



Spartanburg School District 7 McCracken Middle School Choral Handbook 2018-19

Choir at McCracken is a fine arts program. Choir begins in the 6th grade and builds in skill level through the 8th grade. Choir is taught as a yearlong class, but is registered by the semester. It is encouraged to take both semesters each year if your schedule permits. In choir, you will learn how to read music, learn proper choral techniques, as well as ensemble techniques. As part of the choir you will perform in 3-4 concerts a year (determined by grade) as well as school assemblies.

Choir Rules

1. Place book bag in the back of the room.
2. Be in your seat at the bell with your **charged computer**.
3. Work like a **valued member** of the team at **all times**.
4. No gum allowed in the room.

Required Materials

1. District Provided MacBook - *MacBook must come to class charged every day as it will be used for instruction.*
2. MS365 Email - *checked daily for notes from instructor.*
3. MS365 OneNote - *this will be used as our class notebook.*
4. Schoology - *Used for assessment and organization.*
5. Ear buds
6. Choir t-shirt (purchased from your director)
7. Black dress pants & black dress shoes

Grade – Each student must work to EARN their grade in choir.

- 30% Performances (*There is a concert each quarter*)
- 30% Weekly rehearsal Grades (*daily grades are given for how each student rehearses*)
 - Daily Grade Breakdown:
 - 20% Hand Signs: *Using solfege hand signs and patsching rhythms*
 - 30% Posture: *Bottom, Back, and MacBook*
 - 50% Value: *Is your work adding to the success of the choir?*
- 20% Formal Assessment (*theory quizzes, prepared small group performances, etc.*)
- 10% Informal Assessments (*quick, on the spot assessment*)

MacBook Policy

Your MacBook is a required material for our class as we will use it daily for instruction.

If your MacBook is being repaired:

1. A MacBook 411 will be reported to Media Center and student name will be on a repair list to alert teachers that student's MacBook is being repaired.
2. Student must tell Mrs. Simonson or Mrs. Pace that they do not have their MacBook.
3. Students will be allowed to use a music binder until Mac is repaired.
4. Students will be able to complete class assignments on classroom desktops.

If your MacBook was taken for misuse, it is not charged or you forgot it at home:

1. Student must tell Mrs. Simonson or Mrs. Pace that they do not have their MacBook.
3. Students will be allowed to use a music binder if there are any available.
(students with repairs have priority)
4. Students must make up all assessments and assignments on their own time.

Concert Policy

Chorus is a performance based class and participation in the scheduled concert is a must. This class is a team and careful attention to balance of parts and voices is made within the group. Not attending a performance will change the quality and balance of a singing group. **YOU ARE IMPORTANT!!** ☺

You must make every effort to be at a concert and all related rehearsals. If your parent or guardian is not available, talk to aunts, uncles, friends, grandparents.

Talk with your parents now about these performance dates. I am a firm believer that most conflicts can be worked out if we start the conversation with plenty of time. **Please contact your director as soon as you notice a potential conflict.**

Any reason for concert absence that could have been avoided with proper planning WILL NOT be considered an excused absence (like not having a ride).

In the event of concert conflicts concerning other school activities, it is expected that you notify your director and coach/sponsor/teacher of the conflict as soon as possible, but at least two weeks before the event. Your directors and coaches/sponsors/teachers need an opportunity to work on a compromise before an excuse will be granted. In the case of an excused absence due to another school activity, the student must complete a make-up assignment to receive a concert grade. *Remember that concerts are 30% of your grade so make-up assignments will reflect the importance of the event.*

Concert Make-Ups

1. Concert Make-Ups are only given to students that had an excused absence approved by your director.
2. In the event of an approved absence you can make up the grade by attending another District 7 choir concert. You must speak to the director about this in advance.
3. You MUST complete the make-up assignment to receive credit for an approved, missed concert.

Performance Expectations

1. Arrive at the assigned call time.
2. Arrive in proper attire (Green choir t-shirt **tucked into** black slacks and black dress shoes)
3. If you are late, please wait until the end of a song before joining the group on stage.

Uniforms

Uniform consists of the McCracken Choir T-shirt, black slacks and black dress shoes.

Students will purchase a choir t-shirt from their director. Students must provide their own black slacks and dress shoes.

Southern Accents

Any 7th or 8th grade choral student is eligible to audition for MMS's pop group "The Southern Accents". Southern Accents rehearse once a week and will have the opportunity to perform in the community, at assemblies, and at concerts.

Musical

The MMS musical will be performed on May 16-17.

The musical will be a second semester class offered 7th period. You do not need to register for the class, you will be moved into the class if you make the cast.

McCracken Middle School Choirs

McCracken 6th Grade Choir

McCracken Singers (7th Grade Choir)

McCracken Chorale (8th Grade Choir)

Southern Accents (Show Choir, Audition Only)

McCracken Middle School Choir Directors

Mrs. Kayla Simonson M.M.Med.

McCracken Middle School, Director of Choirs and the Southern Accents

KHSimonson@spart7.org

Ms. Leigha Pace M.ed, MM Vocal Performance

McCracken Middle School, Director of the McCracken Chorale

EP Todd School, Director of Choirs

LMPace@spart7.org

McCracken Choir Program

Behavioral Contract

Please sign and return ONE copy and retain the other copy for your records. These are the dates as they stand at the beginning of the year. As additional events are added, I will update the calendar.

Class Participation Includes:

1. Being in your seat when the bell rings;
2. Sitting up or standing with good posture;
3. Using proper vowel shapings on warm-ups;
4. Using hand signs while sight reading;
5. Sitting quietly during rehearsals while other sections are learning music.

Class Participation Does Not Include:

1. Chewing gum or eating candy during a rehearsal;
2. Talking with your neighbor or across the room during rehearsal;
3. Choosing to slouch and not sing because you don't feel like it;
4. Walking around the room/throwing away trash during a rehearsal;
5. Working on homework for another class during our rehearsals.

Automatic Referrals:

1. Fighting;
2. The use of profane language;
3. Profane hand gestures and general disrespect to the director or other students.

Field Trips/Performances:

1. *Suspension from school will result in a student not being allowed to attend any overnight field trips or the first day trip following suspension.*
2. If a student has been written up more than once by the director in a six week period for a less serious offense, that student may not attend any field trips or performances that semester;

I agree to abide by the above mentioned rules and procedures and understand the consequences should I choose to participate differently.

*****Keep this copy*****

2018-19 McCracken Choirs Semester 1 Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Time
September 6, 2018	Southern Accents Auditions	MMS Choir Room	3:10-5:00
October 1, 2018	Fruit Sale #1 Begins		Sale: Oct 1 - Nov 5
October 11-12, 2018	Musical Auditions	MMS Theater	3:15 - 5:30 pm
November 12, 2018	Veterans Day Assembly	MMS Gymnasium	9:00 am
November 14, 2018	Fruit #1 Delivery	SHS JROTC Door	3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
November 30, 2018	Madrigal Feast (8 th Grade Choir)	MMS Commons	Call Time: 5:45 pm Performance: 6:30 pm
December 4, 2018	7/8th Grade Choir Concert	MMS Theater	Call Time 6:00 pm Concert 6:30 pm
December 5, 2018	Fruit #2 Delivery	SHS JROTC Door	3:30 - 5:00 pm
December 6, 2018	6th Grade Choir Concert	MMS Theater	Call Time 6:00 pm Concert 6:30 pm
December 11, 2018	Southern Accents Spring Auditions	MMS Choir Room	3:10-5:00

2018-19 McCracken Choirs Semester 2 Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Time
February 19, 2019	6 th Grade Combined Rehearsal & Field Trip	MMS Choir Room & Mr. Gatti's	9:00am-2:30pm
February 26, 2019	D7 Choral Extravaganza Concert	Twichell Auditorium	Call Time 6:00 pm Concert 7:00 pm
March 23, 2019	Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser	Morningside Baptist Church	9-11am
April 11, 2019	Concert Performance Assessment (7 th & 8 th Grades)	Greenville	TBA
April 19, 2019	D7 Pop Show (Southern Accents)	SHS	TBA
April 29, 2019	8 th Grade Concert	MMS Theater	Call Time: 5:50 pm Performance: 6:30 pm
May 6, 2019	6/7th Grade Choir Concert	MMS Theater	Call Time 5:50 pm Concert 6:30 pm
May 16/17, 2019	MMS Musical	MMS Theater	Call Time 5:00 pm Show Time 6:00 pm

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Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Email