

**2023-2024**  
**Ruckel Middle School**  
**Chorus Handbook**



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## Ruckel Middle School Chorus Policies and Procedures

### I. Attendance Policy

The chorus calendar is available in this handbook as well as through the Google Calendar link on the Ruckel Chorus website. [Ramchorus.weebly.com] Students are expected to attend performances as outlined below:

**6<sup>th</sup> grade:** Fall/Holiday and Spring concerts, as well as the adjudicated Music Performance Assessment (MPA). Two to four after school rehearsal will be scheduled to combine the two sixth grade classes before major performances. These will be highly encouraged.

**Envoys/Ambassadors:** Fall/Holiday and Spring concerts, as well as the adjudicated Music Performance Assessment (MPA). Additionally, the Ruckel Veteran's Day ceremony, and Twin Cities Honor Choir Community Performance are mandatory for these groups. As per the contract, there may be additional performances for these auditioned groups.

**Chanson Chorus:** Fall/Holiday and Spring concerts, as well as the adjudicated Music Performance Assessment (MPA).

Any student who has an unexcused absence from a performance will receive a grade of zero for that performance. Every student is integral to the performance of the entire group.

Excused absences include death in the family or personal illness with a doctor's note. Any other situation requires notice prior to the absence and must be excused by the director.

When conflicts occur, school activities must take precedence over non-school activities. If a student is involved in more than one school activity, the faculty members in charge will help the parents and students work out an acceptable solution.

A performance takes precedence over a non-school event or practice.

### II. Grading

All grades will be based on the following five categories and posted on gradebook:

- Daily assessment (including participation)
- Performance attendance and assessment, based on the FL state standards.
- Written skills tests
- Music vocabulary tests
- Vocal assessments

### III. Chorus Communication

The Ruckel Chorus uses email and remind text messages for communication. If you signed up last year, you will need to **do it again**.

The Remind codes are as follows:

Sixth Grade: Text @sixrams to 81010

Ambassadors: Text @ramadors to 81010

Chanson: Text @1chanson to 81010

All-County: Text @rmsallcty to 81010

All-State: Text @staterms to 81010

Here Comes Treble (early morning ensemble): Text @rmssong to 81010

#### **IV. Classroom Procedures**

The following procedures ensure a safe and productive rehearsal environment:

- Folders and pencil out after the tardy bell, put away materials at the end of class.
- Be in assigned location
- Stay focused during warmups and rehearsal
- Participate as directed
- No touching others
- No talking back to the teacher
- The piano is off-limits to students unless prior approval has been given. No gum, food, or drink is allowed in the chorus room (except water).

Consequences for not following classroom procedures:

- Warning
- Student/Teacher conference
- Action plan with parent contact
- Office referral

#### **V. Uniforms TBD**

Uniform policies continue their transition. This year we will begin the rental process for the formal dresses and the new vest. Please see handout information about your child's specific uniform needs once the school year begins.

#### **VI. Curriculum**

The chorus curriculum for all chorus classes at Ruckel is based on the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards. These standards are in line with the Common Core Standards. Students will be graded daily, as well as during performances. Learning target skills include:

- Demonstrates correct tone and pitch placement
- Demonstrates correct posture, breath support, and control
- Demonstrates correct vowel formation
- Demonstrates both head and chest voice
- Sings with steady beat
- Demonstrates awareness of internal pulse
- Reads notes on the staff in appropriate clefs
- Demonstrates the ability to sing a major scale
- Identifies and describes musical elements specific to music rehearsed and performed
- Consistently demonstrates musician-specific behaviors in all rehearsal and performance settings. These include: focused attention, positive contribution to the ensemble, positive attitude
- Makes value judgments regarding music and music performance based on specific criteria. These include: rhythm, melody, harmony, tone color, expressive elements, style
- Examines composer intent and origin in relation to specific repertoire
- Performs note and rest values of whole notes through sixteenth and dotted rhythms.
- Critiques, using correct music vocabulary, changes in one's own or others' musical performance resulting from practice or rehearsal

- Discuss how music relates to the world outside of the music classroom
- Discuss how technology has changed the way we consume and perform music
- Demonstrates ability to determine scale solfege placement based on knowledge of major and/or minor key signatures.

**Ruckel Middle School Choir  
2023-2024  
Calendar of Events**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Who is involved</u>
July 18-20	All-State Prep	Chorus Room 1:00-2:30	All Interested
August 1-3	All-State Prep	Chorus Room 10:00-11:30	All Interested
August 24	Panera Bread night	Niceville	Family
September 7	Back to School Informance	TBD	All Chorus
September 9	All State Audition 1	Crestview	All-State Hopefuls
September 18	All-County Rehearsal	Davidson MS	All-County Students
September 25	All-County Rehearsal	Ruckel Chorus room	All-County Students
October 2	All-County Rehearsal	Meigs Middle School	All-County Students
October 10	All-State 2 Vocal Quality	Woodlawn Beach MS	All-State Hopefuls
October 16	All-County Rehearsal	Brunner Middle	All-County Students
October 22	All-Cty Rehearsal	Lewis 1:30-4:30	All-County Students
October 23	All-Cty Reh. /Concert	Crosspoint/Mattie Kelly	All-County Students
November 3-4	Solo and Ensemble	UWF	Participants
November 10	Veterans Day Ceremony	Ruckel MS	All RMS Chorus
November 16	Men's Day	Crestview H.S.	All Chorus Guys
December 14	RMS Holiday <b>Desert</b> Concert	Village Church	All RMS Chorus
January 9-13	All-State	Tampa	All-State students
January 27	Chorus Retreat	RMS	Ambassador Mixed
February 9	Girls Day	N.H.S..	All Chorus Ladies
March 4-5	MPA	FBC Milton	All RMS Chorus
March 14-17	Spring Trip	New York City	7-8 grade registered
April 2 or 9	Twin Cities Honor Choir	Mattie Kelly	Ambassadors
April 11	Spring Concert	Village Church	All RMS Chorus
May 20	Awards Night	TBD	All RMS Chorus

**\*Please note that dates are subject to change. At least two weeks notice will be given for any date changes.**

Description of Selected Events:

Fall/Holiday Concert, MPA, and Spring Concert: Required of all chorus students

All-County/All-State Chorus:

Choir members will be selected by the director to participate. If a student makes it into the All-State choir after the audition, they will travel to Tampa to participate in the All-State Chorus.

Additional costs are associated with participating in these events.

## 2023-2024 Ruckel Middle School Chorus Contract

Students signing the chorus contract agree to the following:

- I have read and understand the policies of the RMS choir handbook.
- I agree to follow the policies in the handbook and promise to represent the RMS chorus to the best of my ability.
- I commit myself to contributing my best talents and efforts to the music.
- I understand that all performances are mandatory. If I am a member of an auditioned ensemble, I understand that additional performances may be added throughout the school year.
- If I decide not to follow the rules and policies of the chorus, I understand I will receive a lower grade for the course.

\_\_\_\_\_

Chorus Member Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_

Chorus Member Signature

Parents signing the chorus contract agree to the following:

- I have read and understand the policies of the RMS choir handbook.
- I confirm by signing this contract that I agree to support the chorus, my singers, and the policies of the chorus.
- I understand that performances are mandatory and are a part of the grade for the course, and I have received dates for this year's performances.

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature

### Chorus Communication

The primary form of chorus communication is email. Please use the spaces below to list addresses that you want to receive email communication at. **Please print legibly.**

Parent email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Student email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Due Back to Mr. Fezell by Tuesday, August 15th**