



martin middle school chorus  
**Handbook**



2017 - 2018

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# MARTIN MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS HANDBOOK

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*!!! WELCOME !!!*

You are now a part of an amazing group of musicians, students and friends!

You are now a part of a rich musical heritage and a bright new beginning!

You are now a part of the

**Martin Middle School Choral Department!!!**



## **INTRODUCTION**



The Martin Middle School Choral Department (MMSCD) is committed to excellence in music, academics and service. Through daily classes that are both rigorous and fun, students gain in-depth knowledge of musical skills and concepts. Students will learn the value of teamwork, creative thinking and giving it your all!

Consisting of four different ensembles, Choral Ensemble, Men's Ensemble, Women's Ensemble and Honors Chorus, the Martin Middle School Choral Department provides opportunities for singers to share and develop their gifts and talents.



## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Martin Middle School Choral Department is to prepare young musicians to become lifelong music makers. To this end, students will rehearse and perform quality choral literature that will provide meaningful musical experiences and teach important musical concepts. Also, the MMSCD will provide concerts that will both entertain and educate. Music for these concerts will range from the Renaissance to the music of today.

Instructional curriculum is designed to develop age appropriate and healthy vocal production as well as sight-reading skills, knowledge of music theory and performance and rehearsal etiquette.

Chorus classes here at Martin offer opportunities for all students to grow into talented musicians and gifted performers in a safe, positive and encouraging environment.

## **ABOUT THE DIRECTOR**

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### **Mr. Danny L. Yancey**

Mr. Yancey is originally from Oxford, NC. He is a summa cum laude graduate of North Carolina Central University where he received a B.A. degree in Music Education in 2003. While a student at NCCU he studied choral conducting with Mr. Frank Williams, voice with Ms. Anita Daniels and piano with Dr. Paula Harrell. Mr. Yancey also holds a Master of Music (M.M.) degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a concentration in choral literature and conducting. This is Mr. Yancey's tenth year as an educator. Before coming to Martin, Mr. Yancey taught for nine and a half years in Durham, NC. He is a composer and serves as choral director each summer for the Durham Arts Council. He is married and has four beautiful children, Christopher Jordan, Olivia Danielle, Cameron Zachary and Weston Clay-Xavier. Mr. Yancey says that his biggest influence in becoming a music teacher is his high school chorus teacher, Mrs. Cindy Clark.

#### **Contact Mr. Yancey**

- Via email: [dyancy@wcpss.net](mailto:dyancy@wcpss.net)
- Via text message: 919-308-2538
- Via phone: 919-881-4970 ext. 27425



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## CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- I. **All students are to show respect.**
  - a. Respect yourself
  - b. Respect each other
  - c. Respect your director
  - d. Respect the music
- II. **All students are to equally contribute to our success**
  - a. Do your best at all times
  - b. Ask for help when needed
  - c. Complaints and excuses do not belong in the chorus room
  - d. You are a musician – Be a musician at all times
- III. **All students must seek to make a positive impact on our chorus, our school and our world on a daily basis.**
  - a. Find ways to make others smile daily
  - b. Encourage the creative efforts of others
  - c. Always leave the chorus room in better shape than you found it
  - d. Negativity has no place in anyone’s life and certainly not in the chorus room

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## ROOM POLICIES



### Tardies:

Class begins at the late bell. You are expected to be on time to every class. Being on time means being seated, having all your materials (music folder, paper, pencil) ready at the beginning of class. If you are tardy, you must have a pass from either the teacher who detained you or the attendance office. If you are late, you must sign the “Tardy Sheet.” Being tardy automatically lowers your grade to a “C” for that day unless an acceptable pass is provided.

### Restroom Passes

Instructional time is very valuable! When you are not in class, you are missing crucial rehearsal moments that cannot be duplicated. Therefore, time out of the classroom should be kept to a minimum. However, emergencies do happen. For this reason, when you have to go grab the bathroom pass from the stand and go. Please be responsible with your bathroom privilege. Students who are out of class excessively for bathroom issues will have points taken off of their daily grade. Also, remember that you are responsible for any work or music missed while out of the room.

## **Chorus Room Equipment**

Students should not use any equipment in the chorus room without the permission of Mr. Yancey. This includes pianos, computers, TV's, Mr. Yancey's personal belongings, etc. Failure to get permission before touching equipment will result in a lunch detention.

## **Gum, Candy, Food, & Non-Water Beverages**

All gum, candy, and non-water beverages are to be placed in the trash can immediately upon entering the chorus room. Water bottles are permitted, encouraged and are one of the required materials for chorus. Students may enjoy a healthy snack during the first 10 minutes of class

## **Cell Phones, iPods, & Other Electronic Devices**

Personal electronic devices are great learning tools and can be quite helpful in learning music. But they can also be distracting, thus devices are not permitted without permission from Mr. Yancey. These items will be confiscated for the remainder of the school day if they are being used without permission. If a parent needs to reach you or you them, please have them contact the school's front office.

## **Storage Room, Practice Room & Office**

These rooms are not to be used without permission.



**PROCEDURES**

### **When you enter the class...**

- Go immediately to your assigned seat with your chorus folder and a pencil.
- Look at the board and get started on the Beginning Of Class Assignment (BOCA)
- Once the BOCA is complete, place your work in the bin on the desk
- Begin putting your music in the rehearsal order written on the board

### **If you are tardy...**

- Bring your pass to Mr. Yancey
- If you do not have a pass sign the Tardy Sheet
- Get started on the BOCA
- If you do not complete the BOCA within the allotted time, then it is to be completed for homework to be turned in the next day.

### **If you are absent...**

- Check the chorus website for the assignment that you missed. Complete it at home and bring it in when you return to school or, at the latest, by the second day that you return to school.

- If you know ahead of time that you will be absent, ask a friend to record your part of the music that we are covering.
- Being absent is not an excuse to fall behind

### **When warm-ups begin...**

- All work is to be put away – whatever is not completed becomes homework to be turned in the next day.
- Music should be placed in the rehearsal order posted on the board.
- You should be fully engaged in warming up and nothing else.

### **When we stop singing...**

- STOP!
- Hear the issue being addressed and how to fix it.
- Make note of it in your music with a ***pencil*** (pens are not to be used at all in chorus)
- Hold all questions, comments and ideas until the issue has been fixed (so that the rehearsal flow is not interrupted).

### **At the end of class**

- When the bell rings, stay seated until you have been dismissed by Mr. Yancey
- Getting up without being dismissed will result in lunch detention

### **What if I need to get tissue or go to the trash can or something like that?**

- Plan ahead! – Try to take care of these issues before class begins
- If you must get up and move around during rehearsal please do so quietly (Distractions greatly hinder the rehearsal process. We will keep all distractions to a minimum.). Distracting the rehearsal process will take points off of your daily grade.

## **REHEARSALS & CONCERTS**



By its very nature, chorus is a performance based class. Every day spent in rehearsal, every musical concept that is learned all serves to assist in presenting the best concerts possible. As a result, attendance and participation in all chorus concerts are REQUIRED unless otherwise stated by Mr. Yancey.

It takes all of us to make up the Martin Middle School Choral Department. Whenever we perform, we always want to look and sound like the Martin Middle School Choral Department.

When students are missing, we do not look the same, nor do we sound the same, thus the quality of our performance is diminished. Therefore, if there is an emergency and a concert must be missed, Mr. Yancey must be notified in writing at least two-weeks before the missed performance (not the day of or the day after). Failure to do so will impact the student's grade. Even with written notification, a student who misses a required performance will be given an alternate assignment that must be completed before the end of the academic quarter.

You will be notified about required concerts at least 2 months in advance of the performance date. Any concert that is added with less than a 2 month notification will not be required. Please see the calendar of events for all dates that are scheduled so far.

For some of our major concerts that require two or more ensembles to perform together, there may be an after-school rehearsal scheduled. Again, you will be given notification at least 2 months in advance. These rehearsals will be crucial to the success of the performance and so if they must be missed please let Mr. Yancey know in writing at least two days in advance.



## GRADING

Chorus is a graded class. This grade will be based on much more than simply showing up and being a warm body in the room. There will be tests (written tests and singing tests), quizzes, projects, and homework. This is how your chorus grade will be broken down:

### Major Summatives 50%

- Concerts
- Tests
- Projects

### Minor Summatives 40%

- BOCA
- Quizzes
- Classwork & Class Preparedness
- Concert Preparedness

### Homework 10%

*Things that can lower your grade:*

- Missed Concerts
- Excessive Absences
- Not knowing your music
- Being unprepared for class
- Failure to turn in assignments

## REQUIRED MATERIALS



Listed below are the things that you will need to bring with you to class everyday. Please be sure that you have these things no later than the second week of classes.

- **2-pocket folder:** This will be used to hold loose-leaf papers, music glossary, rhythm charts, sight-singing examples, etc.
- **2 sharpened pencils** Pencils should be used on all chorus assignments unless otherwise specified.



**Recommended Materials (not required but helpful):**

- **Small recording device:** These may be used to record vocal parts for at-home practice.
- **Copies of concert music:** All of the music that we perform can be purchased from most music stores either online or in person. Most are no more than \$2. For at-home practice students can purchase their own copies of concert selections (students may not bring their chorus folders or copies of school-purchased music home).

**SPECIAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES****NC Middle School Honors Chorus**

Every year, the Middle School Honors Chorus is held in November, performing at the North Carolina Music Educator's In-Service Conference. This chorus provides an opportunity for the very best singers from across the state (grade 6, 7 and 8) to come together and work with a nationally acclaimed choral conductor.

**All State Chorus**

The NC All-State Chorus is a group of singers chosen by middle school choral directors from across the state. The concert usually takes place in April at the Greensboro Coliseum. More information will be given in January.

**Choral MPAs**

This performance provides opportunities for our chorus to perform in front of a group of regionally known choral directors and receive a rating. This performance will take place in March. More information will be coming soon.



