.) or purchase additional items such as the chorus hoodie or sweatpants, the student's chorus account must be paid in full. All monies will automatically be applied to a student's balance.

Riverside Chorus Boosters Returned Check Policy

Any check that is turned in for payment for chorus-related expenses (fundraisers, tickets, attire, chorus fee, spring trip, etc.) that is returned for any reason (insufficient funds, etc.) will result in the following:

- The amount of the original check plus the bank fees will be added to the student's chorus account.
- The student/family may only use cash, credit card (online payment), or money order for future payments.

Chorus Fee

All chorus students will be required to pay a **\$30** chorus fee. Students may pay this fee directly or use the first fundraiser. This fee will cover the increasing costs of materials for the classroom (i.e. music, chairs, piano repair/maintenance, microphones, activity buses, sound engineer for concerts, MPA fees, accompanists, concert musicians, concert posters and programs, recordings and videography). The chorus fee is due on **Friday, September 17th**.

Attire

In choral ensembles, it is very important to be unified not only in sound, but in the visual presentation of the group. For informal performances, we will wear our chorus t-shirt and jeans that do not have any rips or tears in them. For formal performances, ladies will wear our chorus dress, shoes, and pearls (purchased as a package) and gentlemen will wear our chorus

tuxedo along with black dress shoes. For the formal performances only, hair color must be a natural shade and pulled away from the face. Please ask Mrs. Boliek if you have any questions about this policy or if you need individual pricing for formal attire.

- Chorus t-shirt - **\$13**
 - Money due by **Friday, September 17th**
- Female attire (includes: dress, hemming of dress, shoes, earrings, necklace, mask) - **\$145**
 - Money due by **Friday, October 8th**
- Male attire (includes: jacket, shirt, vest, bowtie, pants, hemming of pants, mask) - **\$145**
 - Money due by **Friday, October 8th**

**Our seamstress will come to the school during the month of October. If the student is absent on the day she comes, he/she will be responsible for going to the shop to get measured.

Mandatory Performance Dates

10.15.21	Homecoming Football Game	Rehearsal at 4:30pm Line-up at 6:20pm Performance at 6:50pm	Chorus t-shirt, blue jeans (no rips or tears), shoes that have rubber bottoms
11.03.21	Fall Concert Dress Rehearsal	4:30-7:00pm	Formal attire
11.04.21	Fall Concert	Students arrive at 5:30pm Performance at 7:00pm	Formal attire
12.15.21	Holiday Concert Rehearsal	8:30-12:00pm (during school) 4:30-6:00pm (Riverside students only)	Chorus t-shirt (no other attire requirements)
12.16.21	Holiday Concert	Students arrive at 5:00pm Performance at 7:00pm	Formal attire
March 2022 – Exact date TBA	Musical Performance Adjudication (Meredith College)	Time TBA	Formal Attire

3.10.22	Music In Our Schools Month Rehearsal with Band and Orchestra	4:30-7:00pm	Chorus t-shirt (no other attire requirements)
3.11.22	Music In Our Schools Month Concert with Band and Orchestra	Students arrive at 5:30pm Performance at 7:00pm	Formal attire
5.16.22 through 5.18.22	Rehearsals for Spring Show	4:15-7:00pm	Show costumes
5.19.22 & 5.20.22	Spring Show	Students arrive at 5:30pm Performance at 7:00pm	Show costumes

**We will follow all current Covid guidelines provided by Durham Public Schools for the performers and audience members at the time of each performance.

Additional Opportunities (Optional)

9.24.21	Honors Chorus Auditions	During the school day	Professional attire
*10.21.21	Rehearsal for All-County (Southern HS)	5:45-8:00pm	School clothes
*11.18.21	Rehearsal for All-County (Southern HS)	5:00-9:00pm	Chorus t-shirt (no other attire requirements)
*11.19.21	All-County (Southern HS)	9:00am-Concert at 6:00pm	School clothes & formal attire
*2.18.22	Evening to Shine (DPAC)	Rehearsal Schedule TBA	TBA
2.28.22 through 3.4.22	Auditions for Spring Musical	Time TBA	School clothes
4.21.22 through 4.23.22	Spring Musical	Rehearsal schedule TBA (March & April)	Show costumes

*In order to participate in Evening of Entertainment, you must participate in All-County. There will be weekly after-school rehearsals for All-County and Evening to Shine in addition to the district dates. Your chorus account must also be in good standing.

*At this time, there are no plans for an out of state trip. However, if Covid conditions improve and district guidelines change, Mrs. Boliek and the Executive Board of the Chorus Boosters will work to plan a small trip.

Communication

All email communication from Mrs. Boliek and/or the Executive Board of the Booster Club will come from My Music Office. The Booster Club will send out emails with information about upcoming deadlines and information.

The Booster Club will also send monthly financial statements of each student's chorus account. Please make sure that you check your SPAM folder to ensure that you are receiving these email communications throughout the school year.

Mrs. Boliek uses the Remind app to communicate directly with students. Parents/guardians may join, but it is not required.

Class Codes:

- **Overtones 2021-2022** - @3cfbcb
- **Sirens 2021-2022** - @ a8g8992
- **Rapids 2021-2022** - @ hh6ff2k

If you would like to stay connected with Riverside Chorus through social media:

- Like our Facebook page (Riverside High School Chorus)
- Follow us on Instagram (riverside_chorus)

We also have a website. Please consult the website to find the link to our Google calendar, a link to make online payments and donations, pictures, the syllabus, and more!

- www.riversidechorusdurham.com

Let me know if you have any questions. Here is my contact information:

919-560-3965 ext. 65422
Jill_Boliek@dpsnc.net

I am looking forward to a fun and exciting year!!!!!!

Sincerely,

Please fill out the Google Form (next page) to indicate that you have read and understand all of the information in the Handbook.

Handbook Agreement & Contact Information Form – please fill out no later than **August 30th**.

- **Overtones 2021-2022**
 - <https://forms.gle/u9veJr7ExXoXf5cX6>

- **Sirens 2021-2022**
 - <https://forms.gle/dzHZSmQyKXFzmRY86>