

**Forreston
Junior High
Chorus
Handbook
2023-2024**

FORRESTON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR HANDBOOK
2023-2024

This handbook is designed to give a better understanding of the policies, rules, and regulations of our choir program to the students involved and their parents. If there are any questions, you may contact me at any time.

PHILOSOPHY: The instructors believe that music is as important to the development of the total individual as other academic courses, and an understanding and appreciation of music will lead to a more fulfilling life.

GOAL: Our goal is to provide as many quality musical experiences to as many students as our resources allow.

EXPECTATIONS:

1. Students will:

- a. try to the best of their abilities to improve themselves and their ensemble every day.
- b. Work with the director in a spirit of teamwork and cooperation.
- c. come prepared every day with materials
- d. receive instruction and criticism constructively and apply it to their singing/playing for improvement.
- e. maintain their materials in top working condition.
- f. care for all school equipment properly.
- g. attend and be on time to all performances.
- h. pay fees for supplies in a timely manner.

2. The director will:

- a. provide instruction so that the student can develop as a musician.
- b. provide the students with music that is within their abilities to perform but provides a challenge to grow.
- c. be prepared for rehearsals.
- d. inform the students and parents of all performances and extra rehearsals with enough lead time to arrange schedules.

3. Parents will:

- a. supply their child with appropriate materials and supplies.
- b. support their child by attending their concerts and other performances.
- c. encourage their child to perform other than with the Forreton JH Choir.

CLASS VS. EXTRACURRICULAR / ATTENDANCE: Choir cannot be placed exclusively into either one of these categories due to its very nature. All performances, even though they take place outside of school time, are considered school work. Some of these events will be of such a nature that no excused absences will be granted, except sickness or death in the family. Examples include but are not limited to organizational contest and concerts. Please remember that the director and the principal are the parties responsible for issuing excusals. We must constantly weigh the good of the group against the good of the individual, and all requests for excused absences are considered very carefully. You must trust us to make the right decision not only for your child, but for the group as well.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: In the event that there is a conflict between a choir activity and something else on your student's schedule, please consult with me at the earliest possible moment. No excused absences (except illness or death in the family) will be granted less than 10 days before an event. No medical excuses will be accepted that excuse a student from a Choir activity so that they may participate in another activity, i.e. missing the Christmas Concert so the student might be healthier for an event the next day. A student's work schedule is not generally considered a valid excuse. *Students who are too ill to perform or have had a family emergency must have their parent call me before the performance.* The student will be given an opportunity make up all excused absences, including absences due to sickness, before the quarter is over with projects determined by the director. These projects can be written reports, performances of solos, attendance at other concerts, etc. Failure to complete these projects will result in a failing grade for the quarter.

ELIGIBILITY: In order to participate in certain Choir activities, students will have to maintain academic eligibility. In the event a student becomes academically ineligible to participate in an activity he or she will be given alternative assignments. There will be no penalty for non-participation due to ineligibility.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES: Unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for that event with no opportunity to make it up. Students may be denied the opportunity to return to the ensemble for which he or she failed to perform.

UNIFORMS: Students will need to provide the following:

1. Uniforms: Choir students need to provide their own black, long-sleeved, button down shirt with collar, black dress pants (no jeans), black dress shoes (no tennis shoes), and black socks. Girls may substitute hose for socks, as well as a black dress or skirt & blouse for a button shirt & slacks. While a student is in uniform it will be always worn properly and completely. This means that shirts will be tucked in, and collars will be buttoned. No jewelry of any kind may be worn (except stud earrings). This uniform is collectively referred to as "concert blacks."

REQUIRED MATERIALS/EQUIPMENT: In addition to the uniform, students must also

have a black folder to keep their music in throughout the year.

MUSIC: Students will be issued music throughout the year. It is to be kept neat and in good condition. Make any marks on music with pencil only. Students who lose music or return it in poor condition will be fined for the replacement cost.

GRADES: Choir grades encompass classroom work, which includes singing individually as well as being a contributing voice to the whole ensemble rehearsal. Grades also include any homework assignments, projects, concert, performances or tests that are given.

AWARDS: Forreston Junior High recognizes excellence in music performance by awarding the Director's Award to the 8th grade student who contributes the most to the success of the choir through their performance skills, leadership, participation, and attitude.

MUSIC PATRONS: As the parent of a music student you are automatically a member of this organization. The Patrons do a tremendous job in supporting the various programs and events we undertake; we could not function without them. Help in making your student's musical experience the best it can be by participation in the Music Patrons and helping them with their projects.

CONTACT: If at any time you have any questions about your student, the choir program, or anything I can help with, you may contact me to discuss. Because I travel between buildings, calling the school directly may not always be the best option. I will likely not answer during the school day, but leaving me a message assures that I will return your call. Also, you may email me at any time (probably the best way to reach me, that will get the fastest response) at tcunningham@fvdistrict221.org.

This information does not cover every possible situation that occurs throughout the year, but should provide answers to most of your questions. I know that with your help, cooperation, and encouragement, your child will help make the Forreston Junior High School Choir the best possible musical organization that it can be, and that he or she will learn and grow in the process.

Travis Cunningham,
Choir Director

PLEASE PUT THESE EVENTS ON YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR

Date	Event	Time	Location
	ILMEA Auditions		
	FJSH Fall Choir/Band Concert		
	ILMEA Festival (Select Students)		
	FJSH Christmas Concert		
	Caroling		
	JH Solo and Ensemble		
	Rt. 72 Music Festival		
	Spring Choir Concert and Art Show		

I have read the Forreston J.H.S. Choir Manual and understand the policies and procedures it outlines. I have put the dates of performances on our family calendar.

Student Signature date

Parent/Guardian Signature date

Parent/Guardian Preferred Email Address