

# OCMS CHORUS

2023 - 2024 OCMS Chorus Syllabus  
Dr. Kristen Donaldson, Chorus Director

**WELCOME New 6th Graders and Returning 7th and 8th Graders!**

**Contact Information: E - Mail - [kdonaldson@oconeeschools.org](mailto:kdonaldson@oconeeschools.org)**  
**Office Hours: 10:00 - 11:00am M-F Phone: (706) 769 - 3575 ext. 1708**  
**Chorus Website: [www.ocmschorus.com](http://www.ocmschorus.com)**  
**Twitter: @OCMSChorus Facebook: @OCMSChorus**

*The mission of Oconee County Middle School is to provide a safe, challenging, and positive learning environment that inspires and educates all students to become responsible citizens.*

## **Course Description:**

The Chorus Classes at OCMS consist of 6th Grade Beginning Choir (Treble), 7th Grade Intermediate Choir (Treble or Mixed), and 8th Grade Advanced Choir (Mixed). Students in these choirs will sing music consisting of Unison, 2-Part, 3-Part and 4-Part arrangements, depending on ability level. These classes meet in the OCMS Chorus Room for 50 minutes per day.

## **Supply List:**

1. One 3 Ring Binder OR 3 Prong Folder
2. One Package of Notebook paper (college or wide-ruled)
3. One package of Mechanical Pencils
4. One Yellow or Pink Highlighter
5. One Pair of Headphones (with microphone)
6. Refillable water bottle (for daily use)
7. One small box of kleenex

## **Prerequisite:**

General Music course in elementary school or previous music experience.

## **Course Objectives/Goals:**

OCMS Chorus is a positive learning environment where students learn the essentials of music through singing. This course is based on the current [Georgia Standards of Excellence \(GSE\)](#) and [National Core Arts Standards](#). Chorus will include, but not be limited to: fundamentals in sight singing, music theory, music history, and the rehearsal and performance of repertoire appropriate for middle school choirs. Repertoire will include music from the Renaissance through Modern-day and will include music from the United States and countries around the world. Students will rehearse within the ensemble and have opportunities for solo and group performance.

## **Performance Rule: Performances are mandatory and are the summative exam grades for the course.**

In the event that a student conflict falls on a performance date, parents must contact Dr. Donaldson in writing to request permission for their child to be excused from the performance. Appropriate reasons for missing a concert include: wedding/funeral, student illness, or OCMS state sports tournament. Students who are excused by Dr. Donaldson will be required to complete an alternate assignment to make up the exam grade. **Students who miss a performance for an unexcused reason will receive a zero for the exam grade.** Students with more than one unexcused performance absence will not be able to continue the course the following semester.

## **Late Work Policy:**

The student has one school day for each day missed, plus one additional day to complete make-up work. Additional time to complete make-up work will be determined by the teacher on a case-by-case basis.

### **Parent Expectations:**

Because our Chorus program relies heavily on the support of our parent volunteers, we ask that at least one parent/guardian of each child enrolled in Chorus volunteer to help with at least one fundraiser or concert during the 2023 - 2024 school year. Please sign up on the Google Form (using the QR Code on page 4). We will also send out "Sign-Up Genius" links for parents to sign up digitally before each event. Thank you!

### **Grading:**

1. Formative: Daily Participation, Written Work, Quizzes, Sight Singing Assessments (40%)
2. Summative: Dress Rehearsals and Semester Projects (10%)
3. Summative: Chorus Concerts (50%) - MANDATORY (See Above)

**Course Changes:** Chorus students will be automatically re-enrolled in Chorus the following year. Students wanting to switch out of Chorus must contact Dr. Donaldson to request a course change by the end of the 4th quarter. Students will only be allowed to switch into Chorus their 7th or 8th grade years with previous music experience and the completion of a sight singing assessment. These requests must be submitted directly to Dr. Donaldson: [kdonaldson@oconeeschools.org](mailto:kdonaldson@oconeeschools.org).

### **Chorus Behavioral Expectations: (PBIS) Respectful/Responsible/Safe**

#### **Respectful:**

Students are expected to behave towards their director and peers in a positive and respectful manner.

#### **Responsible:**

Water is the only drink allowed in the Chorus Room. Food, gum, or other drinks are prohibited.

Cell phones are not allowed in the classroom or bathroom.

Students must use "E-Hallpass" for restroom use. Students may not use the restroom during transitions.

Students are only allowed to use the piano, practice rooms, or teacher's office with permission.

#### **Safe:**

At the beginning of each class period, students are expected to enter the classroom quietly (Level 1), place their book bags by their chairs, take out their Chorus music and supplies, and wait quietly for instruction. Students will participate in class and in after-school rehearsals and performances with their best effort!

### **For Students who do not meet the Chorus Expectations (PBIS)**

Step 1: Verbal Warning, Re-teach behavior, Student/Teacher Conference

Step 2: Parent Phone Call from Teacher, Re-teach behavior

Step 3: Lunch Detention, Parent Phone Call, Re-teach behavior

Step 4: Afternoon Detention, Parent Phone Call

Step 5: Office Referral, Parent Phone Call from OCMS Administration

Students who refuse to participate during class will be moved to a different course the following semester.

### **Course Outline:**

#### **Fall Semester:**

1. Singing Correct Pitches with Correct Intonation
2. Major, Minor and Chromatic Scale in Groups
3. Proper Breathing Techniques and Vocal Pedagogy
4. Proper Performance Etiquette and Presentation
5. Basic through Intermediate Sight Reading Skills
6. Introductory through Intermediate Music Theory Terms and Concepts
7. Simple Meter Rhythmic Examples through Subdivisions in Simple and Compound Meters
8. Solo and Group Performance Skills
9. Fall Concert and Winter Concert
10. Curwen hand signs for major and minor scales

#### **Spring Semester:**

1. Balance and Blend: Unison, SA, SSA, and SAB
2. Chromatic Scale with Curwen Hand Signs
3. Stage Presence
4. Stepwise Motion Sight Reading Examples including all intervals ascending and descending
5. Music Theory Concepts applied to repertoire
6. Divisions of the Beat in Simple and Compound Meter
7. Performance etiquette in competition
8. Taste of Oconee and Spring Chorus Show
9. Large Group Performance Evaluation \*TBA
10. Spring Choir Tour (8th)



**OCMS CHORUS SCHEDULE FOR 2023 - 2024**  
**Includes Concerts and Fundraisers**

**(\*) = Mandatory Performance (Cumulative Exam Grade). Students who are absent for illness only will be provided with an alternate assignment.**

**August 8-31st:** Chorus Sponsorship Drive

**(\*) Tuesday, October 3rd:** Fall Chorus Concert  
6:00pm (Call time for Students) 6:30pm Performance  
Wire Park Stage Free Admission

**Friday, October 27th:** Halloween Dance Fundraiser  
5:30 - 7:30pm Location TBA

**Nov/Dec** - Dinner Voucher Fundraiser

**(\*) Monday, December 4th:** Winter Choir Concert  
6:00pm 6th and 7th Grade Choirs  
7:00pm 8th Grade Choirs and Blue Note  
Oconee Civic Center \$5

**Monday, March 4th - Saturday, March 9th:** Peter Pan Jr. Musical Theater Tech Week and Performances at Oconee Civic Center (Musical Theatre Club Only)

**(\*) Sunday, April 21st:** The 18th Annual Taste of Oconee and Spring Choir Concert  
OCMS Football Field 5:00 - 7:00pm (Fundraiser and Concert: Prices vary)

**8th Grade Choir Tour:** Disney World!  
May 20 - 24th 2024  
\*Parent Meeting TBA



## 2023 - 2024 Cost Breakdown for Chorus

Note: This breakdown does not include costs for extra-curricular Chorus activities or clubs such as Musical Theatre, Blue Note, and All-State Chorus.

<b>Chorus Parent Booster Club Membership</b>	\$35
<b>Uniform</b>	See Below
<b>Fall Chorus Concert</b>	FREE Admission
<b>Winter Chorus Concert</b>	\$5 Admission
<b>Musical Theatre Troupe Performance</b>	\$5 Admission
<b>Show DVD's</b>	\$10 per Performance
<b>Halloween Dance Fundraiser</b>	\$10 per Ticket
<b>Dinner Voucher Fundraiser</b>	\$10 Per Plate
<b>Taste of Oconee Fundraiser</b>	Prices Vary
<b>6th and 7th Grade Field Trip (TBA)</b>	
Admission	More info TBA
Lunch	Bring \$ or Sack Lunch
<b>8th Grade Choir Tour to Disney World!</b>	Informational meeting TBA

## OCMS Chorus Uniform Info

**Chorus T-Shirt for Informal Concerts: All Students**    \$10

### **Attire for Formal Concerts: 7th and 8th Graders ONLY**

Girls: Black Chorus Dress	\$50 made to "OCMS Chorus"
Boys: Black Slacks, Black ButtonUp Shirt	Parents Purchase Separately
Black Closed-Toe Shoes for Boys and Girls	Parents Purchase Separately

### **Dress Check/Swap Day/Measurement Day: Wednesday, August 9th 2022**

8th Grade ladies - bring your current chorus dress to class on Wednesday, August 9th for a size check. Students who purchased a chorus dress previously may swap out their current dress for a different size at no charge. Students who have lost their dress will need to purchase an additional dress at the \$50 cost.

7th Grade ladies and 8th Grade students who are new to chorus will be measured for a new dress on this day.

### **Scholarship:**

Please contact Dr. Donaldson if you are in need of financial assistance:

([kdonaldson@oconeeschools.org](mailto:kdonaldson@oconeeschools.org))

# OCMS CHORUS

## Choral Contract

Complete the contract using the QR Code below or [THIS LINK](#)



Please fill out by Monday, August 7th 2023