

**Carwise Middle School**

**Chorus Handbook**



**2018-2019**

**Kelly Moss, Chorus Director**

**Robert Vicari, Principal**

August 8, 2018

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to Carwise Middle School Chorus! I am looking forward to our year together, and I am so excited to be your music teacher. This will be a year full of excitement, activity, and success.

This handbook will familiarize you with the many aspects of the program, and ensure an enjoyable and educational musical experience. **Please take the time to read the entire handbook.** After you have read this handbook, sign the contract page, detach the form and return it to class. Choral students will be held accountable for the information in this handbook, so please keep it for future reference.

Chorus is an **elective** and **selective course**. We will strive to develop skills and work toward goals that will ensure your success in music. Here are the goals that I will be helping each member of chorus to achieve this year.

- ♪ Become an independent musician who reads music and understands the music language
- ♪ Learn how the voice works and how to best use this instrument.
- ♪ Develop strong performance and “in front of audience skills.”
- ♪ Gain an appreciation for all types of music, musicians, and the arts.
- ♪ Understand and demonstrate the value of being a musician.
- ♪ Understand and demonstrate the value of being a chorus member.

A chorus class requires cooperation among a large team of musicians working together toward a common goal. Chorus requires responsibility to the group. The sound each student makes changes the sound of the entire group. Success is assured if the student desires to learn, the parents and student understand what is required for success, and the parents share responsibility for the music education of their child. Students will develop skills and have learning experiences that will be useful in any endeavor they pursue. Most importantly, chorus students will experience the **joy of accomplishment**. I hope your choral experiences will be rewarding.

Students, you are now part of an organization that requires dedication, hard work, and a commitment to excellence. These are the ingredients for success. This handbook was written for you so that the Carwise Choral Department can work as efficiently and smoothly as possible. It will give you the tools necessary to make a solid contribution.

**Carefully** read the handbook so that you are aware of the expectations. Please don't hesitate to ask questions.

I anticipate a great year of creating music together!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kelly Moss, Choral Director  
Phone: (727)724-1442  
Email: [mosske@pcsb.org](mailto:mosske@pcsb.org)

## Carwise Middle School Chorus Department Creed

### RESPECT

- ♪ Respect the music. Music is the written emotions and opinions of the composer. We all have a right to opinion without criticism or negativity.
- ♪ Respect yourself. If you don't, you will never gain the respect of others.
- ♪ Respect each other. It is the only way to live peacefully.

### PRIDE

- ♪ Take pride in all that you do. Celebrate your accomplishments.
- ♪ Take pride in this organization and be positive about all of our achievements.
- ♪ Take pride in yourself. You are unique. Always show your best self.

### COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

- ♪ Be dedicated and work hard.
- ♪ Be prepared.
- ♪ Improve yourself every day.
- ♪ Always strive to do your best.



## Expectations and Consequences



### EXPECTATIONS

1. **Maintain Focus.**
2. **Use all things with care.**
3. **Show respect for other people, their opinions, and property.**
4. **Improve everyday.**
5. **Contribute positively.**

\*Students are always expected to follow Carwise Middle School Rules inside the music classroom.



### Positive CONSEQUENCES

1. **Verbal Praise**
2. **Shark Bites**
3. **Positive contact home**
4. **Kiddos**
5. **Extra activities and leadership roles**



### Negative CONSEQUENCES

1. **Verbal warning**
2. **Seat change with half participation points awarded for the day**
3. **Time out and loss of participation points for the day**

4. Parent contact
5. Guidance referral
6. Discipline referral

## **Carwise School Rules**

In addition to the music classroom expectations, it is the expectation that all Carwise School rules be followed at all times.

- Show respect for other people, their opinions and property
- Leave candy, gum, and toys at home (There will be no food, drink, or gum in the Chorus room so we can protect our materials.)
- Electronic devices must be turned off and kept out of sight.
- Be on time to class.
- Walk, don't run throughout the school

## **Carwise Chorus Grading Policies**

**75% of your grade is based on classroom work / daily participation / homework which includes:**

- ♪ **Rehearsal assessments – Individual and Sectionals**
- ♪ **Folder (Contains: self-assessments, music theory/ history activities)**
- ♪ **Skills Assessments – Sight Singing, Rhythm Reading**
- ♪ **Quizzes**
- ♪ **Homework – Sight Singing, Rhythm Reading, Concert Songs, Music Theory**

\*\*\*Refer to the “Chorus Rubric for Classroom Participation Assessment”

**25% of your grade is based on written tests and performances. Performances are exams.**

## Chorus Rubric for Classroom Participation Assessment

<b>SKILL</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>Posture</b>	Consistently uses correct singing posture  (Does not need to be reminded.)	Proper singing posture  (Sometimes the student must be reminded.)	Often proper singing posture  (Often the student must be reminded.)	Rarely uses proper singing posture.	Never uses proper singing posture.
<b>Diction</b>	Consistently visible tall vowels and crisp consonants.  (Does not need to be reminded.)	Often uses correct vowels and consonants.  (Sometimes the student must be reminded.)	Often correct vowels & consonants are not visibly produced.	Rarely produces visibly correct vowels & consonants.	Never produces visibly correct vowels and consonants.
<b>Readiness to participate</b>	Consistently punctual, ready to work and follows classroom rules re: talking, gum, grooming, etc.  (Does not need to be reminded.)	Usually punctual, ready to work and follows classroom rules re: talking, gum, grooming, etc.  (Sometimes the student must be reminded.)	Often is not ready to work and must be reminded re: one or more of the following: punctuality, talking, following classroom rules, etc.	Rarely shows readiness to participate. Has infractions re: classroom rules.	Never shows readiness to participate.
<b>Level of participation</b>	Consistently participates in all activities willingly.  (Does not need to be reminded.)	Usually participates in all activities willingly.  (Sometimes the student must be reminded.)	Often does not participate willingly and must be reminded to do so.	Rarely participates willingly.	Never participates willingly.

Performance Requirements	Attends all performances. Fulfills performance requirements regarding stage and audience etiquette.	Attends most performances. Fulfills performance requirements regarding stage and audience etiquette.	Sometimes does not attend performances. Does not always fulfill performance requirements regarding stage and audience etiquette.	Usually does not attend performances . Does not fulfill performance requirements regarding stage and audience etiquette.	Never attends performances. Never fulfills performance requirements regarding stage and audience etiquette.
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## Practice

Chorus students are expected to practice at home. I ask every student to practice at least 15 minutes every night. This consistent practice makes you a better student, a better musician, and a better teammate. Practice includes the songs we are learning in class, rhythm exercises, sight reading exercises, and theory practice. It will be very clear in class if you are not practicing at home as “practice makes perfect.”

## Concert Performances

One reason many students become involved in music is the opportunity to perform. Performances are an integral part of all Chorus course descriptions.

**ALL students are required to attend performances.** Why??

- It is part of the learning experience.
- We need you! We function as a unit. We are a team.
- The performance is the reward you have earned for all the hours of rehearsal.

Each performance is required and will be part of the overall 9 week grade in which it occurs. Every performance counts as an exam grade. There will be before and after school rehearsals and performances. If there is an extenuating circumstance in which performance must be missed, I must be notified by the parent/guardian with the reason for the absence. In this instance, the absence may be excused, but I have

the final say on whether absence is excusable. Unexcused absences will result in a lowered overall 9 week grade.

Examples of unexcused absences:

- No show, no note, inadequate reason
- Outside work or activity
- No uniform (there is always a way—with advance notice we can help!)
- No transportation (there is always a way—with advance notice we can help!)

Parental contacts will be made via email to remind families of upcoming performances.

## **Concerts 2018-2019**

## **Chorus 1**

### **Carwise 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

When: Friday, October 19, 2018

Where: Carwise Cafetorium

Time: 6:30pm

### **Performing Arts Bingo Night**

When: Thursday, October 25, 2018

Where: Carwise Cafetorium

Time: 6:00pm

### **Winter Concert**

When: Thursday, December 20, 2018

Where: Carwise Cafetorium

Time: 7:00pm

### **Spring Concert**

When: Thursday, May 23, 2019

Where: Carwise Cafetorium

Time: 7:00pm

## **Chorus 2**

### **Carwise 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

When: Friday, October 19, 2018

Where: Carwise Cafetorium

Time: 6:30pm

### **Performing Arts Bingo Night**

When: Thursday, October 25, 2018

Where: Carwise Cafetorium

Time: 6:00pm

### **Winter Concert**

When: Tuesday, December 20, 2018

Where: Carwise Cafetorium

Time: 7:00pm

### **Music Performance Assessments**

February 28 OR March 1, 2019

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Clearwater, Florida

Time: TBA

### **Spring Concert**

When: Thursday, May 23, 2019

Where: Carwise Cafetorium

Time: 7:00pm

## **Chorus 3**

### **Carwise 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

When: Friday, October 19, 2018

Where: Carwise Cafetorium

Time: 6:30pm

### **Performing Arts Bingo Night**

When: Thursday, October 25, 2018

Where: Carwise Cafetorium

Time: 6:00pm

### **Veteran's Day Concert**

When: Friday, November 9, 2018

Where: East Lake High School

Auditorium

Time: 7:00pm

### **Winter Concert**

When: Thursday, December 20, 2018

Where: Carwise Cafetorium

Time: 7:00pm

### **Solo/Ensemble Honors Concert**

When: February 9, 2019

Where: Gibbs High School

Time: TBA

### **Music Performance Assessments**

When: Feb. 28 OR March 1, 2019

Where: Trinity Presbyterian Church

Clearwater, Florida

Time: TBA

### **Music USA**

When: April 5, 2019

Where: Universal Studios

Orlando, Florida

Time: TBA

### **Spring Concert**

When: Thursday, May 23, 2019

Where: Carwise Cafetorium

Time: 7:00pm

### **Awards Ceremony**

When: May 28, 2019

Where: Carwise Cafetorium

Time: TBD (Early Evening)

## **Off – Campus Performance/Activity Requirements**

- Maintain an “S” in conduct in your chorus class.
- Attend all required performances.
- Please be sure that all assignments are turned in on time for any classes that may be missed due to our rehearsal/performance schedule.
- Uniforms must be complete and worn in a respectful manner at **all times**.
- Field Trip paperwork and monies (permission forms, etc.) are to be turned in on time.

## **Voice Placements**

I will assign students to specific voice parts in the ensemble in order to achieve the best sound possible. All voice parts are important for a balanced ensemble. Great care is taken to ensure that each student is singing in a developmentally appropriate range. Voice parts will be assigned through vocal auditions. The adolescent voice grows and changes throughout the middle school years. Due to this growth and change, voice parts can be reassigned at any time. The Director’s decision is final.

## **Care of Music**

Sheet music is considered the “textbook” of the Chorus classroom. Therefore, please follow these sheet music rules:

- Do not fold, tear, roll or destroy sheet music.
- Do not make excessive or non-music marks in the music.
- Only use pencil to make notes, NEVER PEN.
- Do not highlight your voice part in the sheet music.
- Always bring your music to class.

If sheet music is lost or damaged, it must be replaced.

## **Materials Needed for Class**

Students are required to have the following items in Chorus class every day. These items are needed for participation in Chorus. If a student fails to bring these items, the student will not receive the maximum amount of participation points for the day.

- Folder
- Sheet music

- Pencil with eraser
- Loose leaf paper

## **Uniform Rental**

All ensembles will wear the Carwise Choral Department Uniform for performances. There is a uniform rental fee per student that is collected by the Performing Arts Boosters. This money covers the multiple cleaning of the uniforms. If the uniform is lost or damaged, it must be replaced.

Girls: Black Chorus Dress (Provided by Boosters)

Black tights, Black closed-toe, flat dress shoes (Provided by parents)

Boys: Black vest, Black tie, White tuxedo shirt (Provided by Boosters)

Black dress pants, Black belt, Black socks, Black dress shoes (Provided by parents)

## **Parental Involvement**

There are times throughout the year that I will need volunteers to chaperone events, transport students to events, help set up concerts, help with uniforms, and volunteer at fundraisers. Parents are encouraged to respond with how they can help on the final sheet of this handbook. PLEASE stop by the front office and register as a volunteer as soon as possible. All volunteers/chaperones must be registered. All drivers must be Level 2 certified.



Please print and fill out this information form stating that you have read and understand the Carwise Chorus Handbook located here: <https://www.carwiseperformingartsbooster.org/forms/> By signing, you agree to abide by the rules and regulations covered in the handbook.

### Student/Parent Contract

As the Chorus teacher, I want you, the students, to realize that this program is designed for your success and enjoyment of music. I will give you my very best – and in return will ask for your very best. Together, we will be successful.

I have received and read the Carwise Middle School Chorus Handbook. I understand the contents including the calendar, expectations, grading policy, practice, and concert requirements.

Student's Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Schedule of Events

#### Chorus 1 Carwise 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

When: Friday, October 19, 2018  
Where: Carwise Cafetorium  
Time: 6:30pm

#### Performing Arts Bingo Night

When: Thursday, October 25, 2018  
Where: Carwise Cafetorium  
Time: 6:00pm

#### Winter Concert

When: Thursday, December 20, 2018  
Where: Carwise Cafetorium  
Time: 7:00pm

#### Spring Concert

When: Thursday, May 23, 2019  
Where: Carwise Cafetorium  
Time: 7:00pm

#### Chorus 2

#### Carwise 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

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Time: 6:30pm

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When: Thursday, October 25, 2018  
Where: Carwise Cafetorium

Time: 6:00pm

#### Winter Concert

When: Thursday, December 23, 2018  
Where: Carwise Cafetorium  
Time: 7:00pm

#### Music Performance Assessments

February 28 OR March 1, 2019  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
Clearwater, Florida

#### Spring Concert

When: Thursday, May 23, 2019  
Where: Carwise Cafetorium  
Time: 7:00pm

#### Chorus 3

#### Carwise 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

When: Friday, October 19, 2018  
Where: Carwise Cafetorium  
Time: 6:30pm

#### Performing Arts Bingo Night

When: Thursday, October 25, 2018  
Where: Carwise Cafetorium  
Time: 6:00pm

#### Veteran's Day Concert

When: Friday, November 9, 2018  
Where: East Lake High  
School Auditorium

Time: 7:00pm

#### Winter Concert

When: Thursday, December 23, 2018  
Where: Carwise Cafetorium  
Time: 7:00pm

#### Solo/Ensemble Honors Concert

When: February 9  
Where: Gibbs High School  
Time: TBA

#### Music Performance Assessments

When: Feb. 28 OR March 1, 2019  
Where: Trinity Presbyterian Church  
Clearwater, Florida  
Time: TBA

#### Music USA

When: April 5, 2019  
Where: Universal Studios  
Orlando, Florida  
Time: TBA

#### Spring Concert

When: Thursday, May 23, 2019  
Where: Carwise Cafetorium  
Time: 7:00pm

#### End-of-Year Awards Ceremony

When: May 28, 2019  
Where: Carwise Cafetorium  
Time: TBD (Early Evening)

### **STAY CONNECTED**

Visit Our Website:

<https://www.carwiseperformingartsbooster.org/>

Join Our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/carwiseperformingarts/>

Email:

[info@carwiseperformingarts.org](mailto:info@carwiseperformingarts.org)



## UNIFORM RENTAL

### Parent and Student Information

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Mrs. Moss  Mr. Obara

T-Shirt Size Youth S  Youth M  Youth L  Adult S  Adult M  Adult L  Adult XL

Ensemble (check all that apply)  Band  Orchestra  Jazz  Chorus  Music Theater

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/SO \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in volunteering  YES  NO Volunteer Status:  Level 1  Level 2

### Volunteer Opportunities Please check as many boxes as you can! We NEED you!

<input type="checkbox"/> Concert Concession Help	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Painting	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Set Design and Construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Cast Dinners week of Show
<input type="checkbox"/> Bingo / Silent Auction Help	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Ads	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Table Decorations	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Stage Parent
<input type="checkbox"/> T-Shirt Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Donation Needs	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Playbill Design	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Ticket Sales
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsorship Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Props	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Video/Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Cast Party
<input type="checkbox"/> In Home Help – Copies, Fliers	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Costumes	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Theater Hospitality	<input type="checkbox"/> Chaperone (LVL 2, Must Volunteer and Attend Meetings)

### Fees (includes t-shirt, one year rental of concert uniform, booster membership):

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 - Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Jazz Uniform Fee

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 - Additional Commitment Fee Required for Musical Theater Students

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation (Optional)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Amount Paid** Cash  Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to CPABC**