

Milan Area Schools Music Handbook

Band Edition

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Welcome to the Milan Area Schools Choir program. Here's to a great year of music making and learning! Your choir handbook outlines the requirements for successful participation in the music program. Music course requirements are different than any other academic area. Students have the opportunity to take advantage of a valuable, educational experience in this special class. Most music students continue their music education throughout their middle and high school career. As your teacher, I want you to be successful. Please take the time to read this information carefully. Success in music classes requires that both parents and students understand our class policies. If you ever have any questions, please be sure to ask. Outside of class time I can be reached by email or phone.

Tradition, positive attitudes, and a high *esprit de corps* (The common spirit existing in the members of a group inspiring enthusiasm, devotion, and strong regard for the honor of the group.) has characterized the Milan choir program. The methods and policies of the Milan Choirs, are designed to generate high performance outcomes and great pride.

The Milan Choir program has a proud heritage. Wherever the choir goes, its members are representative of the Milan School District. Whether in or out of uniform, at a performance or a rehearsal, on the road or at home, at operational functions or social activities, choir members must conduct themselves in a mature and professional manner. Any action by a choir member reflects either positively or negatively upon the choir and the school. Just as musicianship must never falter in performance, the manner in which a choir member conducts himself/herself should never be questioned for appropriateness.

For a current performance calendar and other important classroom materials and announcements, go to our classroom website:

*To locate our classroom website, go to milanareaschools.org
select Middle School-staff-electives-choir
Click the blue links for documents and recordings*

If you are unable to use the internet for classroom materials, hard copies are always available in our classroom. Simply take the copies that you need from the table in our room.

PowerSchool is the official gradebook for all Milan High School courses. All updated course grades will be maintained in PowerSchool as the official gradebook for each course.

Required Materials for Daily Rehearsals

1. PENCIL

Always be prepared to use a pencil during class. You may not use any type of pen on the music or on class assignments. Using ink on printed music will result in a replacement fine.

2. MUSIC FOLDER

You will be assigned a folder and various pieces of music throughout the year. These items are your responsibility and must be returned in the same condition as you received them. A storage space is provided in the classroom for folders. Any damaged or lost items must be replaced by the student at the current retail price plus shipping costs.

4. ASSIGNMENTS

It is highly recommended that choir members have a listening/recording device to use during the year. All items turned in for this class must be labeled with the student's full name and choir name.

Classroom Policies

1. All students are to be seated and ready to work at the start of class. You are expected to make getting to class on time a high priority. Band members are expected to take care of personal school business and other school work outside of class time. Once you have entered the room for class, do not expect to leave until the class is dismissed.
2. Students must leave personal items such as purses, books, book bags in a designated space. This will allow for easier movement in our crowded room. It will also help students stay focused on the task at hand without being distracted by these items. Cases need to be latched during class so that they can be moved under chairs.
3. Passes out of this class will be extremely rare and limited to genuine emergencies. Students are expected to take care of personal bathroom needs and other appointments before or after class. Follow the example of your teacher and make it a goal to remain in the classroom for the duration of the period. For safety purposes, you must sign in and out of the room in the event of a pass emergency.
5. Be prepared for class by being well hydrated when you arrive. NO GUM, FOOD, CANDY, COUGH DROPS, MINTS, BEVERAGES OR OTHER INAPPROPRIATE ITEMS DURING REHEARSAL. Water bottles must be CLEAR to follow school guidelines and should have your name on them. It is expected that water bottles will be part of daily clean-up/recycling: if you bring your own bottle into the band room, it should leave with you.
6. All school rules will be observed in this class and during any other music activities. All of us-- including Mrs. Upton and any substitute teacher during the year-- deserve the opportunity to learn in a safe and comfortable environment. Any behavior that obstructs the learning process will not be tolerated.

Band Grades

- Much of the work that we do in this class will be performing as an instrumentalist and a member of our band.
- Some written work will be part of this class.
- Grades earned reflect the skill that a student demonstrates in class and in concert performances. This *includes* demonstrating responsibilities individual musicians must fulfill to contribute to the full group.
- Plagiarism (claiming someone else's work as your own) or copying will result in a failing grade on any assignments in the class.

Written work for this course may be submitted to an electronic plagiarism detection service. Online services match submissions against any of their database sources to check for inappropriately duplicated work, inadvertent use of another's work, or improper citations. All submissions to Turnitin are retained in the source database for future reference. Turnitin does not determine whether plagiarism has occurred, rather it is a tool used to guide my determination of originality of the written submission. Personal student information is not shared with Turnitin and students do not relinquish copyright of their original work.

Music is a cumulative process. Your attendance and participation are key to how well you will do in this class. It is in your best interest, and the best interest of the group for each individual to practice exceptional attendance. Please take good care of your health. Musicians need healthy minds and bodies in order to be artistic. Music classes require knowing the music as a member of the ensemble, not just as an individual.

Any time you are absent from a rehearsal or other band event, you are responsible for understanding the work that was missed. Talk to another member of your band to determine what took place in your absence, including what music was rehearsed. Check this information with Mrs. Upton at the end of class when you return. In the event that you have to miss class for an extended period of time, you and your parents need to contact Mrs. Upton personally to make arrangements for you to take care of your academic responsibilities.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE POLICY

Performances are a significant aspect of the music curriculum and are weighed like a summative assessment/final exam. Performances are the culmination of many weeks and months of work by the entire team. Individual absences weaken the efforts of the entire ensemble. For that reason, it is expected that all music students make daily and performance attendance a high priority in their schedules.

- Performance participation is required for music students. Required dates are announced well in advance to allow for planning. A current performance calendar is located on the band page of our school website: [Milan Area Schools Choirs](#)
- Performance grades weigh 50% for the marking period when they occur. Only serious personal illness or serious family emergencies, such as a death in the family, should prevent a student from participating in a required performance. Students who do not attend required performances do not earn a grade for the missed work regardless of the reason for the absence. Alternative work arrangements can be requested by parents if a student misses a performance. Because it is in the best interest of the student to do this work promptly, this work is typically required to be completed prior to the absence or immediately after the missed performance. Students must make these arrangements with Mrs. Upton.
- Out of consideration for the bands and the teacher, a parent of the student should contact the teacher as far in advance of an absence as possible. Should extreme circumstances prevent a parent from speaking to the director prior to the absence, parents are asked to contact the teacher by phone or email as soon as possible. Please note: a call placed to the school office or to the attendance line is for attendance records and will not be communicated to the teacher.

Excused Absence Band Performance Assessment

- Record yourself performing all of the music performed by your band at the event that you missed. Your work can be submitted to me in these formats: upload your recording to Google drive and share with Mrs. Upton; CD, DVD, or voice mail sent to 734-439-5860 (one piece per message); completing the recordings in the morning between 7:30 and 7:45, or by lending Mrs. Upton the recording device that you used.
- Label anything you turn in to me with your first and last name.
- It is in your best interest to make the recording at home where you can be relaxed and work at your own pace. If you don't own any recording equipment, consider borrowing a recording device from someone you know.
- Due Date: one week following an excused absence.
- All music should be performed; if your band performed by memory at a concert, you should submit a memorized recording for that selection.
- If you have questions about this alternative assessment, please contact Mrs. Upton immediately.

Concert Dress

For safety, all band members should plan on wearing closed toe shoes. Students in high school and in grades 7/8 should plan on wearing BLACK shoes.

6th GRADE Band

- Wear their own school appropriate clothing in any combination of red, black and/or white.

7th and 8th Grade Band Members:

- **Black** closed toe, closed heel flat shoes
- Polo shirts with the school band logo will be ordered in October. Eighth grade, please make sure that your shirt still fits. If you need another one, it can be ordered in October with the seventh grade.
- Black dress pants or a black knee length/longer skirt (make sure you can sit and play comfortably)
- Black dress socks or black tights

HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT BAND:

- High school band will wear assigned school owned uniform pieces for concert performances. These pieces are distributed *cleaned* and will be collected cleaned at the conclusion of each season.
- **Black** closed toe, closed heel flat shoes; black socks or tights
- Band logo shirts are worn under the marching band uniform. White gloves are also worn in cold weather; both can be purchased from Mrs. Upton and/or band staff.

HIGH SCHOOL WIND ENSEMBLE:

- Wind Ensemble members should wear their own *extremely dressy* concert blacks for inside performances. If you choose to wear a dress/skirt, please make sure you can play in it comfortably. Your *entire* concert uniform should be black.

If you need help obtaining uniform pieces, please ASK well in advance.

Concert Etiquette

During performances audience and musicians should be prepared to:

- remain seated and silent throughout the concert without food or drink
- power off and stow ALL electronic devices during the live performance
- attend the entire performance from beginning to end
- applaud at appropriate times
- create a comfortable atmosphere for performers and audience members by behaving with class

Literature

Milwaukee music ensembles will perform a variety of music throughout the year. By experiencing a wide variety of historic, contemporary and global music, musicians will have an opportunity to better understand many cultures. Musically the bands perform literature that considers:

- the musician's ability
- musical quality & content
- literary quality & content
- curricular and programming needs

Festival events require music that is selected from a mandatory list of pieces selected by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association. 7-12th grade musicians will have the opportunity to participate in one or more adjudicated festivals during the school year. Possible opportunities may include State Honors Band, Solo & Ensemble, and Band Festival. Honors Bands and/or Solo and Ensemble festivals require fees and may require out of class rehearsal time. Participating students will receive pertinent information about these opportunities at various times throughout the school year.

Fundraising

Music students and families will have the opportunity to participate in fundraising activities. The music department depends on the income from fundraising activities to provide materials to students throughout the school year. Profits earned are used to purchase necessary materials and services for the music program including printed music, musical equipment, uniforms, audio recordings and other music classroom items not covered by the general school budget. While students are not required to participate, we invite all music families to support the ongoing need to support music students in this way.

Parents and Families

Children thrive when they are supported by their parents, teachers and the community. We are looking forward to sharing our music with you in upcoming concerts. Please put your student's events on your calendar and plan on attending each performance they give this school year. Please don't drop your child off at school for concerts. Come in and spend an hour watching your child perform. We look forward to sharing beautiful music with all of the music families this year.