

Brooks Museums Magnet Elementary

4th & 5th Grade Chorus



Handbook

Rehearsals/Performance Dates

2016-2017

This handbook is intended to inform parents and students of important information such as concert dates, rehearsal expectations, and concert dress. Please refer to this handbook throughout the year for clarification or to answer any questions that may arise. Both student and parent should sign the form on the last page and return it to Ms. Little by **October 14th**. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me via email me at klittle2@wcpss.net

Materials Needed:

- Most importantly -- an *AWESOME* attitude
- A chorus folder
- A sharpened pencil with a usable eraser
- Lyric sheets (will be provided)

Chorus Uniform:

In lieu of a chorus uniform, we'd like to have chorus shirts made! These shirts we'd like for students to keep, so we are asking for a \$7.00 to help pay for the shirt.

***Accessories (earrings, jewelry, headbands/ribbons) should be minimal and tasteful.

It is the family's responsibility to provide the choir uniform, and I encourage you to acquire the items now. If you have any difficulty doing so, please contact me at school and I will be happy to provide assistance.

Please note, it is the student's responsibility to bring his/her uniform/shirt for daytime performances. A student who fails to bring his/her uniform will not be allowed to perform and will receive an unexcused absence.

Rehearsals:

Rehearsals for chorus are held during the school day. **This year, 4th & 5th graders will rehearse together in cafeteria on E – DAYS from 9:15-9:50.**

Attendance at rehearsals is mandatory and students are expected to demonstrate outstanding behavior at all times. A student who is at school but chooses not to attend rehearsal will receive an **unexcused absence**.

All students will receive a lyric sheet and are expected to practice their music at home!

Rehearsal Expectations:

Self-discipline is a *very* important element. Students must realize that they are a member of an ensemble. Their behavior during class meetings and performances reflects on Brooks Museums Magnet Elementary School, their parents, and mostly, themselves!

- Respect yourself and others
- 100% positive participation is expected.
- Criticizing another student is not allowed.
- Be on time, in your seat, with your folder, pencil, and music when class starts.
- When the director is ready to start you should be *quiet (no talking) and ready*.

- No food or gum. If needed, students may bring a container of water to rehearsals.
- Music should not be lost or damaged. Students will be expected to replace lost or damaged music.
- Proper rehearsal/performance etiquette

During rehearsals and preparing for the concerts, Ms. Little has clear and high expectations. It is important to maintain these expectations for safety reasons and for students to cultivate and to practice the discipline of being a performer. My firmness should not be confused with “meanness”. In order to have a successful performance with a large group, Ms. Little or any director has to be firm and clear. If a student continually off task (talking, not following directions, apathetic performance effort, ect.) during rehearsals, parents will be contacted to discuss student’s membership in chorus.

Performances:

This year we will have one spring performance. We may hold dress rehearsals during the school day prior to evening concerts. For the spring show, the chorus will perform a musical! We want to give our students authentic musical experiences complete all the nuances of a true theater (more information to come). Note that our Spring show which will be at Carroll Middle School, which is right down the street with a beautiful space and easy for us to access.

Chorus Performances Dates:

- Spring Concert – May TBD 7:00pm @Sanderson High School (we’re still working on the logistics)

Before the concert:

- Get plenty of sleep the night before and lots of quiet rest on the day of the concert.
- A week before the performance: rest your voice, drink plenty of water and avoid beverages with caffeine, and dairy products if possible.
- Be sure to eat a full meal; DO NOT come on an empty stomach!
- Allow adequate time to get dressed and drive to the concert site in a relaxed manner

Responsibility:

Chorus students are role models for the entire school. This means chorus members are expected to complete all school assignments in a timely manner. If a student is kept out of rehearsal by his/her classroom teacher due to failure to turn in work, this will count as an unexcused absence.

Also, Ms. Little expects you will take home any chorus related announcements or permission slips promptly and return them on time. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence. Please manage your time so you will be a responsible student and chorus member.

Absences:

There are **no excused absences from evening performances**. These are required and missing an evening performance will result in **dismissal from chorus**.

Sometimes unpredictable circumstances prevent a child from attending a concert. If your child must miss a concert for any reason, you must notify Ms. Little in writing before the performance. Ms. Little may grant an excuse for an evening performance if parents notify her in writing prior to the concert. The situation must be exceptional for an excused absence to be granted. If a situation arises the evening of a performance, please notify Ms. Little ASAP.

- o **Excused:** Severe illness, death of a family member or close friend, or an emergency.
- o **Unexcused:** Not having appropriate attire, not having a ride to school, etc.

If you are having problems, see Ms. Little prior to the concert so that we can work together to come up with a solution.

Note, **failure to bring the proper outfit when required for a performance will result in an unexcused absence, and the singer will not be allowed to participate.**

If your child misses rehearsal due to absence from school, he/she will receive an excused absence. If your child is at school and chooses not to attend rehearsal or is removed from rehearsal due to poor behavior choices, he/she will receive an unexcused absence.

Failure to turn in your form and permission slips can result in an unexcused absence. Be responsible!

Dismissal from chorus:

Any of the following will result in dismissal from chorus for the remainder of the school year:

- 1) Two unexcused absences.
- 2) One unexcused absence from an evening performance.
- 3) Behavior issues with self-control at any time on school campus.

**PLEASE be responsible and do your personal best.
The chorus needs *YOU!***