



Pine View Middle School Choral Handbook 2016 - 2017



Congratulations on your decision to become a member of the **Pine View Middle School** Chorus program. As a member, you will sing, study, and perform choral music. You will also meet new friends, participate in fun activities and develop a greater appreciation of the arts.

To be a successful choral member you must make the commitment to always strive to do your best. It is important to conduct yourself with the best possible behavior, have pride, and respect others and their property. As a choral member, you not only represent yourself, you represent the music department and the entire school. Only choral members that demonstrate qualities of good character will represent Pine View Middle School. The pleasure of performing good music for an appreciative audience is matched only by the personal satisfaction of performing for one's own enjoyment.

If you ever need to reach me you can call the music suite directly at (813) 794-4861 or leave a message at the office **(813) 794-4800**. I generally do not answer the phone during class so calling before or after school may be your best. You can also contact me using the following e-mail address. **mlrichar@pasco.k12.fl.us**

Calendar information will be updated regularly on our school web site. To help with scheduling concerns, I recommend you visit the site often. You can access the site at the following address: pvms.pasco.k12.fl.us There will be a link at the top of the page, titled "PVMS Music Department". Scroll down to Panther Chorus link. There, you will find forms and other important information about current and upcoming events.

Grades and Attendance

Class Participation - Students earn a daily grade by simply participating in the activities of the day. It is important to note that in a performance based class, such as chorus, daily participation, rehearsal participation, and performance participation make up the majority of a student's grade. Points are earned and or lost based on student participation.

Assignments - These may be in the form of vocal or written assignments and will be given throughout the quarter. If a student is absent on a day where an assignment is given it is his/her responsibility to turn in the make-up work.

Assessments - These may come in the form of written quizzes or vocal quizzes and will be given periodically. All tests and quizzes will cover the information discussed in class or from assignments. A student may retake any written test during a specific quarter without any grade penalty.

Performance Participation - It is the responsibility of each member of the chorus to attend and participate in all scheduled rehearsals and performances of their respective class. This includes being prompt and dressed appropriately. **Performances are a major part of any performance based class and a requirement of the course.** The performance part of a student's grade may be made up with an alternative assignment, upon director approval. Performance dates and times will be given well in advance.

Chorus Requirements

- * Pencil
- * 1-inch black binder with a pack of 25 sheet protectors

Issued Items

Students are responsible for any issued items. This may include but not limited to musical instruments, supplies, uniform robe, music, music folder etc. Replacement or repair fees will be assessed if items are damaged or not returned.

Concert Attire

Students who are not in uniform attire at concerts will be required to change before the concert and/or take a grade cut.

- Boys: White button-up, long sleeve dress shirt and black dress pants.
- Girls: White long sleeve dress shirt and floor/ankle length black skirt or dress pants.
NOTE: All Concert Attire outfits must adhere to PVMS dress code
- Black hosiery
- Black closed-toe shoes (black “ballet” style slippers and all black sneakers are permitted)
- Long hair needs to be pulled at least half up, out of the face.

Definitions and Clarification of Special Events

All County Honor Chorus is a *VOLUNTARY* two-day event and will include two evening rehearsals in the weeks prior. Students interested should complete an audition form and audition for Mrs. Richardson. Mrs. Richardson will then select the best representatives for our school based on vocal ability as well as rehearsal ethic. Students may then have after school sessions once or twice a week as needed to prepare them for the event.

Extra-Curricular Conflicts

At PVMS, we believe that it is important for students to experience as many activities as they choose. In order for both the student and school groups to be successful, the following guidelines must be observed. That being said, Mrs. Richardson can only work around school activities. Should your child also participate in community groups like cheerleading, dance and other sporting groups, Mrs. Richardson would ask that you PLEASE check the mandatory dates listed on our calendar against those of whatever group you are considering before signing up for them and paying the fees associated with such groups. Chorus is a *class* complete with assessment and exams and community event conflicts with mandated performances will not be considered excused.

- 1) If a conflict arises where there is a *sports practice at the same time as **a concert***, the student should perform at the **concert**.
- 2) If a **game** occurs at the same time as a *choral rehearsal or fundraiser*, the student should participate in the **game**.
- 3) We have done our best to ensure there is not a game at the same time as a concert.

Communication

Mrs. Richardson often has after school lessons or small group rehearsals so phone calls are difficult to return in a timely fashion. Email is the BEST way to communicate with me because I can check it throughout the day and can access information you may need prior to responding. Please feel free to email me at mlrichar@pasco.k12.fl.us with your questions, concerns or even words of encouragement. I send updates via email as well, so please **check your email often, especially as concert dates draw near**.

REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE (during, before and/or after school)

To have a truly successful program it is imperative that every chorus member attend and participate in **ALL** the scheduled rehearsals and performances of their respective class and ensembles. The District School Board of Pasco County has Chorus listed as a co-curricular course, which means attendance, before, during, or after school, is essential and a required component of the course. To help facilitate scheduling concerns, all students and parents will have access to our chorus calendar. The calendar and other important information can be viewed by clicking on the "Music Department" link of the school web site <pvms.pasco.k12.fl.us>. Click on the Panther Chorus link for more information. Remember, **performances and rehearsals are considered grades and cannot be made up. An absence from any performance or rehearsal will directly affect a student's grade.** Please contact the director if there is an extreme circumstance that needs to be considered. It is also important to know that if you are absent from school due to illness, Pasco County guidelines state that you may NOT participate in any after school activity.

Policies and Behavioral Expectations

* Students will show respect at all times toward the director, parents, chaperones, school officials and other students. They will also be respectful of school property, and the property of others. Disruptive, irresponsible or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.

* Gum, candy, food or drinks are **NOT** allowed in the music suite, on busses, during rehearsals or performances without director permission.

* Gum chewing, smoking or use of tobacco products is prohibited by anyone entering the PVMS campus. This policy also applies to anyone representing SSMS during off campus activities.

* Plan to ride the bus when provided for scheduled activities. **Prior arrangements MUST be made** with the director if a parent plans to transport a student to or from an activity where bus transportation is provided. This policy assures the safety and accountability of all students.

* Always be on time! Every effort will be made to start and end rehearsals or performances on time. If a rehearsal is scheduled to end at 5:00 p.m. please be here to pick up your child at that time. You are always welcome at any rehearsal or performance. The ending times for some performances are more difficult to estimate. Lets work together on this issue.

* For obvious safety reasons, inappropriate language, running or horseplay type behavior will not be tolerated in the music suite or while representing Pine View Middle School.

School-Wide Discipline Plan

1. Parent contact, reflection sheet with time out and conference with a teacher.
2. Parent contact and lunch detention.
3. Parent contact and in class suspension with lunch detention and team conference.
4. Discipline referral

I encourage all parents to get involved in their child's musical exploration. Many of you probably sang in the chorus or played in the band when you were in school. If so, you know that the time spent studying the arts was one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. It can be equally rewarding for these students. All it takes is commitment and a love for music.

Please SIGN AND RETURN by 9/9/16.
PLEASE KEEP the handbook and calendar for your reference.

HANDBOOK AGREEMENT FORM

By signing below, both the student and parent / guardian agree that they understand and agree to abide by the rules and regulations of this choral organization. No student is immune to these provisions. In order for this organization to be one of the best in the county and the state, you must follow these guidelines.

Student Name: (please print) _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Name: (please print) _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____