Cohen Middle School Choir

# Handbook & Syllabus

**2019-2020**

**R. Cornell**

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**(607) 733-5604 x.2437**

CMS Choir (Grades 6 – 8)

This class meets every other day and focuses on proper vocal technique, choral technique, and music reading. Emphasis is given to age-appropriate musicianship/aesthetic response including rehearsal and concert etiquette, and the responsibilities associated with membership in a performing organization. Choral literature of various forms, periods and genres will be studied and performed. Students are responsible for making up information and class work that is missed during absences.

Students joining performing ensembles are to be aware that performances outside of the school day announced as part of the course are required and constitute a part of the student's grade/evaluation.

**2 semesters**

First off, here are the concert dates we have so far. You will be notified of any additional dates as soon as they are set. It is your responsibility to inform me immediately of any conflicts.

**Your attendance at all performances, in their entirety, is mandatory.**

ALL CONCERTS WILL BEGIN AT 7:00 p.m., UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED. SINGERS WILL REPORT TO THEIR DESIGNATED AREA IN CONCERT ATTIRE NO LATER THAN 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 17, 2019 December Concert @ CMS (Alternate: 12/19)

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 District Arts Festival/Spring Concert @ TAE

Thursday, June 16, 2020 Spring Concert @ CMS

## CONCERT ATTIRE

Solid black dress pants (NO SKIRTS, DRESSES, or SHORTS) with solid white dress shirt/blouse **with sleeves**. Any under-garments (cammies, tanks, t-shirts, etc.) must also be solid white, dress shoes, NO FLIP FLOPS. Clothing should be clean and pressed, if needed.

Although our primary concern is with our **sound**, and not our appearance, we should take pride in presenting ourselves in public as both representatives of the school and of our own families. If you do not own what you need and cannot borrow, please see me as soon as possible. Non-adherence to the required concert attire will result in a lowered grade for the concert. Thank you for your cooperation!

### GOALS

1. **To use our talents and abilities along with our knowledge of the principles of music.**
2. **To display excellence in choral sound and interpretation, involving:**

**a.** **energy**: vitality in sound and appearance. “Look alive; sound alive!”

**b.** **freedom**: relaxed singing, no tension

**c.** **beauty**: vowels, tone, sensitivity to the notes and the words.

**d.** **understanding**: smart singers know what they sing & YOU are SMART!!!! ☺

1. **To develop the basic aspects of choral singing:**

**a.** **vocal skills**: breathing, supported singing, tone quality

**b.** **musical knowledge**: follow the music; not just the words, watch the notes and the entire score.

**c.** **musicianship**: dynamics, rubato, phrasing, expression

**d.** **ensemble**: stay with the group, we are a TEAM!!!

**e.** **social skills**: practice your Pillars!! Be the BEST Spartans!! Treat everyone the way you want to be treated.

### GRADING

1. Attendance and participation in class and at concerts. This class is graded almost exclusively on participation. For each class, you earn a grade based on what I see and hear from you. An average grade is 85. If you want a higher grade, make certain I am seeing and hearing above average effort from you. If you are not in the room, you are not participating. This includes being late, and time spent in the bathroom.
2. Preparation: I will be checking your progress occasionally through various methods (solo work, small groups, overall attentiveness and responsiveness within the rehearsal setting, etc). Your cooperation is appreciated.
3. The breakdown for grading is as follows:

* Classwork (materials, participation, attentiveness, effort) 50%
* Major Projects (Performances, Assessments, etc.) 35%
* Other (quizzes, homework, in-class assessments) 15%

1. Missed performances will result in a zero (0) grade, unless the absence is excused AND is followed by a written excuse from the parent/guardian, at which point the make-up will be at the discretion of the teacher.
2. Assignments will be accepted by students who are absent the next class for which they are present without penalty.  Late assignments are 10 points off for each class late.  After 3 class periods assignments will be recorded as a zero (0) grade.
3. The grade for performances is calculated by averaging the cumulative student classwork to date and may be adjusted based on what the teacher sees and hears during the evening.

#### ATTENDANCE

No matter what individual levels of proficiency may exist among us, **EACH** member is important to the sound, interaction, and learning process of the **WHOLE GROUP**. Therefore:

1. **PROMPT** attendance is required at all classes and performances. Being prompt means being in your assigned place at the beginning of the period.
2. Attendance at concerts is **NOT** optional! You must be there for the **entire** concert or your grade will suffer.
3. Missed performances will result in a zero (0) grade, unless the absence is excused AND is followed by a written excuse from the parent/guardian, at which point the make-up will be at the discretion of the teacher.

### REHEARSAL RULES & GUIDELINES

1. No foreign objects in your mouth (gum, candy, lozenges, etc).
2. Use the bathroom before or after class.
3. Each member must have his/her own folder and music at each class and performance.
4. Each member will have at least one pencil in their folder and will use it as instructed.
5. When the director is at the stand or the piano, the choir is either making sounds that have been requested or silent.
6. Each member must come to each class with notes and rhythms of specifically assigned pieces learned.
7. All repertoire studied and performed during the course of this class are chosen for their musical qualities. Students and their participation are NOT biased against or in favor of in regard to race, gender, religious affiliation/beliefs, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, IEP’s, etc.

**DISCIPLINE**

1. Verbal comment/reprimand by the teacher
2. Student moved within the classroom
3. Student sent to the Office or to another teacher’s room

**ONLINE RESOURCES**

<http://www.good-ear.com/>

<http://www.musictheory.net/>

For more information or questions, please contact Mr. Cornell

(607) 733-5604 x.2437

[rcornell@gstboces.org](mailto:rcornell@gstboces.org)

**Return this page with signatures to Mr. Cornell by the end of the week**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the ideas as outlined in the Cohen Middle School Choir Handbook. I understand my responsibilities and am willing to commit myself for the 2019-2020 school year.

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(Student signature)

I/We have read and understand the ideas and expectations as outlined in the Cohen Middle School Choir Handbook. I/We will do our best to encourage \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to honor their commitment to the Choir by following the rules and guidelines and by making sure that they are present at all required rehearsals and performances, and encouraging them to put forth their best effort.

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(Parent/Guardian) (best phone number)

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(Parent/Guardian) (best phone number)

Parents e-mail(s) & cell # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Check here if you desire to have notification to 2 separate households, and provide any/all contact information on the back of this form. Thank you!

rcornell@gstboces.org