



# ***Avery Trace Middle School***

## ***Choir Handbook***

### ***2021/2022***

Choir members and parents,

Welcome to the Avery Trace Middle School Choir Program and congratulations on your decision to join! There are few organizations of any kind so rich in tradition and success that also include so many real-world and life experiences than vocal music. The 2021/2022 year gives us a new chance to grow and allow everyone a chance to reach their highest level of success.

Our goals for the year are to learn to work as a team, to become independent musicians and students, use correct vocal technique, and sing expressively and accurately. In order to reach these goals we must stay focused, be prepared, and give 100% each day.

The following handbook outlines how we can set ourselves up for success this year. Please read through it and turn in the **Choir Handbook Agreement** form. By following the guidelines stated in this handbook, you can enjoy success as a singer and a student. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please do not hesitate to call or email. I look forward to working with each of you!

Sincerely,

Bethany Smith

### **Classroom Materials**

All ensemble music will be provided to each choir member. You will be asked to purchase a **notebook paper or spiral notebook and a pencil.** Students will be given 1 notebook to use throughout the year. This folder is for choral music only and will remain in the classroom with the spiral notebook. **Students will also be required to purchase a choir t-shirt for informal performances.**

### **Fundraising/Fees**

There will be a few opportunities throughout the year to participate in additional choir experiences which will be announced as they approach such as auditioned mass choir/ honor. **There will be a choir t-shirt which students will be required to wear for informal/school performances. It will be \$10.**

It is the conviction of the Avery Trace Choirs that money will not be a factor in any individuals' participation in the choral program. Please come to me with any concerns with costs throughout the year.

### **Communication**

Communication is most effective when pro-active and cordial. Email is the fastest and easiest way to reach me. Please let me know if you have changes in your email, as I will send out periodic emails/notifications throughout the year. I will update our website throughout the year and will be up-to-date on performances, events, etc. <https://averytracechoirs.weebly.com/>

### **Performance Attire**

It is important that we achieve uniformity in all aspects of our performance. Therefore the following attire will be worn for all performances

#### Formal

White Shirt

Black Pants or Black knee-length skirt

Appropriate Undergarments, parental discretion

Close-toed black shoes/ Black socks

#### Informal

Jeans, choir t-shirt

### **Participation/Professionalism**

One of the goals of this program is to give students the experience of being professional musicians. This includes having all class materials, keeping up with music, maintaining proper singing posture, and encouraging a positive rehearsal atmosphere.

Each student will be expected to:

- Have Materials (Black notebook/spiral notebook/ pencil)
- Sing with a Positive attitude and Raider spirit
- Work and Support other students

## **Classroom Rules**

1. Be respectful
2. Be responsible
3. No food, drinks, or gum in the choir room (bottled water is permitted and recommended).

## **Bathroom Passes/Hall Passes**

Students will not be allowed to leave the room unless it is an emergency or directed by doctor/parent. Leaving the classroom greatly impacts our rehearsals and slows instruction. Students pass at least 2 bathrooms before entering the choir room, so there is no need to leave during class. All materials will be kept in the classroom.

## **Consequences**

1. Verbal warning-documented
2. Moved to a designated area within the classroom
3. Parents and principal notified of classroom behavior, behavior log
4. Referral to principal for immediate action (possible removal from choir).

## **Grading**

60% **Daily Class Work (Rehearsal work)** – includes quizzes of musicianship skills that show a student's progress, classroom assignments (rhythmic and melodic dictation, music tests, and quizzes).

40% **Summative Assessment (Performance)** - attendance at all choir performances during school and after school are mandatory and will affect the student's grade. Below is a list of the concert schedule for this school year.

## **Choir Calendar**

(More information to come. \* are required performances)

### **Semester 1**

- Veterans Day- 7th/8th grade\*
- Winter Concert- December 9th\*

### **Semester 2**

- March/April Concert Festival Date TBD- all choirs\*
- May 12th- Spring Choir Concert 6:00pm (choir formal dress)\*

### **Optional and Auditioned Opportunities:**

- Putnam County Mass Choir- October 21st, 7th/8th grade
- February 15th- MTVA Mass Choir 5th/6th grade
- We will have various field trip opportunities occurring throughout the year and will give more information as the dates become available.

**Please Return the Next Page to Mrs. Smith ASAP**

**Please detach and send back to Mrs. Smith ASAP**

I have read the Avery Trace Choir Handbook and understand it is my responsibility to follow rules and procedures in the classroom to ensure we all succeed. Failure to follow procedures/classwork could result in a lowering of my grade. I understand that my attendance at performances is not optional and I will be present to support our fellow musicians.

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Student Name

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Date

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Student Signature

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Date

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Parent Signature

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Date

