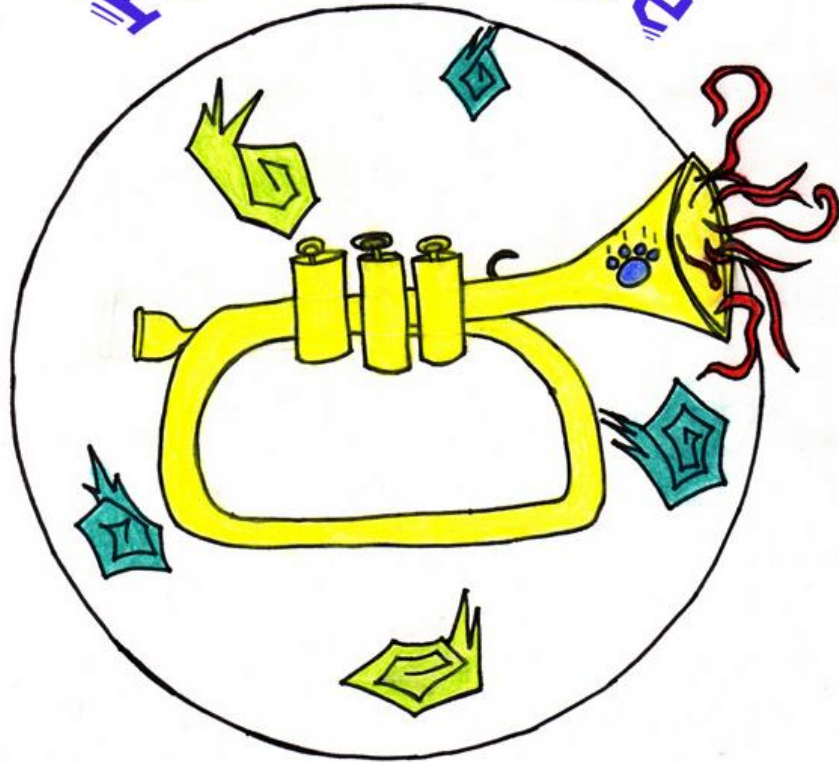


Ford Middle



School Chorus

Handbook
2009-2010

FORD MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR HANDBOOK

Philosophy

The goal of the FMS Music Department is to increase knowledge, awareness, and appreciation of music and the arts through study and performance.

Materials

All choir music and handouts are property of FMS and should be treated with care and returned when the director indicates. You will sign out all music as you sign out any text book. Photocopied music should be considered yours to keep, but this does not mean you will get another copy if you lose or destroy yours. Write on your music **ONLY IN PENCIL**.

You are also **required to supply a blank cd or tape**. For each concert, the practice recordings will be put on your cd or tape so that you can practice each day at home. If you can not bring in a blank cd or tape, you **MUST** email Mr. Shanbrun by the 3rd class so the sound files can be emailed to you. Having the practice materials is part of your grade.

Choir rehearsals

Your grade level choir will meet once per cycle. We will hold periodic after-school rehearsals to practice with all three grades' choirs. (See attached schedule). At every rehearsal you are to have your music and a pencil. Before and after each class you are to get a drink at the bubbler. Hydration is required for good singing!

Concerts

Instead of a semester exam, choir students will showcase what they have learned in a concert. There will be several concerts this year. (See attached schedule)

Attendance is required (see **Grading**).

Concert dress is black pants with white collared shirt for boys and long black pants / skirt with white shirt for girls. Girls' skirts must be in accordance with the FMS dress code (fingertip length). Black shoes (not sneakers or flip-flops) are also required. Any infraction of the dress code will result in you not performing with the choir – this will have the same result on your grade as not coming to a concert at all.

Festivals, Districts, Other

All 7th and 8th grade students are eligible to audition for several local festivals and contests. All students are recommended to try an audition at least once. These events are open to both instrumental and vocal students and are an incredible experience. Junior districts auditions are **December 5, 2009**. Instructions and requirements are posted on the FMS Music webpage along with additional information.

Grading

- 10% – choir period (behavior, preparation)
- 15% – practice materials/singing and sight-reading quizzes
- 25% – concerts/performances
- 50% – participation/improvement

The choir rehearsal is a "non-talking" classroom. While not actively engaged in playing you will listen to the conductor's instruction. Talking and disruption will decrease your grade.

Home practice is essential to our sound and your vocal improvement. Practicing will consist of perfecting all of the correct notes and rhythms of your assigned music. This includes knowing note names, vocabulary and the like. Continued study of tone development, rhythm, articulation, and scales and arpeggios is essential for your progress. Students are encouraged to have an inexpensive, portable metronome to be used during home practice. Half of your grade is based on your improvement, and that only comes with practice.

*Practice does not make perfect,
Practice makes permanent.
PERFECT practice makes perfect!*

There is a way of getting 5 extra credit points – take private lessons. If you do take lessons with someone outside of school, simply have them fill out the slip at the end of this handbook and you will receive 5 points toward your final grade.

Concert Attendance is MANDATORY. If a concert is missed due to an unavoidable situation you must have a note delivered to the teacher at least two weeks ahead of time unless it is an emergency. In an emergency case a note must be submitted by one week after the concert date. AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE LOWERS YOUR GRADE TO A 75. The BEST grade you will get for that quarter will be a 'C'.

Treat all of the people around with kindness and courtesy and the same will be returned to you. Any infraction of school rules and policies, as set forth in the FMS handbook, will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the instructor and the principal if need be.

Communication

Mr. Shanbrun:

School Office Phone: (508) 998-0265

Music Office Phone: same as above, ext. 301

Please be advised that calls do not go through to classrooms during the day and that your call may not be returned for over 24 hours.

Email: bshanbrun@acushnet.k12.ma.us

This is the desired form of communication and a reply will most likely be sent before the end of the workday.

Web: <http://www.acushnetschools.net/ford> - follow the link to the music page.

CONTRACT

-please detach and return to director with signatures-

I, _____ understand my responsibilities and expectations as described in this handbook. I also understand that by enrolling in FMS choir I agree and promise to participate until the last day of school. I am committed to this program for this year.

I promise to sing every day!

Signed,

_____ (student)

I, _____ understand the responsibilities and expectations for my son/daughter as set forth in this handbook. I furthermore understand that by enrolling in FMS choir my son/daughter agrees and promises to participate until the last day of school.

Signed,

_____ (parent) Phone #: _____

Email: _____

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Ford Middle School Private Lesson Extra Credit Project

Student _____ Instrument _____

Private instructor (please print) _____ phone _____

I verify that the above student is currently studying music with me. I understand that this is an extra credit project worth an additional five (5) percentage points of the final grade for band and general music.

signature of private instructor

date

APPENDIX I: HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

AT HOME

1. Your interest and praise is what matters most.
2. Arrange a regular time and space for practicing every day.
3. Find a quiet, comfortable place for practice every day.
4. Become familiar with your child's music and lesson book. Take time to listen to your child's practicing.
5. Encourage your child to play for others when the opportunity arises, in the home, at school, and in the community – summer camps, programs, bands.

AT SCHOOL

1. Post rehearsals and concerts on the family calendar.
2. Notify the teacher if your child is to be absent or tardy to a rehearsal that takes place outside of the school day.
3. Visit rehearsals occasionally.
4. Discuss with your music teacher anything that will help to understand your child.
5. Attend parent/teacher conferences when possible.
6. Help chaperone music events such as concerts, field trips, contests, etc.
7. Encourage participation in other musical ensembles, districts, festivals, etc.

THREE KEYS THAT WILL OPEN THE DOOR TO MUSIC

1. Assist your child in his/her practicing.
2. Be generous with your interest and praise.
3. Credit each achievement with some form of recognition.

Looking for gift ideas for your young musician?

Ask the music instructor for instrument-specific or student-specific recommendations for holiday, birthday, and congratulatory gifts!

APPENDIX II: Private Lesson Teachers

Private lessons are available at a cost to you from the following teachers/studios:

Symphony Music Shop	(508) 996-3301
DeRossi Music	(508) 993-2494
The Music Center	(508) 995-9017
Friend's Music	(508) 675-1889
Top Music	(508) 992-1933

You may also wish to call the UMass Dartmouth Music Department and find a college music major to teach your child. These students are typically very good teachers and sometimes charge less than a professional.

APPENDIX IV: TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

(Dates and times are subject to change, this is to assist in your planning)

Apple Peach Pageant	9/11	7pm
Autumn Music Festival	10/15	7pm
Winter Concert	12/10	7pm
Caroling at AFD	TBA	6pm
Music In Our Schools Month Concert	3/24	7pm
MICCA Festival weekend	4/2 – 4/4	TBA
Arts Fest	5/6	6:30 – 8pm
Graduation (night before last day of school)	TBA	5:30 –
7pm		