



CHORALE

Member Handbook

Director of Chorale: Malcolm Stewart

Dear Shark Chorale Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! We are very excited about the upcoming year and the potential for incredible music-making!

Now more than ever, we have information to justify why we participate in this demanding, yet rewarding, activity. Experts have concluded that the study of music helps with spatial reasoning, test taking, and overall quality of life! Factor in social skills, emotional development, leadership training, group interaction, aesthetic perception, music-making, and the discipline of being in a Chorus program, and I don't know why anyone would not want to be involved in a successful Chorus program like the one at our school. It is our goal to provide our students with a well-rounded Chorus music education that will serve them for the rest of their lives. We realize that we are not only training-up young musicians, but young men and women as well. The ultimate goal is a lifelong understanding and appreciation for high-quality music and music-making!

Everyone should read the information in the handbook, even veterans. Some of the information has changed, so make sure you're informed. For those new to the program, this keeps us running smoothly and efficiently. Most questions can be answered by consulting *the handbook*, and policies will be adjusted from year to year as the need arises to clarify issues within the program. It is our hope that the information contained in this handbook will both inform and inspire! Please read the portion "How Parents Can Help" to gain important insights. Students need to know we think that what they do is important. You will quickly find that the chorus is truly a family in and of itself.

We trust that the contents of this handbook will answer most, if not all, of your questions about the upcoming year. Please read all of the information and sign the form in the back of the book and return it to the director.

Thank you so much for your support!

Sincerely,

Malcolm Stewart
Director of Chorale

The Anclothe Chorus Program

We strive to provide a well-rounded music education for all chorus students. A successful chorus music education program has several necessary components, which contribute to the success of all students. It is our goal to:

1. Provide a comprehensive music literacy program.
2. Develop excellent small and large ensemble musicianship skills.
3. Teach information about music theory and music history.
4. Develop student leadership and teamwork skills.
5. Encourage the development of life skills, organizational habits and practice skills.
6. Instill a love of chorus music that will last a lifetime.

In a chorus, EVERY student is of equal importance. No one student is of any more or any less importance than any other student. Every student has unique, important gifts, which contribute to the whole. We are not a collection of soloists, but a group of musicians each striving for the same goal: excellence in choral singing.

Rehearsals/Class Procedures & Policies

1. **ARRIVE ON TIME AND BE PREPARED TO START CLASS.** Students should pick up their music folder and classroom supplies and read the board in the front of the room for the class rehearsal plan. All book bags should be stored out of the way. When the tardy bell rings, students will be standing in front of their assigned chair humming a “G” pitch and be prepared to begin rehearsal. Students will remain in their assigned seat for the duration of the rehearsal unless otherwise directed or given permission to be out of their seat.
2. **ALWAYS** have your music and a **pencil** in class. Mark your music appropriately during rehearsal. Pay attention to the director’s comments and make markings in your music without being asked. This will help you learn the music much faster.
3. **NOT ALLOWED IN CLASSROOM:**
 - A. Gum, Food, Drinks, Candy or other consumables.
 - B. Putting on make-up, brushing hair and other personal grooming.
 - C. Horseplay, wrestling, or goofing off.**Consequence:** First time-10 points deducted from daily grade. Second time-20 minute detention, Third time-45 minute detention.
4. **CLEAN UP:** Put choir supplies back where they belong. This includes your own folder, equipment, chairs, and office supplies. Pick up your own trash. We need to keep our own room as clean as possible.

The Importance of Attitude

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any individual or organization is **attitude**. The kind of person you are is an individual choice, and how you feel about something is one of the few actual independent choices you have in life. It takes intense dedication to reach goals. Students develop the discipline of practicing fundamentals daily. The right attitude must be present along with sincerity, concentration, and dedication as the basic foundations. Such an attitude makes an artistic performance inevitable and is the difference between a winning organization and a mediocre group. The chorus can do much for you. Make the most of it in every rehearsal and performance.

Students' Responsibility to the Chorus

As members of this organization, you have a great deal of responsibility. These expectations coordinate with the privileges, rewards, and duties of the chorus program.

To Ourselves

You have the primary responsibility of developing your own abilities. There are many life lessons and skills that you will learn through the study and performance of choral music. The benefits of the individual practice and private lessons can never be overestimated. What you put into it is what you will get out of it. The director are always available for your guidance and encouragement, just ask!

To Music

Music has always been a part of our culture. We must take what we have and use it for the betterment of that culture. Choral singing has been around for hundreds of years and it is an art form that expresses much of the human condition. It is our desire to continue the art of great singing into the next generation. When it comes to great singing the notes, rhythms, and words are just the beginning. We expect you to open your heart and mind to the music we are performing. Use your imagination to consider deeper meanings of the text and how we can create beauty in our performance. No one expects you to be an opera star, only to do the very best you can. The joy of music be discovered and created.

To Each Other

We must always do what is best for the welfare of the group. There can be no selfish acts solely for the benefit of the individual. Respect each other. If there are conflicts, find a way to resolve them. Never insult another chorus member's integrity. Treat other students like you want to be treated.

Practice

As with any activity, you get out of it what you put into it. Chorus will not be fun unless you practice. There are many values in the study of music as a discipline that transfer to other areas of life. Although this will not immediately happen, persistent practice will lead to enthusiastic, driven practice. Remember: “perfect practice makes perfect!”

Here is a suggested plan of study:

- Pick a set time each day
- Find a room with good acoustics
- Use our daily warm-up and think “tone”
- Increase endurance (15 minutes of full singing)
- Review all scales and tonal pitch exercises
- Increase range (highest note with good tone)
- Practice sight-reading and solfege tonal patterns
- Practice the selected repertoire for the upcoming concert
- Memorize the selected repertoire for the upcoming concert

Chorus Culture

In every program there is an established culture of the way things work. This is “how we do things” in the Chorus program.

Expectations

- Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. **Early is on time—on time is late!**
- Upon entering the rehearsal setting, get your music and pencil, and go directly to your seat.
- When the director steps to the front or asks for your attention, all talking should cease.
- Come to the rehearsal with a good attitude.
- Make a real effort to improve on a daily basis, and establish a good practice routine.
- At the end of rehearsal, put all materials in their proper place.
- Maintain a strong academic standing in all course work.
Performance privileges may be suspended if a student is failing other classes.
- Assume responsibility for your own actions. Admit when you are wrong.
- Have proper respect for yourself, other chorus members, and those in authority.
- Read and perform music with insight-have musical expectations.

Concert Attire

Every chorus member is responsible for purchasing their own concert performance outfit at the beginning of the school year. Students must arrive at each performance completely dressed for the concert.

Men – black dress slacks, black button up shirt, black vest, black suit jacket, black tie (or bow-tie), black socks, black dress shoes. (Not all Items are required, but the full outfit should be black)

Women – **long** black dress with sleeves and shoulders, **long** black formal skirt with dress blouse that has sleeves, or black slacks with black blouse. All items must have sleeves and skirts/dresses **MUST** go past the knees when sitting down in a chair. Women must wear black dress shoes – either heels or flats.

****Students that are not in appropriate attire may not be allowed to perform with the ensemble. This is up to director discretion.**

****Attire is subject to change based on the performance, but advance notice will be given.**

Conflicts with Chorus

Resolving conflicts between chorus and other activities or events is the responsibility of the student. Rehearsal and performance schedules are given out so the arrangements can be made. If it is a situation that should only happen once, the student will need to consult with the director about possible alternatives. Students should have a calendar and be aware of all chorus dates well ahead of schedule. It is a policy of the chorus director to assist students when conflicts occur within the scope of the chorus policy. All conflicts with performances must be resolved in favor of chorus participation. **Work is not an excuse for missing any chorus activity.**

Attendance Policy

The only excusable absences are pre-arranged school conflicts, religious holidays, immediate family wedding or other activities preapproved by the director.

The only emergencies that will be excused are severe illness or a death in the family. Individual needs will be addressed as they occur.

For all after school event absences, the student and parent must observe the following procedure. Failure to follow this procedure will result in a Performance No-Show. The mere filing of an **absence request form** does not constitute approval. This policy is cut-and-dry in regard to what is excused.

For Pre-Arranged Absences:

Pre-arranged school conflicts, religious holidays, immediate family wedding

1. The director must be notified well in advance (two-week minimum) via email, phone call or conference.
2. In addition, an **absence request form** from the website must be submitted to the director two weeks in advance of the requested absence

Performance No-Shows: The student will receive a zero for their performance grade if they do not attend a performance.

Conclusion

The Anclote High School Chorale looks forward to the positive future that each of you will be a part of. It is important to understand our role; not only to our school, but to our community. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication but will be one of the most rewarding events of your entire life if you choose to make it so. Respect for others, especially of those in authority, plays an important role to our success. Maybe you don't plan to become a professional musician, but chorus will help you become a well-rounded individual and teach you things like responsibility, dedication, and a positive work ethic.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

HANDBOOK SIGNATURE FORM

I have received a copy of the Anclote High School Band Handbook. I have read and reviewed all the band policies. I understand the expectations that are to be upheld by the band students and will encourage my child to abide by the rules set in place and to fulfill their obligations to the band.

I have received a copy of the Anclote High School Band Handbook. I have read and reviewed all of the band policies and I understand that it is a privilege to be a part of this program. I know that by signing this form I have agreed to uphold these policies and have accepted the responsibility to attend all performances and activities in which the band participates. I recognize that each member of the band contributes greatly to the success of the program.

Signature of Guardian

Date

Signature of Student

Date

Print Student Name