

Mapleton Middle School Choir Handbook

2017 - 2018



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Now find us on Facebook: Mapleton Music Boosters

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Program Objectives

Service - To lend spirit, color, and atmosphere to school and community events while promoting and enhancing the reputation and traditions of Mapleton High School and the surrounding community at all times.

Cultural - To foster the development of music appreciation and understanding of the musical traditions of various cultures through the study and performance of high quality musical literature.

Educational - To develop interested and discriminating musical audiences, provide a well-rounded musical education, and prepare members for musical activities beyond high school.

Citizenship - To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of the group, to enhance the member's ability to interact with others in a positive manner, and to develop the ability to function as a responsible member and leader of the school and community.

Recreational - To provide all members with the opportunity for worthy use of leisure time, an emotional outlet, and positive social experiences.

AND MOST OF ALL, TO HAVE FUN MAKING MUSIC TOGETHER!!!

Choral Member Responsibilities

- 1.) Be on time for all rehearsals and performances. At least ten minutes early is "on-time." Always remember: To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late. To be late is to be left!
- 2.) Always bring all materials to rehearsals and performances, including the right attitude and a pencil.
- 3.) Make a REAL effort to improve and learn each day.
- 4.) Maintain a satisfactory Grade Point Average and School Discipline Record.
- 5.) Be responsible for and assume the consequences of your behavior.
- 6.) Show respect for all adults, fellow students, equipment, and YOURSELF!
- 7.) Follow all instructions from the director, instructors, chaperones, and all reasonable requests from the Student Leadership Team.

Course Descriptions

7/8 Grade Concert Choir

The Concert Choir is the primary performing group of the middle school choral program. This is a yearlong course that meets during the school day. The group performs various concerts throughout the winter and spring; additionally, the Concert Choir students will participate in community performances, school assemblies, and potentially community performances.. Grading will be based upon attendance, participation, musicianship, written assessments, and singing assessments.

Middle School OMEA Solo & Ensemble

During the third 9 week grading period, students have the opportunity to create chamber ensembles and/or prepare solo literature. Band and Choir members are encouraged to perform a solo or an ensemble at this event. **This date is April 7, 2018. Students need to commit to this event by November 17, 2017 with registration fee paid in full. Ms. Swineford will get music to you before Winter Break. It will be the musician's responsibility to practice on their own and learn their music. Ms. Swineford can help you, but will not teach it to you from square one. Last known cost for solos is \$15, and ensembles are \$19. Anyone who wishes to register after November 17 will have to wait until the next Solo and Ensemble Event to Perform. This event is for 7th and 8th grade students only. Solo and ensemble is not available to 6th grade students.**

School-Owned Equipment

Each student who uses a school-owned instrument is completely responsible for the care of the instrument. If an instrument is damaged due to negligence, the student will be responsible for the entire cost of repair or replacement. Each student that uses a school-owned instrument will be required to sign an agreement form at the beginning of the season and photos of the instrument will be taken before use. Malicious damage to any instrument will be addressed under appropriate Mapleton High School and Mapleton Local School District Policies, and students will be required to pay for repair of damages.

Students will receive a Choral Music folder at the beginning of the school year. These are to be kept in the Choral Folder cabinet in the high school music room. Folders can be signed out and signed back in when students want to practice at home. No student should be at a performance without music. If a Choral music folder is lost, an appropriate fine will be charged to replace any missing parts, which may include warm-up books and/or music

Special Choir Trips

Each year, the music department plans a trip for students, usually based on performance. In past years we have done the Indians Game and Lake Erie Hockey Match. Plans for this year are under way, and are not yet settled. More information will be distributed via the Music Dept. website. Stay tuned.

Participation in these events is voluntary, providing the stipulations at the top of this page are fulfilled

Rehearsal Expectations

- During the school day, you must be in the Choir room when the bell rings; a downbeat will be given three minutes after the bell. During the three minutes you should obtain music and a pencil, and warm ups will begin the day's rehearsal. Choral members will stand during class unless otherwise instructed.

- Failure to comply will result in a warning for first two offenses, lunch detention for third offense, and phone calls home with after school detentions for further offenses.

- Talking will not be tolerated during rehearsal. It is unfair to disturb the musical experience of others around you! The Mapleton MS Handbook will be followed in regards to class disturbance and insubordination.

- The purpose of rehearsal is for you to learn **the parts of others and how they relate to yours, not to learn your individual music!** Practice your individual parts at home.

- If you must leave your seat or spot for any reason, please ask. See Hall Pass Guidelines in handbooks for restroom use during class.

- Be reasonable in your individual warm up; this is NOT the time to see how high, loud, or fast you can sing. Instead, it is important to do each of the following on a daily basis to build good vocal health.

- Each student should have the following items in class every day:

- a sharpened pencil
 - your instrument (your voice! Take care of it!)
 - your music and folder
 - a pencil
 - *a good attitude :)

From time to time during the school year, there will be unannounced materials checks. If you have all the items listed above, you will receive a grade of "A." Your grade will be lowered one letter for each item you are missing. The easiest way to make sure

Private Lessons

All Mapleton High School Choral members are strongly encouraged to take private lessons. Private lessons are the very best way for students to reach their fullest potential as instrumentalists by receiving extra help on vocal literature, preparing for honors choir auditions, and by learning solo repertoire for studio recital performances. A list of area private instructors ranging from college students to orchestra performers is available from the choral director.

Cell Phones

Cell phones are not permitted during rehearsals, activities, athletic events, and competitions. Students are permitted to carry and use cell phones on buses during any band trips, and to use cell phones to contact parents for pick-up at the conclusion of any band activity. Any cell phone that is seen or heard during a band activity will be confiscated by the band director and the Mapleton Student handbook guidelines will be followed.

Uniforms

The 7/8 Grade School Choir will perform in their Concert Black and White. Black bottoms are required, as well as a dressy/formal white top. For the ladies, follow school dress code regarding sleeves, and bottoms may consist of a black skirt, black pants, black stockings, black dress shoes. All skirts or dresses must adhere to the Mapleton High School dress code, and black leggings/stockings must be worn in accompaniment to the dress/skirt. Gentlemen should wear black dress pants, a white dress shirt, a black tie (optional), black socks, and black dress shoes for all choral performances, unless otherwise notified by the director. Absolutely no flip-flops, sleeveless shirts, or tennis shoes will be allowed from ladies or gentlemen. Any violation of a uniform policy will result in a failing grade for the performance, and the student will NOT be permitted to perform. **If you have any questions regarding uniform expectations, please contact Ms. Swineford at least 3 weeks in advance of any performance.**

For Honor Choir auditions, Solo and Ensemble, and other individual events, students should wear a nice outfit. Please do not wear jeans or flip-flops to ANY event, unless otherwise announced by Ms. Swineford. We are representing our school!

Auditions

Auditions will be held at during the first week of school to determine vocal placement within the choir. Criteria for vocal placement include technical proficiency, balance needs, student interest/enthusiasm, and attitude. The director reserves the right to assign students with higher audition scores or placements to play a lower part in order to achieve a more balanced sound or instrumentation.

Late Work Policies

The late work policies below have been decided upon by Mapleton Middle School Staff Members.

6th Grade: 3 weeks to be turned in at 10% off.

7th Grade: 2 weeks to turn in at 30% off.

8th Grade: 1 week to turn in at 50% off.

Rehearsal and Performance Attendance Policies

The choir director and other instructors understand that students' time is valuable, and we take pride in the fact that we use time wisely and begin/end rehearsals as promptly as possible. Students and parents are asked to give the band program the same consideration and cooperation, as all students have individual responsibilities to perfect their own performance and group responsibilities to be present so that they may help out other members of our "team." Please remember, however, that the staff will strive to dismiss students at the ending time but that students (ESPECIALLY Student Leadership Team members) are still responsible for cleaning their areas and returning equipment to its proper place.

Please schedule appointments, etc, on days other than rehearsal and performance days. Students with jobs should realize that work is NOT an excused absence and should present their employers with the band schedule as soon as possible. Any conflicts should be discussed with the choir director as early as possible.

If an absence would be considered excused by Mapleton Local School District, it will be excused by the choir. In case of an emergency or if a student is absent from school, an excused absence requires parents to contact Ms. Swineford directly through email at mapl_rswineford@tccsa.net or phone call to her office at 419-945-8153. **Excused absences that are NOT an emergency must be communicated with Ms. Swineford at least 4 weeks prior to the concert through parent communication via phone call and written note or email. Students who have an excused absence are required to complete a make up assignment and hand in within a week after the performance. After 3 weeks, if a student has not turned in their make up assignment, the work will not be accepted and will be graded as a zero for the performance grade.**

Unexcused absences will result in grade reduction and/or possible loss of leadership positions or spots in the choral productions. Absences are unexcused if the student misses a performance and does not contact the director.

Communication is absolutely vital to the choir program. Ms. Swineford's email and voicemail are running 24/7. Please cover all bases, and if need be, leave a voicemail and an email.

We strongly encourage our choir members to be involved in as many extra-curricular activities as they would like and are generally willing to compromise should activities be scheduled at the same time. Ms. Swineford will ALWAYS be willing to work out a compromise with a band activity and another Mapleton High School activity – but YOU MUST communicate **well** in advance with Ms. Swineford and your other coaches/sponsors!

2017-2018 7/8 Choir Schedule

<i>DATES:</i>	<i>EVENT:</i>	<i>LOCATION and TIME:</i>
September 25, 2017	Start Zap-A-Snack Fundraiser	
October 2, 2017	Spaghetti Dinner Donation Papers Distributed	
October 9, 2017	End Zap-A-Snack Fundraiser	
October 9, 2017	Spaghetti Dinner Donations/Papers Due	
October 23, 2017	Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser	MHS Commons 5:30-7:30 PM
October 27, 2017	Canvas and Cupcakes Forms Due	Call Time 5:30 PM
November 4, 2017	Canvas and Cupcakes	MHS Commons @ TBDPM
November 8, 2017	Zap-A-Snack Delivery	MHS Commons at end of school
December 11, 2017	6-12 2017 Band and Choir Holiday Concert	MHS Gymnasium @ 7:00PM, Call Time 6:00PM
February 26, 2018	Krispy Kreme Fundraiser Begins	
March 12, 2018	March Arts 6-8 Band and Choir Concert	MHS Commons @ 7:00PM, Call Time 6:15PM
March 6, 2018	Krispy Kreme Fundraiser Ends	
March 19, 2018	Krispy Kreme Delivery/Pick up	MHS Commons 2:30-3:45 PM
April 7, 2018	OMEA Junior High Solo&Ensemble	Northmor Jr/Sr High, Times TBD
May 7, 2018	MS Band and Choir Spring Concert	MHS Commons @ 6:00 PM, Call Time 5:30 PM

Mapleton Music Boosters

The purpose of the Mapleton High School Music Boosters is to provide support to the Mapleton High Local Schools Music Programs. As a family member of a MMS Music Student, you are automatically a Music Booster. The Boosters support shall consist of providing operational funds, volunteer services, and organizational coordination as requested by the Choir Director to the fullest extent possible. Parents should feel free to contact the Booster Club Officers with any questions. This group meets the fourth Monday of every month at MHS, and we look forward to seeing YOU at the next meeting! Being involved with the Boosters is the very best way to support your child's musical education.

STAY UP-TO-DATE ON ALL THINGS MOUNTIE MUSIC!

We know how difficult it is to keep all of your student's extracurricular activities straight! The Mapleton Music Boosters has several ways to help you keep track of band, choir, and Sweetheart events, concerts, fundraisers, deadlines, etc. for grades k-12.

Website

Check out our website at www.mapletonmusicboosters.weebly.com. Details of upcoming events and our calendar are updated frequently throughout the year.

Email

Sign up to get our email updates. There is a form to sign up on our website, or just email us at mapletonmusic@gmail.com. We'll email you when there is important news.

Facebook

We now have a Facebook Group! You can request to join here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1940660599485821/>. We will try to put as much information out here for our students and parents as we can...and you can share posts with grandparents and other family members!

And we are always excited to see new faces at our meetings, held at 7 PM on the 4th Monday of each month. Upcoming meetings include July 24 and August 28.

As a group of parent volunteers, we know how busy everyone's schedules are, and we want to make it as easy as we can to keep up-to-date. If you ever have any questions, or can't find an answer on our website for Facebook, please feel free to contact your student's music director or the Boosters (mapletonmusic@gmail.com).

Looking forward to another great year of Mountie Music!!

2017-2018 MAPLETON MUSIC BOOSTERS

PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Music Boosters need your help! Please complete the areas below where you would be willing to assist at our events/fundraisers and then return to Ms. Swineford, Mrs. Sillman, or any Music Booster Officer.

_____ I will help sell popcorn & donuts at teh home football games (evening)

_____ I will help with the Sap-A-Snack Fundraiser. (afternoon)

_____ I will pop popcorn at the girls and boys hme basketball games (late afternoon/evening)

_____ I would be willing to pop popcorn at the Mapleton XC Invite night or Mapeton High School/Middle School/5-6th grade track events (after school)

_____ I will help at the Volleyball cconcession stand (late afternoon/evening)

_____ I will help with the 3rd quarter table at teh home football games or provide food (evening)

_____ I will help at the Annual Spaghetti Supper With a Beat (evening)

_____ I will help with the winter concert reception (evening)

_____ I will sell raffle tickets for Raffle for Rhythm (evening)

_____ I will help with the Krispy Kreme Fundraiser (afternoon)

_____ I will help with the High School awards banquet (evening)

_____ I will help with the Cupcakes and Canvas fundraiser (Saturday afternoon)

Please contact me at:

Name _____ Cell Phone: _____ Text Yes or No

Student Name _____ Home Phone: _____

E-Mail address _____ Best time to contact me _____

If you have any questions or need to contact us, we can be reached at:
mapletonmusic@gmail.com or go to our website:
www.mapletonmusicboosters.weebly.com for more information.

2018 OHIO MUSIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

This letter serves two purposes: to inform you of Solo & Ensemble contest and as a commitment contract. For those of you who are not interested in contest, there is no need to return the commitment contract. Every year, OMEA holds a contest where students have the opportunity to prepare a solo for their instrument, play with an ensemble, or both! It is a great learning opportunity for students as they continue their high school music participation. Just as it makes the student a stronger player, it increases the strength of the ensemble as well.

The contest will be held at Northmor Jr./Sr. High School in Galion, Ohio on April 7, 2018. Times are to be determined, and will not be distributed until approximately one week before the contest date. Not everyone will play at the same time, as I, the director and accompanist, will need to be in the room at the time of the performance. As soon as I am aware of performance times, you will be informed. You will also be informed of more details as the contest date nears.

The contract below must be signed and returned with payment of fees to Ms. Swineford by Friday, November 17, 2017. Those of you who are interested will receive your music before Winter Break (and I suggest that you begin practicing during that time to give your very best performance on the contest date!). If you chose to take a solo to contest, you must rehearse with Ms. Swineford a minimum of 3 times before contest. If you chose to take an ensemble, you must rehearse together with Ms. Swineford a minimum of 4 times before the contest (and more outside of that!). These requirements are important so that you are used to playing with the accompaniment or your other ensemble members.

There is a lot of interest in Solo and Ensemble contest this year. The Ohio Music Education Association charges a fee of \$15 for solos and \$19 for ensembles. These fees are due by November 17th, as previously stated. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Ms. Swineford at mapl_rswineford@tccsa.net or call her office at 419-945-8153. I will return your call as soon as possible.

2018 Solo and Ensemble Contest

I, _____, want to take a solo/ensemble (circle one) to Contest.

Solo Instrument: _____ Ensemble Type: _____

Other Members of the Ensemble:

Student Signature: _____
_____ 7\7\7\4

Fee Amount being Paid:

Parent Signature: _____

Student/Parent Handbook Contract

Please Sign and return to Ms. Swineford by August 25, 2017

Rules and Procedures

I have read, understand, and will comply with all rules and procedures in the 2017-2018 Mapleton Middle School Choir Handbook. I will be at every choir function unless I have a Mapleton Local Schools excused absence and advance documentation from my parents or else my choir grade will be lowered. I believe that we are all responsible for making rehearsals run smoothly by preparing parts in advance and remaining focused in on the task at hand. I am willing to do my part!

Letter of Mutual Consent

I, the undersigned student, accept membership in the Mapleton Middle School Choir and understand that I am responsible for knowing and following all the policies as set forth in the Choir Handbook. I fully agree to carry out my responsibilities to the very best of my ability. Above all, I agree to keep a positive attitude and have FUN making MUSIC!

(Student Signature)

(Date)

I, the undersigned parent or guardian, have read and understand the policies as set forth in the Choir Handbook. I also grant full permission for my child to be an active member of the Mapleton Middle School Choir.

(Parent Signature)

(Date)

Student Cell Phone and Email _____

Parent Cell Phone and Email _____