

SAMPLE CHORUS PRACTICE LOG

Practice logs are due every other Monday (or the first day of school that week).

	Date	# of Minutes	What did you practice? (Solfege and scales? What songs and their word memorization, spoken rhythms, facial expression, dynamics, phrasing for each song?)
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			

Total minutes practiced for the two weeks _____

TO MAKE ANY PROGRESS AND TO GET A 4, YOU MUST PRACTICE 30 MINUTES OR MORE A WEEK- YOU MAY COMBINE TIMES.

Log rubric:

4-student practiced all pieces during the two week period, practiced every day, and had a total of 60 minutes or more of practice time.

3-student practiced most pieces during the two week period, practiced almost every day, and had from 59-39 minutes of practice time.

2-student practiced some pieces, practiced some days, and had a total of 40-29 minutes of practice time.

1-student practiced few pieces, practiced few days, and had a total of 29 or less minutes of practice time over two weeks.

Parent/Guardian _____

BURRILLVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORAL PROGRAM HANDBOOK

2016-17



Ms. Rosanna Cavanaugh,
Choral Director
401-568-1320
cavanaughr@bsd-ri.net

Student's Name _____

CURRICULUM

Our goal is to craft meaningful choral performances; all rehearsals are based upon refining students' choral skills and experiences. Students will often refine and practice certain skills which will include: good vocal and breathing techniques, solfege/sight singing, part singing, group/quartet performances, and concert/festival performances; these are guided by RI GSE's and national standards.

GRADING

Grades in chorus will be based on the following:

Rehearsal Effort/Behavior	60%
Practice Logs	10%
Concert/Festival	30%
Attendance/Performance	

Students will be given a rubric which will be the source for assessing behaviors. It is important to not only be able to sing well, but also to contribute positively to our group. Periodically, students will perform in small groups in front of the class. Here, students' skills and preparation will be assessed through teacher and peer feedback. Students must also submit a practice log several times in a quarter. In the 1st quarter, rehearsal skills and behaviors will be the basis for grading, as there is no concert.

Quarterly averages are then reduced to some form of the letter names, which are qualified below:

- A-exceeds course expectations
- B-meets course expectations
- C-some course expectations not met
- F-many course expectations not met

CONCERT/FESTIVAL ATTENDANCE

In a chorus, the culmination of hard work is shown through performance, it is our form of exam. Therefore, concert/festival attendance is **mandatory** and, as noted, 30% of the quarterly grade.

WEEKLY REHEARSAL RUBRIC (sample)

Name _____ Week of: _____

Rate yourself by circling one of the answers from 4 (best) to 1 (least). If I disagree with your assessment by more than one point, I may ask you to demonstrate or justify your rating.

I arrived on time and sat in my seat before the bell rang...	4	3	2	1
I had all of my music and a pencil in my folder...	4	3	2	1
I did not talk to my friends during rehearsal time...	4	3	2	1
I used the appropriate focus levels/used singing posture...	4	3	2	1
I SANG at all times required...	4	3	2	1
I followed the rehearsal even when the other part was singing...	4	3	2	1
I brought a positive and respectful attitude to class...	4	3	2	1
I marked everything in my music when asked...	4	3	2	1
I performed all of the expressions my conductor asked for...	4	3	2	1
I sang with confidence, energy, and appropriate volume...	4	3	2	1

Students will receive 4 different back to back rehearsal rubrics every quarter. **Students must hand in every other Friday; 4 a quarter. Ms. Cavanaugh will review charts and this is how the rehearsal effort/behavior will be earned.**

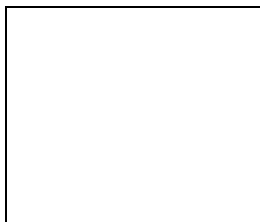
PARENT SUPPORT/INVOLVEMENT

As a parent, you are your child's most important role model and source of support through your child's education. This is especially important in your child's choral education. We cannot do what we do without your help. As a choral parent, you can encourage your child to practice daily, bring them to concerts, chaperone for our festivals, but most importantly let your child know that his/her experience as a chorister is valuable. I will keep you in touch with upcoming events and am willing to receive any help you are willing to offer. I thank you now for your anticipated support and I look forward to working with you and your child.

BMS CHORUS 2016-17 PERFORMANCE DATES

- **Holiday Concert***: Thursday, December 15, 2016
- Santa Event: December 2015 (Saturday date/time TBA)
- RIMEA Choral Festival: April, 2016
- **Spring Concert***: Thursday, May 18, 2017
- Great East Festival: Friday, June 2, 2017 (all day and in to evening)
- 8th Grade Promotion: Friday, June 12, 2017 (ceremony at 6 p.m.)

*Performance Time(s): 7:00 p.m. at BMS
Dates may be moved because of snow days



STUDENTS: KEEP A COPY OF THIS IN YOUR FOLDER FOR YOUR RECORDS AND PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU AND YOUR PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGN AND RETURN THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM.

Thank you! Go BMS Chorus!

CONCERT ATTIRE/UNIFORM

A concert is a formal event in which students display each of his/her own abilities. Students' appearance should reflect the importance of this occasion. For the holiday/spring concert and festivals concert attire is:

girls- BMS Chorus polo, black bottom- NO jeans (if skirt, then below the knee), and black shoes- NO sneakers.

boys- BMS music tee, black pants-NO jeans, black shoes-NO sneakers.

Tee- shirts will be ordered through a vendor the ordering information will be sent home a.s.a.p The polo will cost approximately \$18. All students must wear the uniform. If you have any questions, please contact me and I would be glad to help.

ABSENCES

Concert and festival attendance is mandatory, yet, occasionally, emergencies occur. The following constitute an excused absence: serious illness, family or medical emergency. Students must submit a note in writing about the reason for absence. Excused absences will result in the grade of 80; unexcused absences will render a 0.

COMMUNICATION

Parents can expect to get messages/ reminders/ updates in many forms. Forms/practice logs, etc. will be posted on the bms website under the music tab or may be sent via Skyward or e-mail. You will receive progress reports and quarterly newsletters from Ms. Cavanaugh. You are also invited to follow us on Twitter @ChorusBms.

EXPECTATIONS

Our entire purpose is to make fantastic music- everything else is secondary. Your 100% good singing, behavior, and effort are the only way we can achieve this. We need *you!* We will also be working toward proficiency of the RI Music Grade Span Expectations.

FESTIVAL INFORMATION

Students in the 7th/8th Grade Chorus will have the opportunity to perform in several festivals this year. Students will perform pieces for judges and will be graded, and will receive constructive feedback. Festivals are TBA and will provide students a great learning experience. All students are expected to attend choral festivals. There are also some optional festivals. Students may be able to audition for the All-State Chorus or be in the Solo & Ensemble Festival in May; students may perform in a solo or small group, will be judged, and may earn medals. For both the All-State and Solo & Ensemble Festival, Ms. Cavanaugh will sponsor and coach students after school.

PRACTICE

Practice is expected. Outside practice is essential to reinforce what we have learned. Students will be asked to submit practice logs periodically through the quarter; parents will be asked to verify and sign this practice log before students hand logs in. Practicing some is better than none; it really matters and you will get credit! **Practice logs are 10% of the grade and a sample is included on back page.** ©

AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS

These may be necessary once or twice a year parents will be asked to give permission on the acknowledgment form. Please arrange for students to be picked up promptly at the given time. These may be necessary once or twice a year-I appreciate your support.

REHEARSAL ROUTINES

Students are expected to report to class in a timely manner; **students must bring all music and worksheets in folder and a bring a pencil every day.** Students also should keep this handbook and agenda with them. Students must take their seat and be ready to sing when Ms. Cavanaugh gives the signal. Students will demonstrate the appropriate “levels” of rehearsal focus taught during rehearsal.

BEHAVIOR

Because listening is one of the most important choral skills to help students think and produce the best sound, it is essential to have a classroom where a student can hear and think his/her choral part. Therefore, talking in rehearsal is detrimental to students’ performance. As per the student handbook, students who are talking incessantly, being disruptive or insubordinate will receive one verbal warning. If the undesirable behavior continues, student will receive detention or may be referred to the principal.

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

During the year, students (and family members) will watch at least a small portion of a concert or festival performance. The focal point of a concert is first and foremost the musical performance. Performing well involves many variables and requires much concentration by the performer. Therefore, there are certain behaviors that are expected of audience members in any formal music concert. Each audience member should sit quietly in his/her own seat, watching and listening intently to the performance. If an audience member needs to leave, it is appropriate to do so *between* songs. If an infant or small child is crying, a parent may choose to take him/her out of the auditorium temporarily. Cell phones should be turned off. When demonstrating good concert etiquette, the audience member shows the performers respect and interest.