



**JOHNSTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL
CHORAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT
2021-2022 HANDBOOK**

Brianna Warner, Director

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This handbook has been prepared for your convenience to reference throughout the course of the school year. It contains almost everything that participating students and parents need to know to achieve success in the Johnstown-Monroe Choral Music Program. It is strongly recommended that you keep this handbook within reach so that it can be referred to if a question or issue should arise. Parents and students should read all items in the handbook before signing and returning the choir contract.

Hello and Welcome to the Johnstown Middle School Choral Music Department! We have some exciting plans for this school year, and I can't wait to share those plans with you as we go through the year together.

As you are aware, we are still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unlike last school year, however, we have a little more flexibility in how we manage our performances in and out of the classroom, giving us more room for normalcy than last school year. This is wonderful news for us! Even though we have more freedom, we still need to proceed with caution, understanding that protocols and guidelines out of our control can change at any time. Therefore, our mantra from last year carries over to this year: let's continue to have patience, flexibility, and grace with one another.

- **Patience** with administrators, teachers, students and their families as they all continue to navigate through protocols and guidelines for everyone's health, safety, and education.
- **Flexibility**, knowing that plans can change at any time as more information is made available.
- **Grace**, knowing that these circumstances are completely out of everyone's control; tough decisions are and will continue to be made while thinking about everyone's best interest, even if we don't agree; be kind.

With everyone's **hard work, dedication, teamwork, respect for one another**, and **love of creating music** (in addition to our patience, flexibility, and grace mantra), we can make this an amazing school year - **our successes in these areas will only bring us closer together and make us stronger!**

I hope you're ready to sing and make beautiful music together - I know I am!

Thank you for choosing to be a member of our wonderful choir program - let's have a fun year!

Musically Yours,

Miss Warner

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MISS WARNER'S PHILOSOPHY OF CHORAL MUSIC EDUCATION

"Music is a universal language; individuals of all cultures around the world communicate through and embrace music every day in numerous ways. We hear music on the radio, in retail stores and restaurants, on the internet, in movies and television shows, and even in office buildings. Additionally, people are actively making music in concert halls, places of worship, coffee houses, outdoor arenas, and in the comfort of their own homes with a variety of musical instruments. Music is truly an art form, one that provides us with an outlet to express our emotions for the well-being of others and ourselves. Clearly, music surrounds and affects us daily, no matter where we are, and thus needs to be embraced in our children's educational experience to become holistic members of society.

My goal, as a music educator, is to provide all students with a well-rounded music education through general and choral music by creating a welcoming environment conducive to learning; all students who have a love of music have the potential to develop any musical skill. Students will learn and apply the musical skills that are needed to continue making music outside the walls of our classroom. Musical literacy, history and culture, vocabulary, improvisation, composition, and performing are some of the many musical skills learned in our music classroom.

It is not enough to be competent in musical skills alone; therefore, the music classroom is a place to develop the non-musical life skills that can be utilized within our community and our world. These life skills include, but are not limited to, social skills, time-management skills, teamwork, responsibility, accountability, motivation, risk-taking, ownership and leadership. My goal is to teach these skills through a variety of musical experiences, including ensemble rehearsals, musicianship studies, choir concerts, singing assessments, and performances within our community.

Harnessing these musical and life skills are crucial to forming a well-rounded individual; however, the one factor that completes an individual is the human spirit. Music allows a person to express their emotions through song, and my goal is to work alongside my students to choose music with meaning, challenging our minds and souls. By challenging ourselves in the comfort and safety of our music classroom, we can share our hearts through song and touch the lives of our community and world. After all, music is an experience for the performer and the listener.

The power of music is incredible. By implementing music education in our schools, we are enabling the youth of our world to experience music in a way that cannot be experienced in other school subject matters. In learning the musical skills for future music making, students are also gaining the life skills and human spirit needed to be a holistic member of society." ~Miss Warner

STATE STANDARDS OF MUSIC EDUCATION

While at Johnstown, choir members learn a wide range of quality choral repertoire ranging from classical and jazz to spirituals and multicultural music, spanning from the Renaissance to contemporary pop. In addition to learning strong choral repertoire, choral rehearsals are centered on four academic content standards of music education as determined by the National Core Arts Standards and the Ohio Department of Education:

- 1) Creating
- 2) Performing/Presenting/Producing
- 3) Responding
- 4) Connecting

To be able to teach these objectives well, I must select music of the highest caliber and representative of many styles and origins. Through selection, rehearsal, and performance of diverse repertoire, the choral music experience in Johnstown promotes diversity both inside and outside of the schools. By doing this, the students will be exploring music of other cultures and countries, which will involve singing music in other languages. We will also be singing music from different time periods, both sacred (religious) and secular (non-religious), to be able to explore how music has developed and has been an integral part of different cultures over time. After much hard work, the students will display their musical achievements in concerts to be held in the Performing Arts Center at Johnstown Middle School. Jazzy Johnnies students may be required to perform at other community and church venues.

SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST

Participation in Solo & Ensemble Contest is optional, although highly encouraged. Music Selection will begin in January.

Fees:

Soloists must pay a registration fee (total TBD, due February 26th, 2022) in order to participate. Soloists who have not paid by the deadline will not be registered to perform. If a soloist does not perform on the day of contest, for whatever reason,

the registration fee will not be refunded as it is paid to OMEA at the time of registration. The Johnstown Choir Boosters will pay for ensemble participation and there will be no extra charge for students.

Rehearsals:

Soloists are responsible for rehearsing their piece at home on their own time. Soloists are also responsible for scheduling 2 required private vocal lessons with either Miss Warner or Mrs. Tanner, and one rehearsal with their accompanist before the contest. Any student who fails to do so will not be permitted to participate. Soloists that take private voice lessons from an outside teacher should consult with Miss Warner regarding rehearsals.

Ensembles are also responsible for scheduling 3 ensemble rehearsals with either Miss Warner or Mrs. Tanner and 1 rehearsal with the accompanist before the contest. Any ensemble who fails to do so will not be permitted to participate.

GRADING POLICY

Your student's grades will reflect what s/he knows and can do in relation to the State of Ohio Content Standards. Grades based on standards help to improve students' achievement by driving educators to focus on four critical questions:

- 1) What do students need to know and be able to do?
- 2) How will we know that they have learned it?
- 3) What will we do when they have not learned it?
- 4) What will we do when they already know it?

Grades based on curriculum standards help me to plan on instruction so that I can challenge and support all of my students. They also help you, as parents, know the academic and performance areas in which your student meets or exceeds expectations, needs challenges, or needs support. There are 3 different types of assessment used in my classroom:

- **Diagnostic Assessment (Pre-Test)** takes place prior to instruction to determine a student's skills or prior knowledge in order to identify students' needs.
- **Formative Assessment** provides direction for review, re-teaching, and other adjustments for individual students or for the whole class. These assessments are for learning (class activities, quizzed, homework, questions during instruction, etc.)

- Summative Assessment provides information to use to judge a student's achievement at the end of a period of instruction. These tests, exams, final performances, projects, etc., are assessments of learning. Students will have the opportunity to improve their grades by reassessing and providing me with evidence of higher levels of performance.

Keeping progress on formative assessments separate from summative assessments gives a more precise picture of student achievement. While feedback on an assessment of a student's formative work are important, these scores will not be reflected in the student's grade. Also, student behaviors (effort, participation, adherence to school rules, etc.) will not be included in the student's grade. Grades will only reflect achievement toward Ohio Content Standards. Reporting achievement separately from behaviors means that everyone can know as accurately as possible what a grade means in terms of achievement.

Reassessment:

Students scoring above 79% on the original summative assessment will not be able to reassess. Only students scoring 79% or lower will have the opportunity to reassess if they follow the procedure outlined in this section for reassessment. If reassessing, the highest score a student can receive on a summative reassessment will be 80%. (Note: During reassessment, the higher of the two scores will be used as the final grade for that assessment). Students must complete interventions assigned by Miss Warner before reassessment. Students will have one week and one opportunity to reassess (Clarification: within one week of the date the original assessment was returned to the student.) It is at the discretion of the teacher as to whether all or part of the original assessment will be reassessed. Reassessment format (written, oral, etc.) will also be at the discretion of the teacher.

Using Zeros in Summative Assessments:

Zeros will not be given for summative assessments. In the past, zeros were given when students missed a performance or another summative assessment. In standards-based grading, a grade of "incomplete" will be assigned until the assessment is completed. Students may be assigned to interventions before, during, or after school in order to make up the incomplete assignments.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students will redo any assessment that involves academic dishonesty, which includes both plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism means submitting (as one's own work) words, ideas, images, or data from

another author/creator. Cheating can include, but is not limited to, possession of unauthorized material, submission of another student's material (whether graded or not), false claims or fabricated references, copying someone else's exam/test/quiz, or passing answers from an exam/test/quiz to another student. When an incident of cheating or plagiarism occurs, the student, along with parent/guardian, may meet as needed with a principal and the involved teachers. After discussion, one of the following sanctions will be imposed:

- The student will redo the assignment or complete another substitute assignment on his/her own time (lunch intervention, before or after school detention).
- The student may be denied participation and/or membership in academic and non-academic activities, groups, teams, and events. Offenses that occur in the final nine-week period of the school year will carry over into the next school year. Second offenses will warrant more severe consequences.
- The student may be suspended in school or out of school.
- The student may be expelled.

Students may appeal any academic dishonesty charge against them within one week of the charge. The appeal will be presented to the principal and Miss Warner.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

All performances are mandatory as they are the true summative assessment of each student's mastery in choir. If a student misses a performance, regardless of the reason, s/he MUST reassess their concert to earn any credit towards the summative grade. Excused and unexcused absences are not relevant to an achievement grade. Absences will be reported separately from grades.

Jazzy Johnnies members are required to be at many additionally performances. If a student in Jazzy Johnnies misses a performance, they may be removed from the ensemble completely. Students who are considered truant will be held accountable through disciplinary measures rather than through grades. All required dates for this school year are listed on the schedule that is attached to this handbook. By signing the choir contract at the end of the handbook, you are acknowledging that you have received these mandatory dates and understand the expectation of mandatory performance attendance.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Good behavior and model citizenship should be synonymous with the Johnstown Middle School Choirs. These behaviors are most certainly commonplace, but when a student breaks a classroom or school rule the following procedure will be implemented:

- 1st Offense - warning
- 2nd offense - detention
- 3rd offense - second detention/parent is called
- 4th offense - referral to office
- 5th offense - parent conference

Any violation of school rules will be dealt with not only by the director, but also by the appropriate school officials.

CLASSROOM VALUES

- ♪ **BE KIND.**
- ♪ Show **GRIT**
 - G - Give it your all
 - R - Redo if necessary
 - I - Ignore giving up
 - T - Take time to do it right
- ♪ Overcome adversity with mental toughness.
- ♪ Contribute positively to the group.
- ♪ Handle stress with **grace**.
- ♪ Give your level best.
- ♪ Show others that you care.
- ♪ Give attention to details.
- ♪ **BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.**
- ♪ Be efficient.
- ♪ Follow the Campsite Rule
 - Leave the classroom better than you found it

YOU CAN EXPECT ME TO FOLLOW THESE VALUES AND TO GIVE 100% EVERY DAY. I ASK THAT YOU DO THE SAME, AND WE WILL HAVE A FABULOUS SCHOOL YEAR!

WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO CHOIR EVERY DAY?

When you come to choir, you **ALWAYS** need to have the following items with you:

- ♪ **Your own choir folder**
 - You will be given an assigned slot to store your folder; if you take your folder home with you to practice, **PLEASE REMEMBER to BRING IT BACK FOR GLASS!!**
- ♪ **Your own pencil**
- ♪ **Your own choir journal**
 - This is a new thing that I would like to use in class this year; please bring a notebook that can be designated for choir use only
- ♪ **Your own clear water bottle**
 - You are encouraged to bring your own clear water bottle to choir so that you and your beautiful voices can stay hydrated.

PLEASE BE SURE TO BOOKMARK OUR WEBSITE SO THAT YOU ALWAYS HAVE ACCESS TO THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION FOR OUR CHOIR PROGRAM! WWW.JHSCHOIR.ORG

SUPPORT OUR CHOIR PROGRAM THROUGH THE JOHNSTOWN CHOIR BOOSTERS! WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR IDEAS AT ANY OF OUR REGULAR MEETINGS. MEETING DATES AND TIMES WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE!

MISS WARNER WILL BE UTILIZING THE "REMIN" APP THIS YEAR TO COMMUNICATE WITH ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS. "REMIN" IS A TEXT MESSAGING AND EMAIL SYSTEM THAT KEEPS ALL PERSONAL INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL. TEACHERS WILL NEVER SEE YOUR PHONE NUMBER, NOR WILL YOU SEE THEIRS. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR STUDENT (OR YOU!) SIGNS UP FOR HIS/HER CLASS ON "REMIN" TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT REMINDERS FROM MISS WARNER DIRECTLY VIA EMAIL OR TEXT MESSAGE! TO SIGN UP FOR THE CORRECT CLASS, PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED SHEET.

JOHNSTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR CONTRACT

My student _____ and I have read the handbook for the Johnstown Middle School Choral Music Department and understand the policies, rules, and expectations. I have made note of all dates on the attached schedule and understand that student participation is mandatory for all events as it pertains to my child. I know that my child will be singing music that is both sacred (religious) and secular (non-religious), but that the music selected is used as a means of teaching the Ohio Academic Standards only. I also understand that my student may be required to perform in venues outside of our community such as churches, other schools, and competitions.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Phone Number

Parent/Guardian Email Address

The Parent/Guardian email address provided will be utilized for choir announcements and reminders throughout the school year

Student emails will also be utilized for choir announcements and reminders (graduation year, last name, first initial@s.jmk12.org)

EXAMPLE: 21warnerb@s.jmk12.org

Please check your preferred method of contact if Miss Warner must contact you regarding student behavior:

Phone Call

Email

6TH & 8TH PERIOD MIXED CHOIR – REMIND INFORMATION



Sign up for important updates from Miss Warner.

Get information for Willis C Adams Middle School right on your phone—not on handouts.

Pick a way to receive messages for **JMS Choir**:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/jtownchoir

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @jtownchoir to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @jtownchoir to (267) 433-5891.

* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/jtownchoir on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

7TH PERIOD JAZZY JOHNNIES – REMIND INFORMATION



Sign up for important updates from Miss Warner.

Get information for Willis C Adams Middle School right on your phone—not on handouts.

Pick a way to receive messages for **Jazzy Johnnies**:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/jmsjazzy

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @jmsjazzy to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @jmsjazzy to (267) 433-5891.

* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/jmsjazzy on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

JOHNSTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR CALENDAR

- *Cabaret.....October 23rd (7pm) & 24th (3pm), 2021
- Veteran's Day Performance.....November 11th, 2021
(during school day)
- Christmas Concerts.....December 5th, 2021 * 3pm & 6pm
- *~Musical.....March 18th - 20th, 2022
- Jazzy Johnnies Auditions.....Week of March 21st, 2022
(6th/7th Grade Students Only)
- Chorale/Apogee/Double Q Auditions.....Week of April 4th, 2022
(8th Grade Students Only)
- JMS End-of-the-Year Spring Concert and Awards.....May 17th, 2022 * 6pm

*** DENOTES JAZZY JOHNNIES PERFORMANCES ONLY**
~ DENOTES OPTIONAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Dress Rehearsals for Cabaret, Christmas Concert, and Spring Concert will be announced as we get closer to each performance date. These will be determined around athletic schedules and any other events happening in the community.

Please be flexible! Thanks in advance!

Be on the lookout for any additional events/performances. I will be sure to give plenty of notice for those potential dates.