

Cosby High School Choral Department



Choral Handbook 2015 - 2016

Mrs. Heather Andre and Mrs. Peggy Ripley, Directors

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Cosby Choral Department Handbook

2015 - 2016

A Note from Mrs. Andre and Mrs. Ripley

Congratulations on joining the Cosby High School Choral Department! By joining a chorus class, you will now have the opportunity to learn and experience the excitement of singing in a choral setting. As a student, you are an incredibly valuable member of the department. Everyone has the opportunity to make an impact on not only the sound, but also the success of each choir.

To be in a choir is to join a team of people using their natural talents to reach a goal of expressing and performing music. In order to have a successful team, each member must put forth equal effort to reach the goals of the group. Therefore, each student is expected to be active, intelligent, and to contribute in class.

This year, we will continue the tradition of excellence in the Cosby Choral Department. We must all work together to maintain the high standard of musicianship, academic, and choral excellence that was established with the program in the fall of 2006. We look forward to working with you and sharing the pleasure and fulfillment of creating and performing music together.

The Benefits of Joining Chorus

There are many intellectual, academic, and social benefits associated with joining a choral group. For example, positive participation in class and performances will result in the opportunity to communicate, experience, and express emotions on a deeper level. Being a good team member in any chorus class can also help to further develop the Chesterfield County core values of respect, responsibility, honesty, and accountability. Academically, the study of music can open your mind for critical thinking and creativity while studying how our history and culture can be passed from generation to generation through music.

All of the benefits of being a good choral musician will be explored in each class throughout the year.

Academic Standards

All members of the Cosby Choral Department will:

1. build vocal skill, sight-singing ability, tonality awareness and vocal confidence and independence through vocal exercises and quality music that is within the range of their physical development and maturity level.
2. demonstrate their ability to maintain their assigned part on a "concert ready" section by singing it in a small ensemble.
3. demonstrate performance skills learned in rehearsals such as sight-reading and movement in class.
4. demonstrate their knowledge of musical terms, signs, and their understanding of their meaning by performing with attention to expressive interpretation, note values, rhythms, rests and tempo indications and by their performance on written tests and in-class activities.
5. take individual responsibility for the care of their assigned music and materials and will have the required materials for each rehearsal and performance.
6. demonstrate their musical accomplishments and understanding and their refinement of professional stage practices at regularly scheduled concerts.
7. enrich the arts experience of the school and community by giving quality performances.

8. become more discriminating performers and audience members as a result of their diverse musical experiences.
9. have opportunities to perform in small and large groups for adjudicated and non-adjudicated concerts.
10. accept the commitment, responsibilities, and privileges of being a member of the choral department of Cosby High School.

Class Schedule

<u>Period</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Room</u>
1	7:20-8:12	Treble Concert Choir	Mrs. Andre	507
E2	8:17-9:58	Planning	Mrs. Andre	507
O2	8:17-9:58	Spotlight	Mrs. Andre	507
E3	10:03-12:06	Chamber Ensemble	Mrs. Andre	507
E3	10:03-12:06	Serenade	Mrs. Ripley	501
O3	10:03-12:06	Planning Period	Mrs. Andre	507
E4	12:11-1:50	Treble Concert Choir	Mrs. Andre	507
E4	12:11-1:50	Vivace	Mrs. Ripley	501
O4	12:11-1:50	Rhapsody	Mrs. Andre	507

Our Choirs

Chamber Ensemble – Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are chosen by audition, this ensemble is the most challenging within the choral program. It consists of only 26 auditioned singers. This ensemble performs the most diverse and challenging musical selections from many genres of choral music. Students in this ensemble advance in the studies of music theory, history, and literature and continue to develop healthy vocal technique in an ensemble setting. This ensemble performs for many special events including the senior convocation, baccalaureate, and graduation, and recruitment concerts. Each student in this choir is required to audition for All-District and All-State chorus.

Concert Choir – This group is devoted to those students entering the choral program. The students in Concert Choir receive a foundation in music theory and history as well as instruction in proper vocal health and technique. They perform pieces of various genres throughout the year to develop skills and preview the opportunities offered in the auditioned ensembles.

Rhapsody – This group is our girls show choir which consists of sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are selected by audition. The students study the importance of stage presence and showmanship as well as advanced musicianship and vocal technique. Throughout the course of the year, students prepare a show choir competition which involves both choreographed and stand-still numbers. This group typically travels to several competitions throughout the months of February and March. This course requires a large investment of time consisting, in part, of many after-school rehearsals to prepare for the show choir competition season.

Spotlight – Otherwise known as the mixed show choir, this ensemble is for sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are selected by audition. The students study the importance of stage presence and showmanship as well as advanced musicianship and vocal technique. Throughout the course of the year, students prepare a show choir competition which involves both choreographed and stand-still numbers. This group typically travels to several competitions throughout the months of February and March. This course requires a large investment of time

consisting, in part, of many after-school rehearsals to prepare for the show choir competition season.

Vivace – This auditioned female group is designed for students who wish to advance in level of musicianship and vocal ability within the choral program. It is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors who have completed a year in Concert Choir. Students in Vivace receive a strong music and choral education. They further develop their vocal technique and showmanship while performing stationary a cappella, accompanied jazz, classical, spiritual, and contemporary styles.

Serenade – This auditioned female ensemble is open to sophomores, juniors and seniors. In addition to receiving a strong music and choral education, students will continue to develop their vocal technique and showmanship, focusing on a cappella music of all genres. This choir will also work toward self-direction in all performances.

Rehearsal Procedures and Expectations

1. All school rules apply to choral classes and rehearsals.
2. Rehearsals begin when the bell rings. Have your music and materials and be in place before that time. The bell is the signal for warm-ups and announcements to begin, so please be ready.
3. No food, beverages, or chewing gum is allowed in the choir room or auditorium. These things interfere with your singing and moving ability and are not allowed in rehearsal or performance.
4. You are completely responsible for music and materials assigned to you. Students will be required to replace missing or damaged items.
5. Remember: every rehearsal is preparation for the performance. Be professional every day. Good behavior and effort is an expectation and is essential to the progress of your choral group.
6. Each student is expected to be respectful and courteous to all other students, adults, and volunteers who they may encounter throughout the school year.
7. Students who do not adhere to these afore-mentioned expectations may disqualify themselves from participating in an auditioned choral ensemble.

Materials Needed

1. Three-ring binder with designated space for handouts and notes
2. Paper and pencil
3. Performance attire for concerts
4. Chamber Ensemble, Serenade and Vivace will need a basic black three-ring performance binder.

Performance Attire

Chamber Ensemble –

1. Ladies will need a Chamber black dress that may be purchased for \$75 by September 30.
2. Gentlemen will need to pay an annual tuxedo rental fee of \$50 that will be due by September 30.

3. All students will need a t-shirt to wear to events and competitions. The cost of the t-shirt is \$15 due September 30. This cost may be added to your student's costume payment.

Concert Choir –

1. Ladies wear a blue concert dress for performances. Dresses may be purchased one of two ways. During the week of September 21, students will have the opportunity to try on used dresses from our former students to determine their necessary size order. If they wish to purchase a used dress, they must immediately contact that former student and exchange the dress privately. If the student wishes to purchase a new dress, the cost is \$85 and is due September 30. Whether the student is ordering a new or purchasing a used dress directly from another student, all dresses must be finalized by September 30. Checks for new dresses should be made payable to Cosby High School and should include your student's name on the memo line.
2. Men will be wearing black dress pants with a tuxedo shirt, cummerbund, and bow tie that will be purchased specifically for them. All boys will be sized during the week of September 21. The total cost of the boys chorus concert attire is \$50 and is due on September 30. Checks should be made payable to Cosby High School and should include your student's name on the memo line.

Vivace -

The Vivace black dress may be purchased one of two ways. During the week of September 16, students will have the opportunity to try on used dresses from our former students to determine their necessary size order. If they wish to purchase a used dress, they must immediately contact that former student and exchange the dress privately. If the student wishes to purchase a new dress, the cost is \$65 and is due September 30. Whether the student is ordering a new or purchasing a used dress directly from another student, all dresses must be finalized by September 30. Checks for new dresses should be made payable to Cosby High School and should include your student's name on the memo line. Students are expected to provide their own closed-toed black dress shoes.

Serenade -

The Serenade black dress may be purchased for \$85 by September 18. Checks should be made payable to Cosby High School and should include your student's name on the memo line. Students are expected to provide their own closed-toes black dress shoes.

Attendance Policy

The following rules are adapted from the Chesterfield County Public Schools attendance policy. For further rules and information about attendance, please refer to the student handbook or the county website www.ccpsnet.net.

- Excused absences are limited to illness, medical or dental appointment, court appearance, death in the family, observance of a religious holiday, or extenuating circumstances as determined by the principal and choral director. These factors also apply to tardy arrivals and early dismissals.
- Excessive absences from class may affect receiving credit for classes or promotion to the next level.

- Travel or activity plans that would make a student miss school should be discussed with the principal and choral director in advance to see if the absence will be excused or unexcused.
- A student participating in a school-sponsored field trip or activity will not be marked absent.
- Students are expected to attend all choral functions as listed in the calendar in this handbook or announced in class. Any conflicts with sports events, dance classes, family events, etc. should be resolved at least two weeks prior to the choral function. This is the responsibility of the student and their parents. Should an emergency arise on a performance or rehearsal date, please make every effort to notify your teacher ahead of time. Students in this situation should bring a note explaining their absence, and once excused, will be given a make-up assignment.
- Make up work will consist of a written assignment determined by your director. The student will prepare this assignment to be turned in the day of the scheduled absence. Please note that a graded written assignment does not guarantee the full amount of points for the missed activity.
- Show choir students who miss a scheduled choreography rehearsal will automatically have a swing put in his or her spot until that student has sufficiently learned all choreography and show techniques that were taught at the missed rehearsal. The student will have to show that he or she is ready to perform or compete before the swing is removed.
- Excessive absences from show choir rehearsals may result in the student not performing at competitions or concerts.

Grading Policy

Summative Grades: 60%

1. *Concert attendance and performance.* Students will receive 100 points per performance. Please see the attendance policy for further details.
2. *Dress rehearsal attendance and performance.* Students will receive 50 points per dress rehearsal. Please see the attendance policy.
3. *Written or oral quizzes or tests.* The choral director will determine the point value of all quizzes, scheduled or unscheduled. This includes singing and choreography tests.

Formative Grades: 40%

1. *Rehearsal behavior and participation.* A weekly grade will be given to each student based on their participation in class.
2. *Class work.* Students will be given in class assignments related to their study of music theory and vocal pedagogy. The choral director will determine the point value of all class work.

Extra credit papers may be arranged with your teacher if you would like to raise your grade. Participation in certain fundraising events will also result in extra credit. It is your responsibility to arrange extra credit assignments.

The Chesterfield County public school system does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, age, religion, disabilities or national origin in employment or in its educational programs and activities. More info:

http://chesterfield.k12.va.us/htm/ccps_pages/compliance.htm

**COSBY HIGH SCHOOL
CHORAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

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September 8, 2015

COSBY CHORAL HANDBOOK

Dear Cosby Choral Department Members and Parents,

To access the choral handbook, you may refer to our wonderful web site www.cosbychorus.com. or look under "Resources" on "Student and Parent Vue". Make sure you have read the entire handbook and review the choral calendar before signing and returning the bottom portion of this document. All students and parents/guardians are responsible for all information in the choral handbook. If you have any questions concerning this contract, please contact your chorus teacher.

Sincerely,

**Heather Andre & Peggy Ripley
Cosby Choral Directors**

Commitment Contract

This contract is to be signed and turned in for a grade of 10 points no later than September 18th.

I have read, understand, and agree to adhere to all of the information and requirements stated in the Choral Department Handbook.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Choral Director

Choral Director