

# MHS Choir

2014-2015

**Mr. Nicholas Griggs M.M. – Choral Music Director**

**Email** – [nicholas.griggs@mcpherson.com](mailto:nicholas.griggs@mcpherson.com)

**Choir Web Page** – [www.mhschoral.com](http://www.mhschoral.com)

**Choir Facebook Page** - **McPherson High School Choir**

**Choir Twitter** – **@ MacHighChoir**

**Choir Event Remind Contact #** - 785-370-4012

**McPherson High School** – 620-241-9500

Mrs. Miriam Griggs, M.M.

MMS Choral Music Director / Asst. High School Choral Director

Ms. Tiffiney Harms –

MMS/MHS Choral Music Accompanist

## **Mission**

The mission of the McPherson High School Choral Department is to promote and develop high standards and values of choral performance, through quality literature and education; to encourage an atmosphere of hard work and to maintain a culture committed to choral excellence.

*Music expresses that which cannot be said and  
on which it is impossible to be silent.*

*- Victor Hugo.*

# **Choirs**

## **BEL CANTO**

### **Prerequisite: Audition**

An SSA Select Ensemble open to students 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. Up to twenty-four female vocalists will be selected through audition according to vocal ability, musicianship, scholarship, character and stage presence. This is a top-performing group. Several styles of literature will be covered in this class. Students enrolled for the spring semester must remain academically eligible in order to compete in the KSHSAA sponsored competitions in the spring. Members of Bel Canto but not required to be members of Women's and/or Concert Choir as well. There will be additional expenses for performance attire for this group, as well as any trip related expenses. Every attempt will be made to offer fundraising for families on trip years.

## **CONCERT CHOIR**

### **Prerequisite: None**

An SATB MIXED Choir open to students 10–12 with discretionary exception for incoming freshmen or transfers. This group will be responsible for several performances throughout the year including local concerts and the entire KSHSAA competition schedule in the spring (students enrolled for the spring semester must remain academically eligible in order to compete in the KSHSAA sponsored events). Vocal techniques will continue to be stressed. The literature in this class will range from the standard choral repertoire to some “pops” style literature for the end of year “Pop Show” Concert. Depending on the trip cycle there may additional expenses that will be travel related. Every attempt will be made to offer fundraising for families on trip years.

## **MIXED ENSEMBLE**

### **Prerequisite: Audition**

Up to twenty-four voices will be selected through audition according to vocal ability, musicianship, scholarship, character, and stage presence. This is the top-performance group in the school and numerous demands will be made upon them to make appearances throughout the year. Several styles of literature will be covered in this class. Students enrolled for the spring semester must remain academically eligible in order to compete in the KSHSAA sponsored competitions in the spring. Members of the group are encouraged but not required to be members of Concert Choir as well. There will be additional expenses for performance attire for this group, as well as any trip related expenses. Every attempt will be made to offer fundraising for families on trip years.

## **WOMEN'S CHOIR**

### **Prerequisite: None**

An SSA Women's Choir designed for incoming freshmen women, but open to female students 9–12 This group will be responsible for several performances throughout the year including local concerts and the entire KSHSAA competition schedule in the spring (students enrolled for the spring semester must remain academically eligible in order to compete in the KSHSAA sponsored events). Vocal techniques will continue to be stressed. The literature in this class will range from the standard choral repertoire to some “pops” style literature for the end of year “Pop Show” Concert. Depending on the trip cycle there may additional expenses that will be travel related. Every attempt will be made to offer fundraising for families on trip years.

# Classroom Expectations/Requirements

Each student must be present and prepared for class daily

Each student is responsible for his or her own punctuality

Each student is required to participate in every concert/performance/competition listed on the itinerary. Events with an \* are not required of every student.

Students with an unexcused absence for any performance and/or competition will not be given make up work and will receive zero credit for that performance and/or competition.

Excused vs. Unexcused Absences

*Excused examples:*

- *Conflicting school event (i.e. sports game or other school sponsored competition with prior notification.*
- *Family Emergency with notification by phone or email within 24 hours of absence.*

*Unexcused examples:*

- *An absence without prior approval or notification*
- *A family emergency without notification with 24 hours*
- *“I didn’t feel good,” “My boyfriend broke up with me,” “I was grounded,” “I couldn’t get off work,” etc....are not acceptable excuses and will result in an unexcused absence*

Each student that is a member of any MHS Choir must be academically eligible to perform in any MHS or KSHSAA sponsored event.

Each student that is a member of any MHS Choir must fulfill all financial obligations before eligibility from the Activity Office will be granted (i.e. a \$50 Participation Fee)

**\*\*Any MHS student involved in any activity or sport including MHS Choir must agree to participate in random drug testing. Any students unwilling to participate will be removed from that activity. Each student that has agreed with the terms of the drug policy will be subject to random drug testing throughout the year\*\***

## **Grading Scale**

**A (100-90) B (89-80) C (79-70) D (69-60) F (Below 60)**

- Daily Participation and Behavior in Class = 40%
- Quizzes/Assessments = 15%
- Concert Attendance & Participation = 35%
- Completed Choir Goal Chart = 10%

## **Performance Expectations/Attire**

Each student is required to participate in every concert/performance/competition listed on the itinerary. Events with an \* are not required of every student.

### **Concerts –**

Each student needs to arrive at the high school **one hour** before each concert (unless otherwise specified). Students are responsible for checking themselves in for attendance at every concert. Cell phones and other electronic devices need to be left in the choir room or with a parent during the performance. Inappropriate behavior at concerts is subject to disciplinary action from MHS administration as well as a grade reduction. Each student is responsible for clean up after each concert (i.e. assisting in tearing down risers, making sure the grand piano gets its cover, making sure all robes and robe bags are put away properly, etc.)

### **Outside Performance/Competitions –**

Each student needs to arrive at the high school at the specified time for that particular event. A sponsor will check-in students. Cell phones and other electronic devices need to be left on the bus or with a parent during performances. Students and their behaviors are extensions of MHS and the MHS Choir Department. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and is subject to disciplinary action from MHS administration as well as a grade reduction or removal from the program. Each student is responsible for cleaning up after returning home from a performance or competition (i.e. making sure the bus is picked up and any materials or property of MHS Choir have made it back to the classroom, etc.)

### **Attire**

Every student in choir will be assigned a robe and a robe bag. Students are expected to be responsible for those materials. *Replacement costs are:*

*MHS Choir Robe - \$200.00*

*MHS Choir Robe Bag - \$20.00*

Class specific attire for performance is as follows:

#### **Women's Choir –**

- Black dress shoes (low heel)
- Black dress skirt or slacks
- Black dress shirt/blouse

### **Concert Choir –**

- Black dress shoes (low heel for women)
- Black dress socks
- Black dress skirt or slacks
- Black dress shirt/blouse

### **Bel Canto –**

- Black dress shoes (low heel)
- (If wearing nylons/hose...flesh color or knee highs)
- Formal dress (selected from catalog...expected cost - \$65.00)
  - Sizing will be done at school
  - Semester only participants need to be prepared to purchase a dress at full costs or make special arrangements

### **Mixed Ensemble –**

- Black dress shoes (low heel for women)
- (If wearing nylons/hose...flesh color or knee highs) - women
- Black dress socks – men
- Black Tuxedo Package (includes: black slacks, black jacket, black vest, white dress shirt, black tie, expected cost - \$115.00)
  - Sizing will be done at school
  - Semester only participants need to make special arrangements
- Formal dress (selected from catalog...expected cost - \$65.00)
  - Sizing will be done at school
  - Semester only participants need to be prepared to purchase a dress at full costs or make special arrangements

### **IN GENERAL:**

**Women** – Hair out of face, no head accessories or ornaments. You may use clips and bobby pins that are the same color as your hair. Light make-up, no necklaces, no bracelets, no watches, no hoop earrings and no colored tongue rings. Stud earrings are acceptable. Students may wear cologne/perfume but it must be light.

**Men** – Hair out of face, have facial hair well groomed or shaved. NO WHITE TUBE SOCKS, no necklaces, no bracelets, no watches, no hoop earrings and no colored tongue rings. Students may wear cologne/perfume but it must be light.

***Although there are special circumstances and each decision is up to the director, failure to comply with the above expectations on attire and grooming may prevent a student from participating in performance, thus resulting in a lowered grade.***

## **Awards & Service**

Students who participate in choir are eligible to receive a McPherson High School Varsity Letter. In order to receive a letter, a choir letter application with a point breakdown needs to be completed in the spring. It is up to you to keep track of your individual progress throughout the year. Their letter application will be verified and if eligible they will receive a choir letter. All letter applicants must have

a completed “MHS Choir Individual Goal Chart” to be eligible. Students, who participate in regional and state festivals or similar competitions, will receive awards that are commensurate with the success of their participation.

## **Section Leaders**

The director and class members will appoint section leaders every year, which will represent each section (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) or (Soprano, Soprano II, Alto). Section leaders will promote an atmosphere of harmony, enthusiasm, celebrate achievement, share in the responsibilities for daily in-class tasks, and be prepared to lead sectional rehearsals. It is imperative that section leaders lead out!

## **Parent Support**

It is extremely important that parents are avid supporters for Choral Music at MHS. There are many opportunities for parents to volunteer, including but not limited to, supervision for fundraisers and/or Choral Music Dept trips, taking gate donations at specific choir concerts or events, hemming dresses and pants, assisting in MHS Choir Booster events, etc. *Thank you parents, it is impossible for groups to be successful without your sacrifices and your support.*

## **Fundraising**

We are in time where raising funds for everything we do is crucial. It is very important that as many families that can participate in fundraisers as schedules allow in order to make things affordable for every participant in choir. It is also very important that students communicate the demands (time schedule, donation needs, etc.) of fundraising events and overall schedules to their families in order to share the load of responsibilities for a given event.

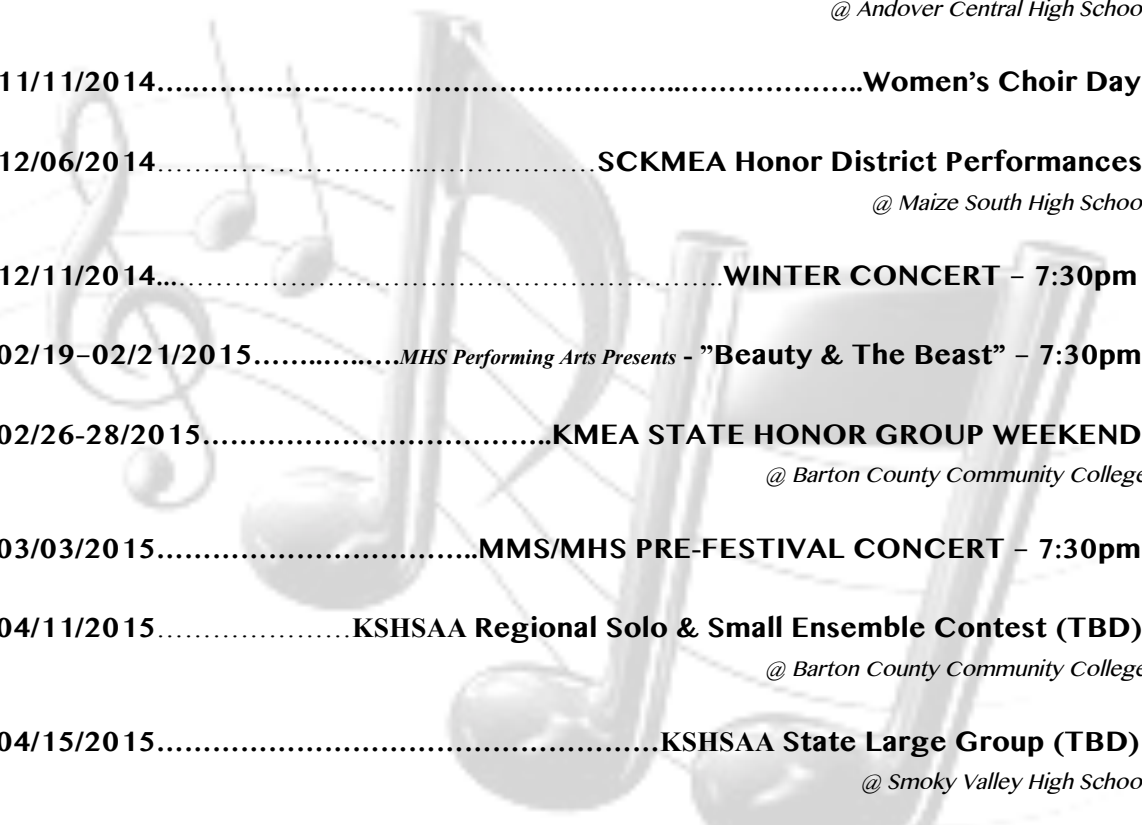
## **Private Study**

Although it is important for students to study privately to improve their individual abilities, it can be difficult to make the commitment necessary for successful private study experiences. In addition, it is important to make sure your private voice teacher is competent and trained. With that being said, I encourage as many students that can seek out private voice teachers in the area that are well versed and have studied the voice. The best place to start the search is with us (MHS Choir Staff), and we will do everything we can to lead you to a trained and respected voice teacher.

## **Choir Officers**

The senior choir members as well as other class representatives will be appointed to officer positions for the choir. There will be a monthly meeting that officer need to attend. Officers will be responsible for assisting in the selection of formal and casual performance attire (i.e. T-Shirts/Polos/Dresses/Tuxes etc.) and to assist in the development and participation of fundraisers, trips and activities for MHS Choir.

# **MHS CHOIR SCHEDULE as of - 08/01/15**



08/22/2014.....	Back to School Choir Pool Party <i>@ McPherson Water Park</i>
09/5/2014.....	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade STATE Audition Recording Begins
10/7/2014.....	<b>Men's Choir Day</b>
10/20/2014.....	<b>FALL CONCERT – 7:30pm</b>
11/08/2014 .....	KMEA South Central District Auditions <i>@ Andover Central High School</i>
11/11/2014.....	<b>Women's Choir Day</b>
12/06/2014.....	<b>SCKMEA Honor District Performances</b> <i>@ Maize South High School</i>
12/11/2014.....	<b>WINTER CONCERT – 7:30pm</b>
02/19–02/21/2015.....	<i>MHS Performing Arts Presents - "Beauty &amp; The Beast"</i> – 7:30pm
02/26-28/2015.....	<b>KMEA STATE HONOR GROUP WEEKEND</b> <i>@ Barton County Community College</i>
03/03/2015.....	<b>MMS/MHS PRE-FESTIVAL CONCERT – 7:30pm</b>
04/11/2015.....	<b>KSHSAA Regional Solo &amp; Small Ensemble Contest (TBD)</b> <i>@ Barton County Community College</i>
04/15/2015.....	<b>KSHSAA State Large Group (TBD)</b> <i>@ Smoky Valley High School</i>
04/25/2015 .....	<b>KSHSAA State Solo &amp; Small Ensemble Contest (TBD)</b> <i>@ Andover High School</i>
05/12/2015 .....	<b>7:30pm POP SHOW SENIOR/AWARD NIGHT</b>
05/16/2015 .....	<b>GRADUATION!!!</b>

- Updates and/or changes will be posted online @ [www.mhschoral.com](http://www.mhschoral.com)

# MHS Choral Music Handbook Agreement –

All students need to return this sheet signed by you and your parents/legal guardian by **Friday August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014**. If you are new to the program or have changed your email or other contact information you also need to go to [www.mhschoral.com](http://www.mhschoral.com) and complete the Parent/Student Contact Form on the “Form’s” tab.

By signing below you indicate your understanding of the expectation of your student’s involvement in the MHS Choral Music Program. In addition, committing to the performance, competition schedules and any group event requiring your student’s attendance for the entire 2014- 2015 school year.

---

I have read this handbook and understand how it applies to my student and I.

Student Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

---

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_