

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of musical notation, including treble clefs, notes, and stems, in a light yellow and orange color scheme.

DeLand High School Chorus

2011-2012

Chorus Handbook

**DeLand High School
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DHSChorus.com

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Director's Welcome

Dear Chorus Students and Parents,

Welcome to the school year 2011-2012. I am very excited to begin my fifth year as DeLand High School's Choral Director. I have been a music teacher in Volusia County for 17 years and I am very excited to be able to work with the fine group of students I have found at DeLand High School.

Last year we were able to take seven different groups to District Competitions where they all received top ratings. Then we continued on to State Competition with 4 different groups receiving top ratings. This year we will be including Men's Ensemble as a class during the day which has been a recruitment goal since I first started here. Also, we are starting the 9th Grade Women's Choir. So our program now has a total of eight choirs.

As always, I wish to continue our goal of giving back to the community. I will again focus all the choirs' performance opportunities on those that will allow the local area to meet our choirs and get to know what fabulous talent we have right here at DeLand High School. Performing locally is a great way to build community involvement and support for our program as well as give the students the chance to share their pride in their talents with their own neighbors. It looks to be a great year and I'm ready for the challenges that are ahead.

This handbook serves to provide you with information about the chorus program at DeLand High School so that you can know what to expect throughout the year. Please be sure to read it in its entirety. You may also access this information on our website. DHSChorus.com. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,
Melinda O'Neill
Choral Director



Program Overview

Music is a language that allows people to communicate in an expressive and ever-changing manner. The study of choral music enables students to explore different aspects of music and fosters a better understanding of the art of singing. This booklet serves as a guide to the DHS Chorus Program as well as the standards required to achieve excellence within the program. The study of choral music is very similar to the study of any other subject. To achieve success students must be willing to work hard and show commitment. It is the hope of DHS's Performing Arts Department that the study of the arts will help our students to develop aesthetic awareness and a deeper appreciation of the arts.

Program Benefits

Some benefits include:

- The opportunity to sing with the same group of friends for four years
- The chance to develop an attitude of teamwork in a large group activity
- The potential to work with excellent choirs and world famous guest conductors
- The thrill of being able to perform great choral literature in several different venues throughout the year
- The opportunity to hone musical skills that you can use for the rest of your life

What value does Chorus hold for your future?

Personally: In every major civilization, music has had a role in the general education of every student. Indeed, long after other things have vanished, civilizations are long remembered for their arts, including music. Brain research today is underscoring the presence of musical-aesthetic intelligence in human beings, a capacity to learn to be musical. These factors suggest to us that whatever your eventual career or life course, music study contributes to being a well-rounded person and realizing your potential as a human being. It can also provide a source of personal joy and pleasure available to you throughout life.

Practically: Vocal study is one of the most practical things you can do, for your voice is always part of you. You will learn to use it properly and take care of it, so that throughout your life you will have the knowledge to speak with greater quality and clarity, be more comfortable in front of people, participate in your college, community chorus or church choir, be involved in musical theatre, and acquire a more mature appreciation of the arts. Your experience now is the start of a life-long skill.

Academically: The College Board and most selective schools strongly urge high school music study – some even require it – no matter your vocational or academic goals. Your study in this school will help you prepare for college requirements.

Vocationally: Some of you may want to make music and/or dramatic arts your life's work. Numerous DHS chorus alumni have been accepted as college music, music theatre or drama majors, some with scholarships. There are often opportunities for music scholarships even without a major in music.

Course Descriptions

General Chorus

This course is a non-auditioned, entry level choir for any student in grades 9-12 who needs an arts credit or who is interested in furthering their vocal production and part singing. Emphasis is placed on developing basic skills in tone production, performance techniques, musical literacy, and music appreciation. After school rehearsals and performances are part of this course.

Men's Ensemble

This is a non-auditioned group for male students at varying levels of experience in grades 9-12. Emphasis is placed on developing basic skills in tone production, performance techniques, musical literacy, and music appreciation. After school rehearsals and performances are part of this program.

9th Grade Women's Choir

This course is a non-auditioned, entry level choir for women in the 9th grade. Emphasis is placed on developing basic skills in tone production, performance techniques, musical literacy, and music appreciation. After school rehearsals and performances are part of this program.

Advanced Women's Chorale

This course is an auditioned, intermediate level choir for students in grades 10-12 who have become proficient in vocal production and music reading skills. Emphasis is placed on developing tone production, sight-singing skills, vocal blending within an ensemble and individual musicianship skills at a more sophisticated level. After school rehearsals and performances are part of this course. The choir will perform each semester for scheduled public concerts, at district and state choral festivals, and at other festivals and competitions determined by the director.

Concert Choir

This course is an auditioned, advanced level choir for students in grades 10-12 who excel in vocal production and music reading skills. Emphasis is placed on fostering independence in musicianship, performance techniques and aesthetic awareness through rehearsal and performance of difficult choral music. After school rehearsals and performances are part of this course. The choir will perform each semester for scheduled public concerts, at district and state choral festivals, and at other festivals and competitions as determined by the director.

Code of Conduct

Expectations of good conduct are essential from all chorus members. Each student will represent their choir, the Performing Arts Department, and DeLand High School in the best way possible at all times. In addition to the expectations of conduct stated in the DHS Handbook, chorus students are expected to display proper conduct and respect of the highest caliber during dress rehearsals, performances, festivals, contests, field trips, or any activity associated with choir. Respect toward peers and all adults is a must in all circumstances. Unacceptable conduct from a DHS chorus student may result in disciplinary action and/or removal from chorus.

We don't follow the rules, we model the rules.

Classroom Policies

In order for choir to meet their goals there must be a structured and safe environment in the classroom. The following policies are merely a way to organize and discipline ourselves so that we will accomplish our goals in an efficient manner. Working together in this way will bring a sense of satisfaction, unity, and enjoyment to our rehearsals.

1. **Be On Time:** Be in your section with your folder, and a pencil, ready to rehearse when the bell rings. Use the restroom before or after class.
2. **Be Prepared:** Come to class prepared to work and learn. Turn in paperwork on time. Take care of personal business before or after school or present it in a written form. Have your folder, and a pencil, every day. No food, drink or gum is allowed in the choir room; water, however, is allowed (and encouraged).
3. **Be Attentive:** Take responsibility for your own development as a musician. Do not distract the director or those around you. Listen to the director and others, speak only when called upon. Make a positive contribution.
4. **Be Mature:** Respect the rights and property of yourself and others. Respect the effort of others. Be responsible for music, assignments, and attendance at rehearsals and concerts. Practice concert etiquette at all times, especially during rehearsals. Exhibit appropriate classroom behavior and positive language at all times.
5. **Be Excited:** Participate daily with a positive attitude. Every time you sing make it a quality experience. Enjoy experiencing and making beautiful music!

Consequences

Consequences of persistent failure to follow classroom policies: Warning, individual reprimand, private conference, referral to parents, referral to dean, behavior intervention program, permanent dismissal from chorus.

Grading Policy

Assessment:

Daily Participation	50%
Performance Attendance	25%
Written Assignments	10%
Final Assessment	15%

Daily Participation:

Discipline and commitment to a group are vital parts of being in chorus. Each student will work daily to develop independent vocal and musical skills. Each student is also a participating member of a larger group that is dependant upon each other for success. Students will complete a weekly assessment that will help to evaluate the individual student's contribution to the group.

Performance Attendance Policy:

Every student is important to a successful performance. Performances provide us with an opportunity to share the music we have learned and are an essential aspect of the experience of being in chorus.

- Ample notice will be given for all required performances and rehearsals so that students can make appropriate arrangements to attend. Each student is responsible to their colleagues and conductor to be present at all performances.
- Students will need to attend a dress rehearsal before most scheduled performances. These rehearsals are required and are part of the student's performance attendance grade for the concert. Students are expected to stay for the entire rehearsal.
- Students are expected to arrive at the performance site on time and dressed in concert attire. Students not dressed correctly may not be allowed to perform. In this case, the student is still required to stay for the performances. Credit towards the student's performance attendance grade will be granted in full to students who arrive on time and in full concert attire.
- Exceptions will be made for students who have a written note from a parent/guardian stating personal illness or a family emergency. Contact should be made with the director as soon as possible to notify them of the situation before the performance. If some circumstance prevents you from notifying the director in advance, a note from the parent/guardian is required on the day the student returns to class. Only under these conditions will the absence be counted as excused as stated in the DHS Handbook.
- Make-up assignments will be given to students on the day they return to class if a note is given. These assignments will pertain to the concert missed and will count for a portion of the performance attendance grade. Students are given one day to complete the make-up assignments as stated in the DHS Handbook.

Concert Attire

You only get one chance to make a first impression. Appearance counts!

General Chorus:

- Women:** Black top or blouse
Black pants or skirt (must be below the knees)
Black, close-toed, low heel, dress shoes
Black hose or knee highs
A solid black dress is also acceptable
- Men:** Black, long-sleeved, button down oxford shirt
Black dress pants
Black belt
Black dress shoes with black socks

Men's Ensemble:

- Tuxedos
Black dress shoes with tall black socks

Women's Chorale & 9th Grade Women:

- Black formal concert dress
Black, close-toed, low heel, dress shoes
Black hose or knee highs

Concert Choir:

- Women:** Black formal concert dress
Black, close-toed, low heel, dress shoes
Black hose or knee highs
- Men:** Tuxedos
Black dress shoes with tall black socks

Hair must be pulled back away from the face and properly groomed.
Only small earrings should be worn, no other jewelry will be allowed.
Please do not wear perfume, but do wear deodorant.

2011-2012 Calendar of Events

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location	Participants
9/6	Tuesday	6:00 PM	DHS Open House	Chorus Room	Chorus Council
9/10	Saturday	9:00	All-County Auditions	Mainland HS	By Audition
9/19	Monday	All Day	Candy Sales	Chorus Room	All Choirs
9/24	Saturday	8:00 AM	All-State Auditions	Oviedo HS	By Audition
9/26	Monday	All Day	Fundraiser	Chorus Room	All Choirs
9/30-10/1	Fri-Sat	All Day	Stetson's Choral Clinic	Stetson University	By Invitation
10/13	Thursday	7:00 PM	Student Growl	DHS Gym	Concert Choir
10/14	Friday	10:00 AM	Alumni Growl	DHS Gym	Concert Choir
10/22	Saturday	8:00 AM	All-State Vocal Quality Auditions	Lake Mary HS	By Audition
10/15	Saturday	7:00 PM	All-County Chorus Festival	Mainland HS	By Audition
12/TBA	TBA	TBA	Disney Candlelight	Epcot	By Audition
12/2	Friday	6:00 PM	Holiday Caroling	Downtown DeLand	All Choirs
12/12	Monday	3-6 PM	Winter Concert Rehearsal	1st Baptist Church	All Choirs
12/13	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Winter Concert	1st Baptist Church	All Choirs
1/11-14	Wed-Sat	All Day	FMEA All-State	Tampa	By Audition
1/TBA	Friday	All Day	Stetson's Men's Festival	Stetson University	By Invitation
2/3-4	Fri-Sat	TBA	Solo & Ensemble	Lake Brantley HS	By Audition
2/TBA	TBA	7:00 PM	DHS Musical	DHS Auditorium	By Audition
3/TBA	Wednesday	7:00 PM	9th Grade Welcome	DHS Auditorium	Concert Choir
3/8-10	Thursday	TBA	District MPA	TBA	All Choirs
4/TBA	TBA	All Day	Recruitment Trip	Middle School	Men's /DH Singers
4/19	Thursday	7:00 PM	Renaissance Pep Rally	DHS Auditorium	Concert Choir
4/29-5/1	TBA	TBA	State MPA	UNF	By Invitation
5/7	Monday	3-7 PM	Concert Rehearsal	1st Baptist Church	All Choirs
5/8	Tuesday	7 PM	Spring Concert	1st Baptist Church	All Choirs
5/11	Friday	6:30 PM	Chorus Award Banquet	1 st United Methodist	All Choirs
5/TBA	TBA	6:30 PM	Baccalaureate	TBA	Seniors/ConcertC
6/3	Sunday	TBA	Graduation	Ocean Center	Concert Choir

All events in bold are required as part of the Performance Attendance Grade.
Please check our website and monthly newsletter regularly to confirm dates, times and locations.
Some information will be subject to change.

Performance Opportunities

In addition to the concerts that the chorus performs for the community, there are many choral experiences throughout the year in which students may choose to participate. Most are by audition only and some include audition fees and music purchase. Any students interested in auditioning for the following opportunities will be supported by the director. Most students in the Women's Chorale and Concert Choirs will be encouraged to participate in the following events.

1. Stetson University Choral Clinic

Interested students may audition for this weekend state-wide clinic held right here in DeLand. The director will choose up to 12 students to participate. There will be a guest conductor working with the students and a final concert of all participants to end the clinic. This event is in October.

2. All-State Choir

Interested students must audition for the All-State Choirs. "All-State" is a generalized name for the annual FVA-FMEA Conference and Convention usually held in January in Tampa. During the music convention, students that successfully auditioned for the All-State Choirs will perform with students from all over the state of Florida.

3. Volusia County Public Schools All-County Honors Choir

Interested students may audition for All-County Honors Choir. Each choral director in the county is given the same piece of music for students to learn and audition with. Students that successfully audition for this choir will work with a guest conductor and sing with other students from Volusia County. The final concert is performed in January.

5. Disney Candlelight Processional

The chorus (upon acceptance of our video application) will be participating in the Disney Candlelight Processional in late November or early December. This is a half day trip to Epcot Center. The Processional provides a unique opportunity for students to perform in front of a large crowd as well as with the Disney performance staff. In preparation for the event, students will need to learn 14 additional songs. Students choosing to participate will be asked to attend after school rehearsals to prepare.

6. Music Performance Assessment

Music Performance Assessment, or MPA, consists of two events per year: the Solo and Ensemble MPA and the Choral MPA. High school level groups that receive a rating of superior at the district MPA are qualified to compete at State which allows those individuals and groups to be evaluated by a select panel of adjudicators at one of three state-wide sites.

Participation in the District Solo and Ensemble MPA will be voluntary, although it is strongly encouraged. Participation in the District and State Choral MPA will be mandatory for Women's Chorale and Concert Choir students as part of the student's Performance Attendance Grade for the spring. District Choral MPA will take place in March.

Chorus Fee & Fair Share Fundraising

In order for our program to run as effectively as possible, we must have adequate funding to support our students throughout the year. Expenses include sheet music for each choir, accompanist fees, festival entry fees, travel expenses, concert attire, and equipment. Excellence in the arts has a price tag, but one that we all understand to be necessary in order to be successful. Although our administration does the best they can to support the chorus program, our expenses for the year far surpass our allotment. This year the school budget will remain tighter, so your help will be more important than before. I expect our total expenses for this year to be around \$10,000.

To help with the cost, each chorister is asked to pay a \$50 chorus fee.

In addition to the \$50 chorus fee for the year, each student will be asked to actively participate and do their “fair share” in our fundraising efforts. Some parents prefer that their child not fundraise. If this is the case, please consider having your child contribute their fair share by way of a family donation or sponsorship letters. Below is a tentative list of fund-raisers.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Event</u>
August	Chorus fee collection
September	Cheesecake Fundraiser
September	Sponsor letters
November	Chili’s Night
Spring	Candy Sale

Why I Teach Music

Music is Science

It is exact, and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody, and harmony all at once with the most exact control of time.

Music is Mathematical

It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

Music is a Foreign Language

Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French; and the notation is certainly not English – but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is the most complex and universal language.

Music is History

Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, often even the country and/or racial feeling.

Music is Physical Education

It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lip, cheek and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

Music is All These Things, But Most of All, Music is Art

It allows a human being to take all these dry, technically boring (but difficult) techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate: humanism, feeling, emotion, call it what you will.

That is why I teach music!

Not because I expect you to major in music,
Not because I expect you to play or sing all your life,
Not so you can relax or have fun,

BUT –

So you will be human

So you will recognize beauty

So you will be sensitive

So you will be closer to an infinite beyond this world

So you will have something to cling to

So you will have more love, more compassion, more gentleness, more good...

In short, more life

Of what value will it be to make a prosperous living unless you know how to live?

--by Tim Lautzenheizer, Attitude Concepts for Today

2011-2012
DeLand High School Chorus Contract

Please sign and return by September 9th, 2011

I have read the DHS Chorus Handbook or visited the website and understand the information it contains. I agree to wear the required concert dress at all designated times. I have examined the calendar and checked for conflicts. I will continue to check throughout the year for additional dates and conflicts and make an effort to communicate to resolve any conflicts that arise. I promise to support the chorus program through energetic participation in all mandatory events and as many optional activities as possible.

Student Name (printed)

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Chorus fee included _____

~Chorus~
It's more than a class, it's a club!

Volusia County Schools

Production Release Form

I, _____ hereby assign all rights to the photographs and/or sound recording made of me this date, 2011-2012 school year, to the SCHOOL BOARD OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA. I hereby authorize the performance, display and reproduction of pictures and sound contained in DeLand High School Choral Program, without limitation as an educational resource. I hereby waive any right to inspect or approve the finished photographs, sound track, or advertising copy or printed matter that may be used in conjunction therewith or to the eventual use that might be applied. I agree that the producers, their employees, and assigns are released from any liability for claims by me or anyone else arising out of my participation or appearances on their productions.

I certify that I am over 18 years of age, or have the expressed consent/ permission of parent or guardian.

(Parent or Guardian Signature)

(Parent or Guardian –PRINT name)

(Witness)

(Date)

School _____ Scene _____