

Doctors Charter School of Miami Shores Chorus Handbook

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Doctors Charter School of Miami Shores Chorus program! This handbook has been written to familiarize you with the many aspects of the chorus program and to ensure an enjoyable and educationally rewarding musical experience. I realize you are overwhelmed with reading material at the beginning of the year, but PLEASE take the time to read this handbook. After you have read this handbook, sign the last page, detach it, and return it to me. Chorus students will be held accountable for the information contained in this handbook, so please keep the book for future reference.

Chorus is an ELECTIVE and SELECTIVE course. You're enrolling in a chorus course suggests your willingness to stick with the information and guidelines set forth in this handbook. Music involves learning math concepts and applying them in the reading of rhythm, learning a new system of notation, developing fine motor skills, developing the ability to hear in a discriminating manner, and becoming sensitive: to the sound we make, to the sounds others make, and to the demands of the music. It requires cooperation with a large team of musicians working together toward a common goal the manifestation of the printed music into sound. It requires extra practice at home, extra rehearsals and performances.

The chorus program at Doctors Charter School is comprised of very special students. They are willing to give of their time to an organization that brings pride and recognition to our school and community. The chorus program strives to develop skills and provide learning experiences for the students that will be useful in any life endeavor. Students will also acquire a very enjoyable leisure activity performing in amateur or semiprofessional groups. Future membership in college or community ensembles can also be very rewarding.

I hope your membership in the Doctors Charter School Chorus Program will be both rewarding and productive. Have a great year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Salvatore Vinciguerra
Chorus Director
Fine Arts Department Chair
Vinciguerras@DoctorsCharterSchool.org
www.VinciMusic.com

Chorus Rules & Regulations

Music is fun and exciting to learn, but it requires hard work, dedication and discipline. Chorus classes are a very important part of the curriculum at Doctors Charter School. As a member of these classes you have a responsibility to do your job well and to represent our school well at functions. In order to fully benefit from this class, your responsibilities are to be prepared and to be an active participant.

Please make sure you understand the rules for classroom behavior. Let's work together to make this a great year for all of us!

1. **COME TO CLASS ON TIME.** On time means that you are in your seat and ready to begin rehearsal three minutes after the tardy bell rings. Once class begins, students should not talk or leave their seats without permission.
2. **COME TO CLASS PREPARED.** This means that you should have your music folder, music, pencil and accessories everyday. Your grade will be lowered each day for consistent unpreparedness.
3. **BE ATTENTIVE.** This means for you to listen to all instructions, even when they are being directed to another section. If you have a question, raise your hand and wait to be called upon.
4. **ABSOLUTELY NO EATING, DRINKING, GUM CHEWING, GROOMING, OR WEARING OF HATS WILL BE PERMITTED DURING CLASS.**
5. At the prescribed signal or when the conductor gets on the podium, all warmups and playing will stop immediately. This is a sign of respect.
6. **DO NOT** sing out of turn.
7. **ABSOLUTELY NO STUDYING FOR ANOTHER SUBJECT DURING CLASS.**
8. At the closure of class, the rehearsal room should be kept clean and orderly. Store your music folder in the assigned place provided for it.
9. **THE BELL DOES NOT DISMISS YOU!** Your teacher dismisses you, so stay in your seat until you are dismissed.

Consequences

Include the following: Verbal warnings, classroom consequences (detention etc.) parent notification by email or phone call, office referral, and transfer out of the music program. Dr. Vinciguerra will remove students from the classroom if they disrupt the musical learning environment. If students would like to speak with Dr. Vinciguerra regarding disciplinary referrals they must speak to him before or after school.

Grading Policy

Members of the Doctors Charter School Chorus program will be assigned grades as per the Doctor's Charter School grading policy. Students will receive at least two grades per week. The first grade will be based on an assessment of general assignments. It could be derived from either written material or performance of musical material. The second grade will be based on the student's participation at rehearsals in class, and performances in and out of school.

I am aware of students who have less experience than other chorus members. It is an easy task to recognize a student who has prepared himself/herself from those who have not. Students with less experience do have the opportunity to make high grades if proper evidence of practice and preparation is evident. This assessment is designed to encourage students to set musical goals and reach them.

At the beginning of each quarter students will be given a syllabus for the class. It will contain the grading outline and important dates for the quarter. The grade outline below refers only to the first quarter. Please refer to your student handbook on school rules and other procedures.

Academic Grade

Participation – 35%

Performance – 25%

Written/Playing tests and quizzes – 20%

Practice Chart – 20%

Total points – 100%

Grading Scale

90100	A
8089	B
7079	C
6069	D
059	F

1. **CLASS PARTICIPATION** The student should have his/her music folder every day. Students must sing in class everyday. If a student is sick for any reason they must have a note from a doctor.
2. **PERFORMANCE** Performance grades may include performance of required major minor and chromatic scales, performance of music, required concerts, solos and ensemble festival and/or assigned musical exercises.
3. **TESTS AND QUIZZES** Tests and quizzes will be designated. Questions dealing with terminology, musical symbols, and rhythms will be given. Students will have adequate time to prepare. Materials for playing tests are given in advance. Students will be required to perform their singing test individually during the class.
4. **FOLDERS** Each student will create a folder containing selected personal works. Included in the folder may be the following: written essays, self/peer evaluations, chorus handbook, quizzes, tests, handouts and other learning materials.

5. **PRACTICE LOGS** Students are expected to practice a minimum of 120 minutes each week. The log must be signed by a parent or guardian and will be checked periodically by the teacher.

PRACTICE LOG SCALE

120 min. & UP	A
90 – 119	B
60 – 89	C
30 – 59	D
0 – 29	F

PLEASE NOTE Concerts are **mandatory** events for all students. If you miss a performance that is unexcused or by given improper notification prior to the performance will result in receiving a 0 for 25% of the quarter grade. Points will be deducted from your participation grade if you are consistently prepared or become a discipline problem.

MAKEUP WORK Students will not be allowed to make-up work (participation, class work, Quizzes etc.) if their absence or tardy was determined by the school as unsatisfactory. All assignments must be made-up within seven school days. If work is not made-up within this time frame the student will receive a 0 for that grade.

Chorus Awards

At the end of the year, awards will be given out to students. Either an awards ceremony or music banquet will take place. During the event students will receive certificates, pins, trophies, plaques and medals, which will be presented to those who have worked for their achievements in chorus.

Uniforms

Chorus uniforms must be worn only for formal performances. All uniforms should be washed and pressed for an acceptable appearance. Shoes should be polished before each performance.

Formal Uniform

Girls

Solid, **White** dress blouse.

Solid **Black** dress skirts or black dress pants.

* Blouses must have sleeves on them.

** All Dresses and Skirts should come down past your knee.

Black socks and/or skin colored stockings

Dress shoes no sneakers or sandals

Guys

Solid white long sleeve shirt

Solid black dress pants

Black socks

Black dress shoes no sneakers

Casual Uniform

Girls and Guys

School Uniform – preferably everyone wearing the same color shirt.

Casual shoes sneakers

After/Before School Rehearsals

It is necessary that all students attend rehearsals at the prescribed dates and times. These extra rehearsals are needed to prepare and improve the quality of our performances. There will be various performances this year at festivals and competitions in the state of Florida. There might also be a possibility of a performance out of state so your cooperation in regards to practice and performance are extremely necessary.

Eligibility for Out-Of-Town Trips

To be eligible to perform in festivals, out of town trips, and other performances a student must demonstrate the ability to perform his/her part. Each chorus student must maintain at least a "C" average and a "B" average in conduct to be able to participate in extracurricular activities. Financial obligations to the school and the chorus program must be met for a student to participate in off campus, extracurricular activities. (Please see your student handbook for further information.)

Music Fees

Students will be assessed the following music fees:

1. All students who are enrolled in a music class will be assessed a \$4.00 music fee to help pay for the cost of music and other materials needed for the class.

Please make sure that fees are paid before the required due date. Students can pay these fees by either cash, check or money order. If you write a check out for the fees, please write it out to Doctors Charter School, write your child's name in the memo area and put the check in an envelope.

Doctors Charter School of Miami Shores

Dr. Salvatore Vinciguerra
Director of Music

Dr. Kelly Andrews
Executive Director

Chorus Contract

We, _____, and _____
Parent's/Guardian's Name (print) Student's Name (print)

have read and understand the rules, regulations and responsibilities set forth by the Doctors Charter Chorus Program. We are willing to accept and abide by them.

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

Date

Student's Signature

Date

Home Address

Home Telephone #

Work Telephone #

Emergency Telephone #

Email address