

Magnolia School District



Choral Department Handbook

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INTRODUCTION

Greetings and salutations! We are very excited that you have decided to pursue an interest in the choral program provided by the ***Magnolia Public Schools***. Participation in our program offers students the unique educational experience to not only gain musical skills and a lifelong appreciation of music, but self-discipline, confidence, pride and a sense of accomplishment by working together towards the common goal of “Becoming the BEST!” The purpose of this handbook is to give students and parents an overview of the ***Magnolia School District’s Choral Program (grades 7-12)***. Policies and procedures are detailed in an effort to better inform all parties of how the choral program operates. Please read this handbook carefully and keep it handy for future reference. Again, we welcome you to our program and look forward to helping you meet your personal goals/expectations throughout the school year.

GENERAL RULES/EXPECTATIONS

1. Come to class prepared and ready to learn.
2. Always be respectful and courteous.
3. No gum, food, or drinks are allowed in the classroom.
4. Listen carefully and follow directions.
5. Always come to class with an open mind.
6. Exemplify Amazing!

CONSEQUENCES

1st offense—Verbal warning

2nd offense—Teacher-student private conference

3rd offense—Teacher intervention

4th offense—Current parent conference

5th offense—Teacher referral to an administrator ****This step can and may result in examining whether or not a student should remain in the choral program. ****

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

The success of any choral program requires the utmost attention from students, directors and accompanist during the general rehearsal. This is the time where mistakes are corrected and confidence is built, making the final choral performance the finest possible. Below are some general expectations that are necessary to help our rehearsals flow as smoothly as possible.

1. Be ON TIME to all rehearsals (school or extra) and performances. You are to be in your place with your music and all visiting stopped by the time the tardy bell rings.
2. Always have your MUSIC, BINDER/FOLDER, and PENCIL.
3. Gum chewing is NOT allowed. SCHOOL POLICY will be strictly enforced.
4. Under no circumstances should ANYONE decide to get up and leave a rehearsal, or wander around the classroom for ANY reason unless given permission from the director.
5. Make a conscious effort to exhibit proper posture during rehearsals with the attention being placed on the director.
6. Rehearsals are not over until you are properly dismissed by the director.
7. Give 100% during rehearsals; from the beginning to the end, with a good attitude and a willingness to accept constructive criticism.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

1. Be on time for all required performances. Students who have an unexcused absence from any of these events will receive no credit for that graded event.
2. Students who are habitually absent from the choral events (including excessive absences from rehearsals) for unexcused reasons may, at the director's discretion, be removed from that performing group.
3. A tentative calendar of events will be provided to all students upon joining the choral program. This calendar will list all possible performances throughout the year that require student attendance in order to satisfactorily pass the course.
4. Students will be informed on appropriate performance attire prior to the performance. Students who choose NOT to dress appropriately will not be allowed to perform with the choir and will receive no credit for that graded event.
5. You will be required to sit quietly during the choral performances with your respective ensemble, as well as demonstrate appropriate concert etiquette for the duration of the performance.
6. All choristers are REQUIRED to remain with the choir until the performance has ended. Please do not request to leave a performance early.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

1. Another school related event occurring at the same time as a choral performance
2. Temporary illness, requiring the student to be absent from school or checked out of school prior to the end of the school day. If a student remains at school, he/she is expected to attend a choral rehearsal/performance if is planned for that afternoon.
3. Serious illness or death in the family
4. Dangerous road or weather conditions

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

1. Work or job related activities
2. Activities that are not school related

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Two or more unexcused absences from performances may result in a student being dismissed from the choral program for the remainder for the semester. If a student is removed from the choral program for any reason, he/she is required to gain approval from both the director and the proper administrator before they are allowed to re-enroll in the future.

GRADING POLICY

The Magnolia Choral Department utilizes a grading system that mirrors the system provided by our school district. The grading scale will be as follows:

A=	90-100%
B=	80-89%
C=	70-79%
D=	60-69%
F=	59% or below

Assessment options: Required performances, pass offs, music literacy evaluations, etc. The use of these options and frequency are solely at the director's discretion.

TRIP PROCEDURES & EXPECTED CONDUCT

1. Students are REQUIRED to ride to and away from a performance on school provided transportation. Students may ride home with parents from a performance if a written note (provided by the parent/legal guardian) is received. A student may ONLY ride home with his/her parent/legal guardian.
2. All students are expected to travel in a manner that is reflective of our school district. Absolutely no loud or foul language, smoking (legal or illegal substances), improper actions, etc. will be allowed. Any student failing to adhere to these policies will receive the MAXIMUM discipline policy to be enforced upon arrival back on campus.
3. Talking on the buses is permitted, as long as the volume does not reach a capacity to whether others around them are disturbed.
4. Absolutely no changing seats while a bus is in motion.
5. Students are REQUIRED to be respectful of all adults present on a school sponsored trip.
6. Magnolia choir students understand that they are ambassadors of the *Magnolia School District* and will behave accordingly while on the campuses of other schools.
7. If overnight travel is required, students are expected to be in their rooms prior to curfew. ABSOLUTELY no student of the opposite sex is allowed in the room at any time. Failure to follow this rule will result in the MAXIMUM discipline policy that can be enforced.

UNIFORMS

Every student enrolled in the *Magnolia School District Choral Program* is required to purchase the choir t-shirt at the beginning of the year. This shirt will be worn during casual performances throughout the year (all-region tryouts, all-region clinic/concerts, etc.)

**Concert/Public Performance attire (Fall)—School appropriate, Sunday dress attire. Guys are REQUIRED to wear a tie. Colors—red, white, black, grey or any combination of the four.

**Contest (Spring)—High School—black long formal dresses with black dress shoes (female). Black slacks, white dress shirt, black belt, black socks, black shoes, black vest and tie (male). These uniforms are provided by the school and are to be kept in excellent condition. Failure to return the dress/tie/vest/bag in the condition it was assigned will result in a charge for the full price of the uniform.

**Contest (Spring)—Junior High—Students will purchase a NEW contest t-shirt to wear with—black slacks/skirt (knee length), black socks, black shoes, and black belt.

**Hair is to be neatly kept (males/females), off the face/ neck and pinned back (females). Makeup is to be minimal and natural in color and NO jewelry besides earrings is allowed.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Magnolia Choral Program prides itself on the ability to recognize students for their outstanding achievement in the choral arts throughout the school year. Students can expect to be rewarded in the following manner for their contribution to our choral program this year:

*All-Region/All-State—recognition in the choral program at the fall/spring concert, on-stage recognition, newspaper article, etc. All-state recipients will be awarded a certificate from the *Arkansas Choral Director's Association*, to be presented at the spring concert.

NOTICE: A student is ONLY considered to be a part of the All-Region/All-State Honor Choirs if he/she makes the choir AND participates in the REGION CLINIC/CONCERT.

The following awards will be presented at the end of the year (Choral Banquet for MHS and Incentive Pep Rally for MJHS):

***Senior Service Award**—recognition at the spring concert for participation in the choral program

***Student's Choice Award**—awarded to student/s for their exemplary vocal performance and meeting the ideals of the choral program throughout the school year. Voted by students.

***Director's Choice Award**—awarded to student/s for their exemplary vocal performance and meeting the ideals of the choral program throughout the school year. Voted by directors.

***Most Improved Award**—recognizes student/s for their amount of growth (musically, academically and behaviorally) throughout the school year.

***Choral Excellence Award**—recognizes student/s for their outstanding contributions to the choir and in the academic classroom as well. Must be enrolled/excelling in at least TWO Pre-AP/AP Courses.

***Spirit of Magnolia**—recognizes student/s who exhibit the highest standard of behavior/conduct/ preparation/production conducive to the ideals and principles of a Magnolian.

***Outstanding Male/Female Vocalist**—recognizes student/s for their outstanding contributions to the choral program by having one of the most distinguished voices.

***Freshmen/Senior Leadership Award**—recognizes student/s for their ability to lead the program and other students without being abrasive or offensive. Freshmen and senior students only.

Student progress will be monitored throughout the school year and the most eligible students at the conclusion of the school year will receive these awards. The following parties will have input on whom receives the awards:

*Choral Directors

*School Administrators (Principals/Assistant Principals)

*Regular Classroom Teachers