

2015-2016 WELCOME to milbank middle school Chorus

Miriam Schwenn, teacher/conductor

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I'm again going to utilize *Remind*, a one-way texting program for students/parents that are interested in receiving text messages

pertaining to important choir happenings this 2015-2016 season! If you send a text to: **81010** with the message: **@mrsschwenn**, you will automatically be added to the "class" ☺

OBJECTIVES


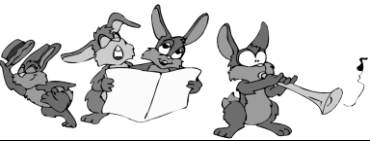
- Students will experience the joy of musical expression and artistic accomplishment.
- Students will learn the art and discipline of rehearsing and performing in ensemble with our peers.
- Students will develop skills in performing, reading, writing, creating and understanding music.

ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed on the following criteria and any student receiving marks in the "below" columns will be notified to meet with the teacher and/or principal.

Parent/guardian(s) will also be contacted if necessary. In addition, an unexcused absence (student has no valid reason or failed to give notice for the absence) earns no points for any goal scheduled for that day.

1. Rehearsal Expectations:

	Meets 3 pts.	Approaching 2 pts.	Below 1 pt.
Punctuality/Attendance "Eighty percent of success is showing up." <small>-Woody Allen</small>	Student is early or on time to rehearsal.	Student is not in assigned seat by the rehearsal start time but is in the classroom and /or brought a pass from their teacher.	Student is late to rehearsal without a pass.
Organization/Preparation 	Student picks up music folder at the beginning of class and puts it in assigned slot at the end of rehearsal. Unnecessary items are placed under chair and mouth is free of gum/food.	Student needs to be reminded to get and return music folder and/or get rid of unnecessary items.	Student doesn't pick up or return his/her music folder and continues to have or use unnecessary items even after a reminder.
Participation/Attitude 	Student shows a willingness to sing and displays an attentive attitude by participating in class activities. Student follows directions and responds to the cues of the conductor without a reminder.	Student shows a willingness to sing but needs to be reminded to follow directions by staying focused and attentive.	Student is distracted and disrupts learning of others (talking, moving, bothering neighbor, etc.) and is unwilling to sing.
Vocal Technique/Musicianship	Student demonstrates good posture and breath support for singing. Student shows musical knowledge and skill during rehearsal	Student shows musical knowledge and skill during rehearsal but needs to be reminded to demonstrate good posture and breath support for singing.	Student demonstrates poor posture and breath support with no improvement in musical knowledge and skill.

2. Quarterly Singing Quizzes: Quizzes are announced in advance and are demonstrated in small groups during the allotted rehearsal time. (20 points possible)

Perform a Major Scale (1 pt. for each syllable sung in tune): **Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti Do**

	Meets	Approaching	Below
Posture	3 Standing/sitting straight. Shoulders back. Balanced feet on the floor. Never needed to be reminded about posture.	2 Standing, but either slouching or leaning. Standing, but without both feet on the floor. Needed to be reminded about posture.	1 Directions for standing or sitting were not followed.
Projection	3 Singing at appropriate volume (audible, yet not shouted) while healthy tone was generally produced.	2 Singing at appropriate volume (audible, yet not shouted) but lacking breath support.	1 Tone was weak. Use of speaking voice.
Rhythm	3 All rhythms were properly on the beat and of proper length.	2 The majority of the rhythms were performed correctly. (1-3 rhythmic errors)	1 Inconsistent rhythmic performance.
Pitch	3 All pitches were performed accurately.	2 Student demonstrated minimal pitch difficulties (1-3 pitch errors.)	1 The pitches did not match the printed melody.

Students may retake singing quiz assessments as desired but must be completed by appointment outside of their regularly scheduled class time.

3. Written Work (Varied Points) will be assigned and assessed after presentation of material.

4. Concert Expectations: (100 points per concert):

Punctuality 20	Student is early or on time for the concert call time.
Attire/Preparation 20	Student is dressed in appropriate concert attire and unnecessary items (gum/candy/cell-phones) are left at home, placed in locker, or away from the performance venue.
Performance Skills 20	Student demonstrates learned skills (posture, projection, rhythm, pitch) with confidence.
On Stage Behavior 20	Student follows the cues of the conductor when entering, performing and exiting the theater or place of performance.
Off Stage Behavior 20	Student is respectful of other performers by listening, not talking and displaying appropriate appreciation and support of others.

Concert conflicts **MUST** be cleared through parent/guardian contact as soon as the conflict arises to help alleviate an unbalanced performance. Concert performances cannot be duplicated but supplemental activity/assignment points may be earned for planned and excused absences.

Middle School Band/Choir Winter Holiday Concert = Dress up! Shirts without a lot of writing paired with a nice pair of pants or a skirt (gals) work really well.

(No Jeans or Sweat Pants)

Thursday, December 10, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the MHS Theater

Middle School Band/Choir Mid-Winter Concert = School Clothes

Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in the MHS Theater

Middle School Band/Choir Spring Concert = Attire to be announced

Monday, May 10, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the MHS Theater

Parents are strongly encouraged to attend concerts as it is a key ingredient in keeping children motivated and ultimately helping them be successful. Young or old, everyone loves the attention of an appreciative audience.

MUSIC BOOSTERS (Parent/Guardian Support Organization)

Please consider offering your time and effort and/or donations in participating in our strong volunteer organization. Forms are sent home with music students or emailed the first week of school. They can also be found online through Mrs. Schwenn's or Mrs. Karel's website. Monetary donations will be used in assisting students in attending music camps, travel expenses, supplementary music purchases, guest clinicians, technology advancements, etc. We appreciate all your support and look forward to working with you this coming 2015-2016 Season!

FESTIVAL OF YOUNG VOICES-March 8, 2016

This is an auditioned group of 6 balanced trios who rehearse mostly during the school day (homeroom) from January through March to perform in concert at the Performing Arts Center in Brookings, SD. Auditions are open to 7th and 8th grade choir members who are willing to go that extra mile and put in additional hours of practice for a very rewarding musical experience.

MUSICIANS OF THE MONTH

Each month during the school year, a band and choir student from grades 6, 7, and 8 are chosen as a Musician of the Month from his/her music teacher. The selected students are highlighted at our music concerts, displayed in the music rooms, and are awarded a certificate during the school year.



I have received and read the information concerning Milbank Middle School Chorus.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please cut off and return the bottom portion of this handout by Monday, August 31. (5 Points)