

7th & 8th Grade Choir Handbook 2017-2018

Parents and students: Please sign and return the last page of this handbook to Ms. Bronson by Friday, Sept. 1st

Welcome to 7th & 8th Grade Choir! As your choir teacher, I am excited to begin this year with you! This handbook will inform you of your responsibilities as a student - or as parents/guardians of students - in either of these two choirs. Some things will remain the same as last year, but please read through this document carefully so that you and your parents/guardians completely understand the expectations that does exist for you in the choir program.

Participating in Choir

In a choral classroom, students learn a variety of skills while working together to achieve an outcome. Teamwork, leadership, selflessness, and accountability are only a few of the things that choir students work on throughout the year. Very few classes allow students to work completely *together* to achieve a group goal. Studies show that students involved in music gain confidence, creativity, and intelligence. Students who love music learn to be accountable to their “teammates” and gain a solid work ethic. In our daily work this year, we will strive to become knowledgeable and self-sufficient musicians as we learn to make wonderful music!

Daily Participation

As important as individual practice is for developing skills, daily participation in group rehearsal is equally important as an active application of those practiced skills. If a student misses a rehearsal, it is impossible to make up, unless the entire choir comes in together to make it up (obviously this is impossible!) After missing a class, the student needs to check in with the director to see what they missed, which may include written work given. **Students need to make up all work within each grading period or they will not be able to make it up at all!**

Performance Participation

The 7th and 8th grade choirs will have **five** mandatory performances this year. Remember that choir is a performance class: participation in performances is **REQUIRED!** Notification via signed parent note or email must be given **TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE** of the concert day to receive an excused absence, **NO EXCEPTIONS**. A make-up assessment will be provided.

After this point, the only excuse for missing a performance is extreme illness or family emergency. Absences affect the confidence level of the choir in performances, and it is important that each student respects the hard work of their peers, themselves, and the choir as a whole.

FINES

Students are given an embossed choir folder every year to keep their music and any theory worksheets. Students will be fined for destroyed folders and/or music. Students are not to write on or tear folders or music (pencils are used in music under director instruction when necessary).

SUPPLIES

Each student is required to provide a pencil for class. **ABSOLUTELY NO PENS ALLOWED.**

CONCERT ATTIRE

Students need to have the following for their performances:

Boys

Black Pants (no jeans or sweats)
 Black Socks
 Black Dress Shoes (no tennis shoes)
 White collared shirt (no print)
 Tie

Girls

Black skirts or pants (skirts **must not** be above knee length!)
 Black, flat, close-toed shoes (no high heels)
 Black nylons or tights
 White Blouse (no prints or see-through material, please!)
 Be mindful of jewelry –

- Earrings must not be distracting
- No necklaces or bracelets allowed

Performance Dates 2017 - 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Performance</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Ensemble</u>
November 1	Fall Concert (7:30 pm)	CMS Performing Arts Center	All HS and MS Choirs
December 7	Holiday Gala (7:00 pm)	CHS Gym	All HS/MS Choirs/Bands
If needed	Solo/Ensemble Night	CMS Performing Arts Center	All S/E contest participants
January 27	Vocal /Piano S & E	Wenatchee High School	Individuals/Small Ensembles
February 16-18	WMEA All-State	Yakima, WA	By Audition Only
March 26	Pre-Contest Concert (6:00 pm)	CHS Community Center	7 th /8 th Choirs & HS Choirs
March 27*	MS Large Group (all day)	PAC - Wenatchee	7/8 th Choirs
May 30	Spring Concert (7:30 pm)	CMS Performing Arts Center	7/8 th Choirs & Bands

*CHAPERONES NEEDED

**These are the performances scheduled for this year. Required performances are marked in bold.
 Please mark these on family calendars to prevent conflicts.**

CASHMERE MUSIC BOOSTERS

The Music Boosters are the support group for the music program. It has been their responsibility to raise funds to buy and maintain uniforms, pay for travel, and buy non-musical equipment (flags, props, etc.) predominantly for the high school ensembles. However, in the last year, our funds from the middle school ASB have been cut back. The funding has covered costs for NCW Honor Choir, All State and All NW recipients, solo/ensemble participants, band uniforms, etc. We are in great need of having a middle school contingency of parents that would be willing to help organize and run one fundraiser this year so that our students can still participate in these wonderful events. Please fill out the form below if you are interested in being a part of this event. I have also listed other events that will require volunteer helpers. Thanks in advance for all your support!

Cashmere Middle School

7th & 8th Grade Choir Guidelines 2017-2018

Assessment/Reporting Policy

All grading practices will follow the Standards-Based Grading method of a four-point scale for skill and standard proficiency. The scale, aligned directly with learning standards, gives the student, teacher and parents a clear picture of how each student is progressing on a set of important skills and standards, as well as work completion and classroom behaviors. Each assignment is tied to a specific standard and will be reported with the following vocabulary.

Standards Proficiency Reporting Scale

- DIS - Distinguished** – exceeds grade level standard
- PRO - Proficient** – meets grade level standard
- APP - Approaching** – needs assistance to meet grade level standard
- BEG - Beginning** – work is below grade level standard
- NE - No Evidence**

Students will be assessed on standards regarding both Individual and Ensemble Musicianship, as well as their daily work and practice and classroom behaviors in accordance with Cashmere Middle School grading policy. Each category is broken down into specific learning standards, listed below.

INDIVIDUAL MUSICIANSHIP

- Sight Reading
- Vocal Technique
- Musical Knowledge
 - Music Theory

ENSEMBLE MUSICIANSHIP

- Performance Etiquette
- Small Group Work
- Execution of Performance

**CASHMERE MIDDLE SCHOOL
7TH & 8TH GRADE CHOIR GRADING POLICY
2017 – 2018**

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PORTION OF THE FORM TO MS. BRONSON

WE UNDERSTAND THE PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS STATED IN THE ABOVE
GUIDELINES AND ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS SET FOR
THE 2017 – 2018 SCHOOL YEAR AT CASHMERE MIDDLE SCHOOL.

Student Name

Parent/Guardian Name

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

**The Music Boosters meet via email every month. Any adult is eligible and
encouraged to join the Music Booster Organization.**

Cashmere Choral Department

Invites You To

Be Part of a Very Successful Program!

Please check the areas you're available to help the teachers & the kids (***please realize that this is not a final commitment, but it gives me a place to start when looking for help at event times**):

Concert Helpers (Setting up donation table/chairs/ticket sales, etc.):

____ Fall Concert

____ Winter Concert

____ Spring Concert

CHAPERONES NEEDED FOR:

____ NCWMEA Large Group Festival (ALL DAY)

Student Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

CMS

**7th & 8th Grade
CHOIR
HANDBOOK**

2017 – 2018

