

**Bennett's Mill Middle School**  
**Chorus Syllabus**  
**2013-2014**  
DeLacey Wilkins, Director

**Objectives:**

- To develop individual and group musical skills.
- To develop aural and sight singing skills necessary for performance and rehearsal.
- To present concerts consisting of music studied in class.
- To explore a variety of music literature that is appropriate for skill level.

**Standards:**

- Demonstrate correct posture and proper breathing techniques for vocal production.
- Sing accurate pitches and rhythms.
- Sing with clear vowel sounds, proper diction and good tone quality.
- Develop proficiency in sight singing at appropriate skill level.
- Perform as an individual, in a large or small singing ensemble.
- Have knowledge of music vocabulary necessary for class, rehearsal and performances.

**Class Room Guidelines:**

- Students must be on time to class and be in their seat with proper materials at the beginning of class.
- Students must **respect** the teacher, fellow students and classroom materials.
- Do not use class time for grooming (brushing hair, styling hair, applying makeup, lotions or any other cosmetics).
- Do not chew gum, eat candy/food or have drinks other than water during **class, rehearsals or performances**.
- Do not leave your seat or talk without permission-raise your hand & ask!
- Do not play piano, stereo or use other equipment without permission.
- Do not talk or disrupt class.
- BYOT will be used on a limited basis during class. Phones should not be used without permission.

**Discipline:**

Students will be given every opportunity to succeed during class. I don't anticipate any major behavior problems but occasionally they do arise. Parent support is crucial to the success of our program. My hope is to prevent your child from being assigned detention or receiving an office referral. This year I am following the discipline plan of your child's grade level.

For the first **minor** behavior problem, the student will be given a stamp in their agenda or a phone call/e-mail to the parent will be made. I will need to see that a parent has signed the agenda the following day. The second offense will result in teacher detention before or after school with parent contact made. On the third offense the student will be referred to the office. Serious offenses can result in an immediate office referral. This starts new for each nine weeks grading period.

**See other side for additional information**

### Grading:

- Students will receive a daily grade in the following areas: Focus/Participation (35%), Posture (20%) and Mouth position (20%). The average of the daily grades will be entered as a weekly grade.
- Students participate in concerts that will test music theory, music history and singing of our musical selections. Concert attendance and Rehearsals will count **25%** of overall grade.

**Focus-35%; Posture-20%; Mouth Position-20%; Tests/Concerts/Rehearsals -25%**

### Concert Attire:

*Uniforms for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students and Casual concerts for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders will be:*

- Solid Black **dress pants** with black belt
- Solid Black dress shoes, black dress socks or black stockings
- Chorus shirt tucked in neatly.
- Small silver earrings may be worn if desired. Any necklaces need to be worn under shirt. No bracelets please.

*Formal Concert Attire for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders will be:*

- Floor Length Black dress **provided by the school & rented for school year(girls)**
- White tuxedo shirt, black dress pants and black vest **provided by school & rented for school year(boys)**
- Solid Black dress shoes & dark sock/stockings(provided by parents)

Unacceptable attire:

- No jeans
- No open toed/open healed shoes (flip flops, sandals, slides, slippers, mules, crocs, potato shoes for safety)
- No un-tucked shirts
- No athletic shoes
- No bracelets

### Other Considerations:

- If you lose or damage music you must pay the cost to replace it which is \$ 2.00 per copy.
- If a binder needs replacing it will cost \$10.00 this year as we are utilizing specialty choral binders.
- A test grade will be given for each performance. An unexcused absence will result in a test grade of a zero. **Accepted excuses are severe illness with Doctor's note within 2 days of returning to school or a death in the family.** In either case a note must be sent.
- Occasionally, we will have extra rehearsals outside of regular class time that will count as a grade. Students should attend the rehearsals and failure to attend could result in a demotion to a less advanced choral group. Students should arrange transportation with parent/guardian. **Parents/guardians need to be on time for pick-ups.**
- There will be several opportunities through out the year for individual students to audition for Honors Chorus and All-State. There will be registration fees for these activities and a lot of extra practice & rehearsal time if you/your child is selected to participate. We will also participate in Festival events from around the State.

### Parents:

I look forward to a very exciting and successful year and appreciate the opportunity of working with your child. Together we will continue a strong choral program at BMMS. I need your help to achieve this goal-please volunteer to help if your schedule allows.

Thanks!

Mrs. DeLacey Wilkins, Chorus Director

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