

# CHOIR 8



**2019-20**

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# WHY MUSIC?

This is why we teach music.

Not because we expect our students to major in music

Not because we expect them to play or sing all their life

Not so they can relax

Not so they can have fun.

But so they will be human

So they will recognize beauty

So they will be sensitive

So they will be closer to an infinite beyond this world

So they will have something to cling to

So they will have more love, more compassion,

More gentleness, more good ... in short, more life.

~ Author Unknown ~



## ABOUT OAK VIEW CHOIRS...

The Oak View Choir Program offers a performance based, comprehensive musical experience for students in grades 6–8. It offers a musical experience for singers of all levels of ability. We follow a specific curriculum each trimester to broaden the students' knowledge of music and performing experiences. Our choir program seeks to provide opportunities for each student to develop in the following areas:

- Learning:** create, analyze, perform, and listen using a wide variety of activities, musical styles and performance mediums as an individual and as a group.

- Performing:** participate in large and small ensemble performance experiences.

- Team Building:** develop a team concept where each student feels a part of and contributes to the “team” of their choir on a regular basis achieving excellence in positive relationships, rehearsals skills, and performance.

- Developing Lifelong Skills:** foster and develop a life-long appreciation and understanding of music as a means of expression, and communication.

## WHAT IS EXPECTED OF OVMS CHOIR STUDENTS?

- Be Prepared:** Come prepared to class, rehearsals, and concerts.

- Be Respectful:** Treat ALL students, teacher, and staff in the classroom with respectful words and actions.

- Be Responsible:**

- For your own choices and decision.

- To communicate all announcements on the board to your parent/guardian.

- Be Excellent**

- Contribute on a daily basis to help our team be the best that they can be.

- Come to concerts ready to help your team perform at its best!

## WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM MRS. OLSON

- Respect:** I am committed to showing respect to ALL students and staff who participate in the choir program

- High Expectations:** I maintain high expectations for my self and for my students. Together we will always seek to improve our skills and our level of excellence on a daily basis.

- Communication:** I do my best to communicate expectations clearly. Daily class agendas will be posted. Rehearsal and concert reminders will be sent out to students and parents prior to events.

# GRADING



## I. REHEARSAL SKILLS

Rehearsal skills does not address how “well” a student sings. Rather, it addresses the student’s ability to participate effectively in a group rehearsal. Students will earn 3 grades per trimester in this category.

*Students will have opportunities to assess themselves on their rehearsal skills throughout the trimester.*

## II. PERFORMANCE GRADE

This is where the student is held individually accountable for their music education, their progress, and their PERSONAL responsibility to become a better musician.

**SINGING TESTS/MEMORIZATION QUIZZES/SKILL CHECKS:** (Completed in a group setting in class)

**CONCERT PERFORMANCE:** This is the culmination of all the work that is done in the classroom. **Concert performance is a graded activity and expected of all students.** Students will also be expected to contribute to the after school large group rehearsal prior to the concert. Large group rehearsals give the students the opportunity to rehearse the music with the other class period they will be performing with and to determine where they will be standing on the risers for the concert itself. Concerts are an exciting opportunity for students to demonstrate all they have learned. And to be at their very best, every member of the “team” needs to be there to offer their unique contribution. Unexcused absences may only makeup partial credit

**Excused Absence:** Family emergencies, illness (if absent from school day), and other emergencies are dealt with on an individual basis and are the primary reason for an excused absence.

- Parents should inform the director in prior to the concert.
- Students should be pick up assignment to make up performance points (video of student performing their choir’s music)
- Assignments are due within one week of the concert or return to school following an illness.
- Failure to follow the steps listed above may result in a “0” for the Concert Grade.

**Students who choose to attend other activities (participation in community sports, dance recitals, etc.) may make up 50% credit of the concert grade. In order for any portion of the concert grade to be made up, the director must be notified in writing by the parent/guardian PRIOR to the concert and makeup assignment must be completed.**

### CONCERT DRESS

All students need to wear **black dress pants or black skirts, with black tights or leggings underneath, and a black shirt.**

*(NO sweatpants, shorts, yoga pants, or leggings) Please plan ahead!!!!*

Clean, comfortable, and appropriate footwear should be worn. Remember that you will be standing for long periods of time on the risers.

**NO FLIP FLOPS ON THE RISERS!!!!!!**

## III. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Various assignments/projects will be assigned to enhance musical growth creativity, insight, critical thinking, problem solving. This may include self evaluations, music theory, music history, musical terms, formative and summative assessments, etc. All written work will be **COMPLETED IN CLASS** unless students do not use their time wisely.

## IV. COMMON SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS (CSA’s)

At the end of each trimester, all choir students in District 11 will take a summative assessment that covers the curricular learning targets for that trimester. Topics will include score reading, sight reading, performance, rhythm,

# Grading Rubrics

Please find below examples of the rubrics that are used to grade daily rehearsal skills, large group rehearsal, and concerts. Grading of written assignments, formative assessments, and assessments vary depending on the type of assignment or assessment.

3-Meeting Standard    2- Approaching Standard    1-Attempting Standard    0-No Attempt Observed

SELF Assessment	TEACHER Assessment	Rehearsal Skills Standards <i>Continue to work on areas that the teacher has checked off.</i>
		<b>READY TO SING</b> <input type="checkbox"/> In Seat <input type="checkbox"/> Music Folder/Sightsinging Materials <input type="checkbox"/> Pencil <input type="checkbox"/> Eyes on Teacher
		<b>PROPER POSTURE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Feet hip distance apart <input type="checkbox"/> Fingertips at side <input type="checkbox"/> Sternum lifted <input type="checkbox"/> Head straight, chin level <input type="checkbox"/> Standing from the hips up when seated
		<b>QUALITY SINGING TECHNIQUE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Breathing with expanded ribcage <input type="checkbox"/> Tall open mouth shape; relaxed jaw <input type="checkbox"/> Projection <input type="checkbox"/> Diction
		<b>FULLY ENGAGED</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Listen to and follow directions. <input type="checkbox"/> Sing when your section is singing. <input type="checkbox"/> Follow your part when your section is NOT singing. <input type="checkbox"/> Use Agenda Book to write down important announcements. <input type="checkbox"/> Write down vocabulary in choir notebook.

SELF Assessment	TEACHER Assessment	Concert Performance Standards <i>Does not meet standard so continue to work on...</i>
		<b>READY TO PERFORM</b> <input type="checkbox"/> On Time to Warm-ups <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Concert Dress <input type="checkbox"/> Standing in Riser Row <input type="checkbox"/> Eyes and Attention on Teacher
		<b>PERFORMANCE POSTURE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Feet hip distance apart <input type="checkbox"/> Fingertips at side <input type="checkbox"/> Sternum lifted <input type="checkbox"/> Head straight, chin level
		<b>QUALITY SINGING TECHNIQUE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Breathing with expanded ribcage <input type="checkbox"/> Tall open mouth shape; relaxed jaw <input type="checkbox"/> Projection <input type="checkbox"/> Diction
		<b>FULLY ENGAGED</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Listen to and follow directions. <input type="checkbox"/> Sing your correct part when your section is singing. <input type="checkbox"/> Eyes on the Director during each song. <input type="checkbox"/> Proper Concert Etiquette (no talking or distracting on the risers)

# Choir 8 CALENDAR

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act but a habit." --Aristotle

## Trimester 1

State Honors Choir Auditions Due	Select Students Only	September 25	
	<i>See the handbook or Mrs. Olson for more information.</i>		
State Honors Choir	Select Students	November 16	5:30pm
Andover Sings!	Choirs 6-12	November 18	7:00pm
	<i>Concert will be held in the Andover High School Gym. All students should report to Andover High School.</i>		

## Trimester 2

Large Group Rehearsal	Choir 8	December 10	3:50pm
Winter Concert	Choir 8/Pride Alive	December 12	8:00pm

## Trimester 3

Large Group Rehearsal	Choir 8	May 18	3:15pm
Spring Concert	Choir 8/Pride Alive	May 19	8:00pm

**Classroom activities are considered to be the central core of the choir program at Oak View.** However, we strongly believe that participation in co-curricular activities is an equally important aspect of the choir program. Below is a listing of some of the offerings available to students and a brief description of each activity.

## PRIDE ALIVE

Pride Alive is an audition only co-curricular choir that meets once a week on Thursdays before school (7:29 am-8:10 am). This group performs at Oak View Choir Concerts as well as in community settings such as local elementary schools and senior centers. This group is an opportunity for students to challenge themselves to perform at a higher level than in the regular choral setting. Pride Alive performs a wide variety of music such as madrigals, multi-cultural music, musical theater, and vocal jazz. A high level of commitment is expected in order to participate. Regular attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required. Students will be given a calendar with all required dates upon acceptance into the group.

<i>Thursday, September 12</i>	<i>7:29 a.m.</i>	<i>Interest Meeting &amp; Learn Audition Piece</i>
<i>Thursday, September 19</i>	<i>7:29 a.m.</i>	<i>Auditions (Students audition in small groups)</i>

## ACDA-MN Honors Choirs

**7-8th Grade Girls' & Boys' Choirs**

These groups are open to 7th and 8th grade students by audition only. Students rehearse and record an audition with Mrs. Olson to be submitted to the Minnesota chapter of ACDA (American Choral Directors Association). A panel of teachers listen to the recordings and select the best singers from across the state of Minnesota. **Auditions will be recorded and submitted in late September.** Rehearsal and performance take place in Mahtomedi, MN on November 16. Transportation to and from the event and any fees involved are the responsibility of the student and parents. Over the years, Mrs. Olson has had multiple students participate in these groups and have always come back with great things to share with our choral program. Interested students should see Mrs. Olson for further information.

# RESPONSE FORM

**Please check off that you have reviewed the required information and sign below.  
FORMS ARE DUE BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

**Please check off each action item and sign below:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand the Oak View Choir Grading Policy.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand the Oak View Choir Concert Expectations and Concert Dress Policy.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have recorded my child's choir events on our family calendar.

Please check your teacher's webpage regularly for announcements and calendar changes. Other parent communications will be e-mailed to all families that have an e-mail account on file with the school as well as posted on the website. If you need alternative communication methods, please let Mrs. Olson know. You can find teacher webpages listed under "Academics" and "Classroom Pages" on the Oak View Middle School Website.

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Day:** 1 or 2 **Class Period:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for taking the time to read the guidelines and policies in this handbook. I hope it helps to communicate the goals and expectations of our program. If there are any other questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Olson. Preferred and fastest method of communication is e-mail.*

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