September 5, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome Back! I am looking forward to working with you and your child this upcoming school year. This letter contains a great deal of important information about the chorus goals and policies. Please review this letter carefully and **mark all important dates on your calendar**. Additional letters will be sent out throughout the year. To access important information throughout the year, please visit the music department website <http://millcreekmusicdepartment.weebly.com> . Please bookmark this website and refer back to it as needed. You can also reach this page through Mill Creek’s website.

**GOALS**

Middle school music teachers focus on teaching students music appreciation and life-long music skills. Each student will:

* Sing alone and in small and large groups.
* Sing in unison and two and three-part harmony.
* Improvise, compose, read, listen to, and perform different genres of music.
* Associate music with other subjects and relate it to the human experience.
* Learn/perform choreography to music.
* Learn and demonstrate proper vocal mechanics.
* Sing in various languages, genres, and difficulty levels.
* Perform in a winter and spring concert.
* Experience higher self-esteem and confidence in their performance.
* Perform in an adjudicated district choral festival. (Select groups)
* Audition for All-County (Oct 10th @ HHS) and All-State choirs. (optional for advanced students)

**ASSESSMENT & ATTENDANCE**

Assessments will include daily participation, warm-ups, written/oral exams, individual and group singing, rehearsals, and performances. Please note that audio and video recording will be used for assessment and reflection throughout the year. Because chorus is a performing ensemble**, concert attendance is mandatory and will be calculated into the student’s grade**. A make-up assignment will be given to students who fail to attend the performance.

In order to maintain a high level of pride in performing, students must attend all required rehearsals. The chorus is made up of students from many different class periods; therefore, we will have some combined rehearsals during our new Lunch Plus period and possibly after school to prepare for the concerts. Unexcused absences or behavior issues during rehearsal may result in a student being given an alternative concert assignment. Participation in chamber chorus (audition only) and festival chorus will require additional after or before school commitment. All students MUST return a permission slip in order to participate in any after school activities.

Following Calvert County Public School’s grading policy, grades will be determined on the following percentages.

**Process 30% Product 70%**

Examples could include: Examples could include:

Daily Participation Classwork Performances (concerts) Quizzes

Warm-up folder Rehearsal Oral & Written Exams Classwork

\*A **three-prong folder and a pencil** are the only daily required materials for class. When you have been provided a laptop, you must also bring this to class daily.\*

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE/UNIFORM

The following items are **required** for all concerts and public performances unless otherwise noted.

* Blue Music department polo shirt, tucked in (Order form attached, $12)
* **Black** dress pants (Floor length black skirts are acceptable as well)
* **Entirely black** shoes and socks.
* Excessive/distracting jewelry will not be allowed.

**Please speak to me as soon as possible if you need help finding/purchasing the above items**. There are some items available for loan if necessary. Students that are not dressed appropriately will not be permitted to perform. The concert is a chance for us to show our excellence. Looking our best will help us to achieve that. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

CONCERTS & PERFORMANCES

Please mark your calendar.

**Winter Concert**: **Wednesday, December 6, 2017**

**Patuxent High School**

6th grade - Report time - 6:00 pm Performance starts - 6:30 pm

7th & 8th grade – Report time - 7:00 pm Performance starts - 7:30 pm

**\*\*District Festival: Monday, February 26, 2018**

(7th & 8th grade by audition) Patuxent High School

More information will be sent at a later time

**Spring Concert: Wednesday, May 16, 2018**

**Patuxent High School**

6th grade - Report time - 6:00 pm Performance starts - 6:30 pm

7th & 8th grade – Report time - 7:00 pm Performance starts - 7:30 pm

\*\* Students will have to meet certain criteria to participate in festival group.

I hope that I have answered any questions you may have. Don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need clarification. Also remember to visit our website: <http://millcreekmusicdepartment.weebly.com>

Please sign the attached form and return it to me by Friday, September 15.

Thank you,

Lori Brewer

Vocal Music Director

[brewerl@calvernet.k12.md.us](mailto:brewerl@calvernet.k12.md.us)

443-550-9190

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES AND STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Using the three R’s in the music classroom

Being Respectful looks like…

* Saying please and thank you.
* Listening to and looking at the speaker.
* Raising your hand and waiting to be acknowledged to speak.
* Saying positive and encouraging things to each other.
* Staying in your seat during instruction.
* Accepting consequences for misbehavior without argument.

Being Responsible looks like…

* Having your supplies **every day.**
* Being prepared to begin class when the bell rings.
  + Being in your assigned seat.
  + Becoming silent when the bell rings and working on your warm-up.
  + Using the restroom, getting supplies ready before the bell rings.

Being Resilient looks like…

* Participating in class to your best ability and encouraging others to do the same.
* Asking for help when needed.
* Realizing we ALL make mistakes and we can learn from them.

ADDITIONAL EXPECTATIONS

The restroom should be used between classes. You many not use the restroom during the first or last ten minutes of class. Please only ask to go in an emergency. If you need to go, **you must sign out**.

No gum. This is a school-wide rule but critically important in chorus because it is a choking hazard when singing. A water bottle is encouraged.

You are expected to have a music folder in front of you at all times when singing. You should not be completing work for any other class. You are expected to be participating to the best of your ability at all times.

Remain in your seat or spot until the teacher dismisses you. (The bell does not dismiss you.)

\*\* The Student Code of Conduct applies at all times.

# Contract for Chorus 2017-2018

**Please return no later than September 15.**

## Student

I have read and understand the **Mill Creek Middle School Chorus Guidelines**. I will uphold the chorus expectations.

## \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s signature

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s name PRINTED

## Parent/Guardian

I have read and understand the **Mill Creek Middle School Chorus Guidelines.** I will assist my child as he/she upholds the chorus expectations.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Parent/Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name PRINTED

Contact information.

PRIMARY CONTACT: Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Primary contact number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please include parent email only if you agree to receive occasional chorus updates and reminders by email. Please print clearly.

Parent E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**REMIND.COM : (please choose one!)**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Yes, I would like to receive occasional reminders about the concert, trips, or other important information via text message:

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No, I do not want to receive any reminder text messages about concerts, trips, or anything else.