

Powell Middle School

Panther Chorus Handbook

2019-2020

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Introduction

Welcome to the Powell Middle School Choral program! We are excited and looking forward to a great year. This handbook will assist you with any questions you may have about the choral department. Included are:

- Rules and regulations
- Grading
- Concert Attire
- Chorus Fees
- Chorus Calendar

In chorus, we will learn how to sing, music terminology and theory, music history, and many other musical and non-musical aspects. Chorus at Powell is different than any other class you take. Instead of being an individual in a class such as in Math or ELA, you are a part of a group that achieves their goal together as a team. Unlike team sports though, we are not here for competition, only for achieving the best possible sound as a group and learning to work cooperatively.

During the middle school years, discovery of self and where you “belong” is a major factor and we hope that chorus will help you with this time of discovery.

The 3 R's

1. Be **READY**
2. Be **RESPECTFUL**
3. Be **RESPONSIBLE**

Concert Attendance

You **must** attend all required performances. You are responsible for knowing about **all** chorus rehearsals, performances and other activities. This year's choral calendar can be found in the back of this handbook. **Mark these dates in your calendar now!** Concerts are worth **three** test grades. In-school concerts and festival are also required and will count towards daily grades. Only Excused absences will be eligible for an alternative assignment. It is the student's responsibility to pick up the assignment from the teacher. Unexcused concert absences will also result in students not being allowed to attend the field trip during that nine weeks.

Excused absences:

- ❖ Verifiable personal illness
- ❖ Death in the family
- ❖ Recognized religious holidays
- ❖ Verifiable family emergency

Unexcused absences:

- ❖ Failure to remember a concert date or activity.
- ❖ Failure to bring a parent note for an "excused absence" (see above).

General Chorus Room Regulations

1. There is absolutely **no eating or drinking** in the classroom.
 - a. Water is allowed in transparent containers.
2. Chewing gum is not allowed in Powell Middle School chorus class.
3. Please dispose of all trash in the garbage cans provided.
4. **Leave your belongings in their designated areas** as you enter the room. Remember to take all your belongings with you as you leave. Only your class folder, agenda, and pencil are allowed on the risers. Personal grooming (brushing hair, applying make-up or lotion, etc.) is not allowed on the risers, so please leave personal items in your purse or backpack.
5. At the conclusion of your class period, please replace the chairs in their original formation. Be sure nothing is left on the risers.
6. When getting off the risers, please exit down the front to avoid injury to yourself and damage to the risers.
7. We are proud of the chorus room and the many items that were purchased from fund-raiser money. Please take care of the chorus room. No student should ever touch the teachers' desks or chairs, televisions, thermostat, computer, piano, devices, SMART Board, or stereos without permission.

Class Structure

1. Be in your seat, ready to rehearse at the beginning of class. Tardiness will be addressed and reported as per policy in Aspen. Ready to rehearse means sitting in your assigned seat with your music folder, a pencil, and your **agenda book**.

Complete the daily objective (Bell-Ringer) from the board in your agenda if instructed to do so.

2. **Follow directions on the first request!** Give your undivided attention to **anyone** who is directing your chorus. There should be no talking once rehearsal has begun. If you have a question about the music, raise your hand and wait to be called on.
3. **Stay in your seat** during rehearsal unless the director has given you permission. If you need to use the bathroom or get a drink of water, ask to do so before class rehearsal begins. **You must have your agenda book as a pass!!!** Passes, including phone passes, will not be given to anyone unless an emergency arises.
4. **Keep your hands and feet to yourself.**
5. **Ignore inappropriate behavior in class.**
6. **A positive attitude** is very important. It makes for a better rehearsal and will create a better atmosphere for class.
7. Sit with good posture. Remember the “three positions”:
 1---sitting with your back against the chair
 2---sitting on the edge of the chair, back straight, ready to sing
 3---standing in singing position
8. Always concentrate and try to sound your best!
9. Return your music folder to your assigned slot at the conclusion of class.
10. Take care of each other.
11. **Make good choices!!!**

Conduct for Trips

- **Conduct outside of chorus class will affect eligibility for field trip attendance.**

- **Students who are referred to 3 or more days in RLC or 1 day of OSS per school year will not be eligible to participate in ANY field trips.**
- **Students who have a “D” or lower grade average in any class will not be eligible to participate in ANY field trips until the average in all classes is a “C” or better.**

1. Students must remember they are representing the Powell Middle Chorus whenever they are on a trip. Conduct yourself in a manner that will bring credit to your chorus and your school, as well as yourself.
2. Promptly follow directions made by chaperones, officers and the director(s).
3. All chorus students must ride the bus to all events. Those wishing to leave school early with their parents must be signed out in the office once we return to school.
4. If a class is missed because of a trip on a school day, all chorus members are required to make up their classroom work.
5. No gum or candy allowed on field trips.
6. Don’t be critical of others. No matter what happens in a concert, never make light or belittle yourself or others. Mistakes do not need to be discussed until we are back in our own classroom.
7. Never be critical of the host place where we are singing or be negative about your own chorus or school.
8. We will enter each venue in an organized and quiet manner. Listen for directions before getting off the bus.
9. Be agreeable. Maintain a good attitude when things are different than you expect. If you don’t agree with something, keep it to yourself!

10. You must follow the dress code given to you before the trip. In most situations, such as day trips, chorus students will wear the prescribed chorus polo shirts. Failure to do so will result in your being left at the school and no refund will be issued. Shirts must be kept tucked in during the entire field trip while we are out as a group.

11. No handwritten notes will be accepted for field trip permission slips. Only the form provided by the school will be accepted. Permission slips and money must be turned in at the same time.

** Failure to follow these rules and guidelines will result in the lowering of your grade or the taking away of special privileges.
**

Grading

Each nine-week period will be graded slightly differently due to varying activities. Your grade depends on class participation, concert attendance, worksheets, solo or small group music knowledge testing, quizzes, and your overall attitude.

An unexcused absence from any concert will result in three zeros on test grades. Not having your music or a pencil at the beginning of rehearsal is considered “unprepared” and will affect your grade. All make-up work is **your responsibility**. When you are absent, you must check to make sure you did not miss a worksheet or quiz. According to Knox County regulations, you have as many days to make-up work as days you were absent. For example, if you were absent three (3)

days, you have three (3) days to turn in your work. After this time period, you will receive a zero for the incomplete work.

Grade Composition

Participation: 50% of grade (daily participation, being prepared, etc.)

Academic grades: 25% of grade (worksheets, group testing, folder check, etc.)

Concert scores: 25% of grade (concerts count as 3 test grades)

Participation points are given daily for students who are always on task. Students who are not singing or not joining in on an activity will not receive points for the day. Students who continually fail to maintain points will be dropped from the program. **AN “A” AVERAGE IN PARTICIPATION POINTS MUST BE MAINTAINED IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR FIELD TRIPS.**

Tardies / Discipline

Unexcused tardies exhibit a disregard to your fellow chorus members and your directors. Failure to be in your seat on time disrupts the rehearsal and therefore is considered tardy. The **only** excused tardy is one accompanied by a note from another teacher or the front office. **An unexcused tardy to class will result in an in-area report.**

We realize that chorus is social in nature and that it may be difficult to refrain from talking for 45 minutes, but to keep order, **we must minimize behaviors that disrupt rehearsal.**

Consequences for misbehavior are as follows:

1. Participation grade reduction
2. Seating Change

3. Note to parent/referral

4. Office referral

Positive behavior will be rewarded with student recognition such as Choir Cash, positive referrals, and notes/calls to the parent.

Music

All chorus members will have a shared binder in chorus. Each separate chorister will have a counterpart in the adjacent grade level class who shares their binder. Every year a tremendous amount of money is invested in music/binders and it is expensive to replace, so please take care of the music in your binder. This is critical for your grade, as folders will be checked frequently. Also, music or folders left on the risers will affect the class participation grade. It is your responsibility to keep up with your folder and music. **Destroyed or severely damaged music/binders will be reported to the office and charged to the student(s) to repair/replace. A hold will be placed on the student's report card until replacement/repair fee is paid in full.**

Concert Attire

Students are to wear a Powell Middle Chorus polo shirt with khaki pants or long ankle length skirts and clean close-toed shoes. **No sandals or backless shoes, light-up shoes, short skirts, capris, jeans, shorts, leggings, or ripped clothing of any kind are allowed.** If you choose to wear a shirt under the polo shirt, it needs to be white. We feel this will add uniformity to our look, help with safety on field trips, and create overall school spirit. Shirts may be purchased for **\$13.00**. If you were in chorus last year, you **do not** need to purchase a new shirt

unless it needs to be replaced. Please help us in this dress code policy. Students will not be allowed to go on field trips unless they meet the dress code for choir.

Chorus Dues

To alleviate taking class time to take up money before every trip, we will take up all money for the year at one time. In the event a trip is cancelled, money will be refunded or alternative activity will be planned. Chorus dues and field trip costs for this year are **\$20.00** for 7th and 8th graders. Chorus dues are used to purchase music and other needed supplies for the choral department. This will cover the first semester field trip to sing in the community, bus costs and the festival fees in the spring. These fees are collected during the 3rd full week of August. The cost for 6th grade dues will be **\$15.00**, which will include supplies and community performance field trip. Reminders will be sent home at that time. Please do not send in money until that week. If you are purchasing a shirt, this fee is in addition to the Chorus dues listed above for each grade level.

Please let us know well in advance (before deadline of when money is due) if you ever have a financial need as it relates to our class. We will always work with you. This includes money for field trips or certain choral attire. Such communication will be kept as confidential as possible.

Fundraisers

We will be selling cookie dough via catalogue at the end of January. This money is used to help fund needed supplies in the chorus room. In the past, money has been used to purchase

seated risers, big screen television, stereo and recording equipment, electric piano, microphones, and much more. This money is also used to pay for substitutes while the chorus teachers are on field trips and various other expenses that could not be covered by the chorus fee alone.

**Powell Middle School
Chorus Calendar 2019-2020**

August	5	Student first half day
	19-23	Chorus Fees and forms due
September	2	Labor Day - Holiday
October	17	<u>Fall Concert for all Choirs</u>
	7-11	Fall Break
	22	P.H.S. Fall Concert
	21-25	Theater Auditions
November	22-23	All-East MS Honors Chorus (P.C.)
	27-29	Thanksgiving Holidays
December		8th/7 th Winter Field trip (TBD)
		PC Field trip for holiday singing (TBD)
	17	<u>Winter Concert for all Choirs</u>
	20	Students Half Day

January	7	Students' first day after holidays
		PC/Drama Club Disney trip (TBD)
	20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Fundraiser (TBD)
February	17	Student Holiday
	23&25	Knox Co Honor Choir (7 th -8 th grade)
March	16-20	Spring Break
April	2-4	Spring Musical Performance
	6-7	7 th & 8 th Grade Choral Festival
May	7	<u>Night of the Arts (tentative)</u>
	21	Last Day (half day for students)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school office at (865) 938-9008.

DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Please return the handbook form no later than
Friday, August 16, 2019.

Panther Company

The Powell Middle Panther Company is comprised of 7th-8th grade students that audition in the spring and are exemplary chorus members. This is an extra-curricular activity that meets three times a week in the morning and afternoon. This is the group that we will take to sing at various programs around the Knoxville Area. PC members will be required to rent and/or purchase performance attire at minimal cost to the students.

Chorus Shirt Price: \$13.00

**CHORUS
CONCERT DATES**

**October 17, 2019
Fall Concert**

**December 17, 2019
Winter Concert**

**April 6-7, 2020
7th & 8th Grade Choral Festival**

**May 7, 2020
Night of the Arts**

**6th Grade Fees: \$15.00
7th & 8th Grade Fees: \$20.00**