

Welcome!

You are a member of the O. Henry Middle School Mustang Chorus. The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint you and your parents with the choir's policies and procedures. The O. Henry Middle School Choral Program offers students the opportunity to:

- Develop and demonstrate healthy vocal techniques
- Develop music reading skills
- Recognize and use elements of music theory
- Perform individually, in small ensembles and large groups
- Develop leadership and self-discipline

It is very important for you and your parents to read this handbook. The receipt form on the last page should be **signed and returned** to the choral director, indicating that both you and your parents have read this material.

Expectations

Students are expected to follow all school guidelines, including dress code, gum and tardy policies. Our class expectations are:

- Be on time, in your seat before the bell rings
- Come prepared to class
- Follow the rehearsal
- Refrain from eating in class
- Respect other people and property
- Follow directions the first time they are given
- **Have a good attitude**

Students who have problems with behavior will be given a consequence in the following order:

- Redirection of behavior
- Note to parent
- Lunch detention
- Parent phone call or email
- Referral to administrator

Students who have been referred to an administrator may forfeit the privilege of attending field trips. This decision is made at the discretion of the director.

Uniforms

Students are expected to wear a uniform for all performances, contests, and field trips.

Uniform:

- A \$35 fair share choir fee covers the purchase of the choir t-shirt and study trips.
- Jeans are worn with the choir t-shirt
- The t-shirt is worn untucked with the sleeves unrolled
- The t-shirt is property of the student and can be altered to fit

Web Pages

The choir web page is <http://ohenrymschoir.weebly.com/>. We also have a [Charms account](#). You can download all choir documents and view the choir calendar at either site.

Supplies

Each student will be issued a music folder, a sight-singing book and music. These are to be kept in the choir room and are school property. Students will need a pen to put in their folder. If a student damages or loses the folder or book, the student will be held responsible for replacement costs. Students will also need a water bottle.

Co-Curricular

There are two concerts a year, one in December and one in May. All choirs attend these. All choirs compete, however; only seventh and eighth grade choirs compete in UIL and Region 18 competitions. Contests are during school. Occasionally a contest will be held after school. Sectionals will be called, as needed, usually two in the spring, and will take place after school. Attendance is required at all performances. These performances are counted as test grades. Please consult the choir calendar for specific times and dates. If a student cannot come to a performance, the choir director must be notified, in writing, beforehand. If a student is not excused from attending a performance, they risk forfeiting attendance to the spring trip.

In order for students to participate in contests they must maintain a passing grade in all classes. The choir director reserves the right to deny participation to any student based on failing grades or poor behavior.

Spring Trip

The Choir will be taking a spring trip to Fiesta Texas, Friday, May 17th, for a performance in the park. This is an optional activity. We will send home a detailed itinerary in the spring semester. The total cost of the trip will be \$65.00 per student. This amount includes festival entry fees, ticket, and bus fare.

Receipt of Choral Handbook

I have read the Choral Handbook and I am aware of the information contained within.

Yes No I give permission for my child to attend all study trips associated with choir.

Yes No I give permission for my child to be texted from Mrs. Willoughby thru the **Remind Me App.**

Yes No I give permission for my child's image to be used in group photos of the choir for the choir or PTA website, **Their name will never be published.**

Student name (print neatly please)

Class period

Student signature

Student Cell Phone

Parent name

Date

Parent signature

Parent email address

\$35 Choir Fee – make checks payable to “O. Henry Choir”

Please sign, date and return this page of the handbook with proper payment.

In order to save paper, the handbook can be found on the choir website at <http://ohenrymschoir.weebly.com/> or <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/login.asp>

If you took choir at O. Henry last year and still have your t-shirt, you don't have to pay \$35. Pay \$25 and make sure your t-shirt still fits and is in good condition.