

**Simpson Middle School**

# **Chorus**

# **Handbook**

**2019-2020**

**Kirstin Cagle, Director**

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# WELCOME

Congratulations! You have chosen to be part of one of the most engaging, rewarding, and memorable experiences available to you!

**Our mission:** To become well-rounded musicians and members of our community by developing both individual and ensemble musicianship skills, an appreciation for the fine arts, and strong personal character.

*By choosing to be in chorus, you are choosing to accept our mission.*

**How we will do it:** To achieve our mission as a chorus, each member must be self-motivated and self-disciplined, while also collaborating and cooperating with others. I, as your teacher, promise to present this challenge to you and encourage a sense of rigor. If we do these things every day, there is nothing we can't do!

*“It takes 100% of you giving 100% effort 100% of the time”*

**About your director:** Hello! My name is Mrs. Cagle. This is my fourth year as chorus teacher at Simpson. My personal goal this year is to present our choirs with more challenging repertoire. I am looking forward to giving each of you a positive and well-rounded musical experience this year!

**About this class:** Chorus is a year-long elective. Students may not drop the class during the year, including at the change of semesters. No exceptions. At the end of the year, students will submit a form stating their intent for following year.

**About this handbook:** This handbook is for both students and parents. Students, this handbook needs to be taken to your parents/guardians to read through together. Once you have done this, please keep a copy in your chorus binder for you to reference. Parents, please read through the handbook with your student, then sign and return the contract at the back of this packet. There is also a calendar for you to remove and keep for your records.

Extra copies of the handbook and calendar are always available in the chorus room and on the chorus website.

## COMMUNICATION

As members of chorus and parents/guardians of chorus members, it is absolutely critical that we are all communicative about upcoming events. Please take responsibility for staying informed.



The best way to keep up with important information about upcoming events is through our website: **[simpsonchorus.com](http://simpsonchorus.com)** All information given in class is always also posted on the website. This should be the first thing you check if you have a question about an upcoming event.



Remind is used to send occasional reminder of deadlines or events. We will sign up for this in class, or you can find sign-up information on the chorus website.



Introducing: the Simpson Chorus Instagram! Please follow us @SimpsonChorus



Office phone: 770-971-4711 ext. 268  
Office hours: 11AM-12:15PM



Email: [kirstin.cagle@cobbk12.org](mailto:kirstin.cagle@cobbk12.org)  
\*Be careful of spelling! K-I-R-S-T-I-N

# CHORUS EXPECTATIONS

In addition to compliance with all Simpson Middle School rules and expectations, there are also specific rules and expectations for the chorus room. Behavior offenses in chorus class follow the school-wide infraction system.

## EVERY DAY, YOU NEED:

- 3-ring 1-inch binder
- A sharpened pencil
- Agenda at your seat
- Water in a closed container

## NOT PERMITTED IN CHORUS ROOM: (AKA how to earn an infraction)

- Cell phones or personal devices (unless permission is given)
- Gum
- Food, candy, etc.

## CHORUS EXPECTATIONS:

- Arrive on time, and obtain a pass if late.
- Be prepared. (Binder, pencil, agenda, water)
- Treat yourself, others, and any adult in the room with respect.
- Give your very best effort at all times.

## REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE: (see Page 6 for how this affects your grade)

- Participate actively and eagerly at all times.
- Refrain from talking to anyone near or far from you.
- Practice correct posture when sitting.
- Quickly and quietly stand with correct posture when asked.
- Raise your hand and wait to be called on to ask a question relevant to the music. Save other types of questions for after class.
- Have a positive attitude!

## CONCERT ETIQUETTE: (see Page 6 for how this affects your grade)

- Arrive on time.
- Arrive in uniform and prepared.
- Follow directions immediately and silently.
- Do not talk on stage (including entering and exiting).
- Do not talk while another group is performing.

# CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

## WHEN YOU ENTER THE CHORUS ROOM:

1. Turn your phone off and put it out of sight (or leave it in your locker).
2. Read the screen! Instructions on what to do and what to expect that day will always be displayed on the screen.
3. Get your binder containing all music and your pencil from the cabinet and go to your seat.
4. If needed, “take care of business” before the bell...
  - turn in forms, homework, etc.
  - sharpen your pencil
  - get a sip of water / fill your water bottle
5. When the bell rings, be ready to go! That means ending your conversations, being in your seat with your binder and pencil, watching Mrs. Cagle for instructions with a positive attitude!

## WATER

**Before class:** you do NOT need to ask permission to get water. At the water fountain, please be courteous of others.

**During class:** you DO need to ask permission to get water. Raise your hand and waiting to be called on. If you need water frequently, please bring a water bottle.

## RESTROOM

Whether or not class had begun, you must ask ALWAYS permission to go to the restroom. YOU MUST SIGN IN AND OUT. YOU MUST TAKE THE PASS WITH YOU. Going to the restroom without a pass will result in an infraction.

## CHORUS SECRETARY

The bulletin board & table by the windows is a self-serve station where you can...

- Turn in a permission form
- Turn in an assignment
- Get an extra flier for the concert
- Sharpen your pencil
- Staple your papers
- Hole punch your music
- Find the assignment you missed
- Get an extra copy of music
- Get a tissue
- Get hand sanitizer

**Please refrain from visiting the secretary during class.**

## GRADING SCALE

**30% Rehearsal Etiquette:** coming to class prepared (p.4), following classroom procedures (p.5), and following rehearsal etiquette (p.4). Students will receive one Rehearsal Etiquette grade per week; starting off with a “clean slate” of 100 points possible, subtracting 5 points for each offense. If you are unsure of what has affected your rehearsal etiquette grade, please see Mrs. Cagle.

**40% Vocal Performance:** Performs at concerts with music memorized. You will earn 2 vocal performance grades for each concert; one for whether or not you performed with music memorized, and one grade for concert etiquette. Actively engages in warm ups, sight reading practice, and rehearsal. Makes personal best effort to match all pitches, rhythms, vowel and consonant sounds.

**30% Written Knowledge and Assessments:** Demonstrates musical knowledge through written activities and assignments. This includes keeping track of these and turning in on time. Late work receives a penalty of 10 points per class day after the due date.

(70% summative: Vocal Performance, Written Knowledge and Assessments)  
(30% formative: Rehearsal Etiquette)

## GRADE POLICY

Mrs. Cagle will not seek you out to make up missed work or a failed assignment! You are expected to take responsibility and initiative for your grade. This means you need to:

- Check studentvue/parentvue on a regular basis.
- Get work ahead for expected absences.
- Find out what you missed after an absence.
- Inform Mrs. Cagle of conflicts with concerts far in advance.
- Arrange to make up a failed assignment, test, quiz, concert, etc.

## WHEN YOU ARE SICK

If you are unable to vocally participate in rehearsal, please bring a parent or doctor’s note. You are still expected to participate in rehearsal without singing. You will complete an alternate assignment to earn your Rehearsal Etiquette Grade for the day. (See page 7 for what to do when you are sick for a concert)

## PERFORMANCE POLICIES

Every concert is prepared with the expectation that all students will be present, and missing singers have a definite impact on the sound of the ensemble, as well as the logistics of staging.

All Simpson chorus students are required to attend all rehearsals and performances of their ensemble. CONCERTS ARE A GRADE!

### **“What if...?”**

If you or your student is sick, or there is a family emergency, it is CRITICAL that you inform Mrs. Cagle as EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

If you have a conflict with an extracurricular activity, please be reminded that chorus is a class for which students earn a grade. When planned far in advance, coaches are always understanding of school being each student’s highest priority. Please check the calendar now for any conflicts throughout the entire year.

### **“I missed the concert... now what?”**

If you miss a concert for any reason (excused or unexcused), you are expected to inquire about your make-up assignment and make up your grade within 2 weeks of the concert. This varies based on the concert and is at Mrs. Cagle’s discretion. All missing concert grades must be made up within 2 weeks of the concert. Missing concert grades will remain a zero after 2 weeks.

### **ISS/OSS**

Cobb County District administrative rule states that if a student serves any part of the day in ISS or OSS, the student is ineligible to participate in after-school activities. This means in you had ISS or OSS on the day of a concert, you may not participate in our concert and must make up the grade.

# UNIFORMS

Why do we wear uniforms? Chorus concerts are formal events for our students, and it is important that our ensembles look their best for performances so that we can also perform our best. At Large Group Performance Evaluation, part of our rating is determined by the choir's appearance and presentation on stage.

## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade men:

- \*Black button down
- \*black dress pants
- \*black tie
- black dress shoes w/  
black dress socks



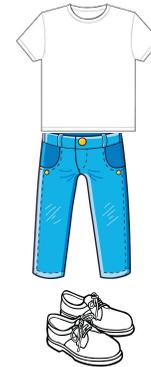
## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade women:

- \*Black formal dress
- black dress shoes  
(No visible straps or  
undergarments,  
please)



## All 6<sup>th</sup> graders:

- \*Chorus t-shirt
- non-hole jeans or  
dark pants
- closed-toe shoes.



\*These items are purchased through the school. More information about ordering uniforms will come in the fall. Fitting will take place during the school day. If purchasing a uniform is a severe financial burden for you, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Cagle, so that we can work together to provide a uniform.

Students- DO NOT wait until the day of a concert to tell Mrs. Cagle that you do not have your concert attire. Showing up to a concert without concert attire will result in not performing, which results in a failing grade for that concert.

## **Hair/jewelry/makeup policy:**

- All hair must be worn so that you are not tempted to touch it while performing, because this could be highly distracting to the audience, director and other singers.
- The only jewelry permitted is stud earrings.
- Makeup (if worn) is to be kept neutral and minimal.

# CHORUS CONTRACT

Please remove this page from the packet, complete, and turn in by Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> for a grade.

**By signing below, you are agreeing to these policies and expectations of Simpson Middle School Chorus:**

- I understand that chorus is a year-long commitment and I cannot drop chorus class during the year.
- I understand that in order for us to be successful, each member of chorus must adhere to our Chorus mission statement through their rehearsal etiquette, concert etiquette, and attitude.
- I understand that it is both the student's and parent / guardian's responsibility to stay informed on upcoming chorus events through the website, email, letters sent home, etc.
- I understand the chorus grading policy for rehearsal etiquette, concert etiquette, and making up missing concert grades within 2 weeks.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**REMINDER:** First binder check is on Friday, August 9 for a grade.

20 points: 1-inch binder

20 points: clearly labeled with their first and last name on inside and outside

20 points: about 20 pieces of notebook paper in the binder

20 points: a pencil

20 points: handbook in the binder

(100 points total)





