



# The Silver Spring International Middle School

## Choral Department Handbook

Ms. Katelyn Chiles

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301-650-6544

August 30, 2010

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year! I hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. As the choral and general music teacher, I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with your students. I look forward to an exciting year of creating wonderful musical experiences and building a great music program at The Silver Spring International Middle School.

This year we have two sections of mixed chorus and, given enough student interest, there will be an after school chorus.

I hope this handbook serves to answer any concerns you may have about the policies, procedures, and organization of the program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by phone or email. Finally, parents and students—read this handbook carefully. Please complete both sides of the last page with your signature(s) and date. This form is due no later than September 10, 2010.

I look forward to a wonderful year of singing!

Sincerely,  
Ms. Katelyn Chiles  
301-650-6544  
[Katelyn\\_M\\_Chiles@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Katelyn_M_Chiles@mcpsmd.org)

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## The Silver Spring International Middle School Music Department

**Ensemble:**

### **Mixed Chorus Period 7/8:**

This group is open to all students at The Silver Spring International Middle School. The group focuses on the basics of building proper choral techniques and skills through performance. Since chorus is a performance based activity, a major part of the student's grade is based on the evening and school day performances, as well as classroom participation.

## **CHORAL MUSIC OBJECTIVES**

The student should be able to:

- Actively engage in improving their performance level according to specific objectives each class period.
  - Assess their music making as it affects their section and the ensemble.
  - Make modifications to performance of music as directed. (style, tempo, diction,...etc.)
  - Read and perform appropriate MENC grade level music.
  - Follow concert procedures and meet performance obligations on the school music calendar.
  - Demonstrate mastery of musical skills and concepts outlined in the National Standards for Music Education.
  - Work to improve individual technique including posture, breathing, and tone production.
  - Progress in the areas of matching pitch, singing with a free and healthy tone, intonation, balance, diction, tall and round vowel shaping, style, and dynamics.
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## CLASSROOM REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

The student will:

- Arrive to class on time, listen, and be respectful of others.
- Positively encourage others in the ensemble.
- Be prepared for class with music, pencil, and paper.
- Bring a note to the director from a parent/guardian if he/she cannot sing because of illness or dental work.
- Raise his/her hand to be recognized to ask a question and not talk when others are talking or playing.
- Not chew gum, candy, food or drinks in the music room or storage areas during class or performances.

\*\*\*\*All students must be supportive of classmates. Respect other members and sections in their rehearsal efforts\*\*\*\*

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## CONCERT PROCEDURES

**1. Attendance and Grading:** Performing in public concerts is a vital part of the music course objectives. Students not present for a performance will not have an opportunity to make up the grade since the due date and deadline are the same. If a student has an excused absent from a concert, an alternative project will be assigned.

**2. Concert Dress is required for Dress Rehearsal & Concert.**

**Please plan accordingly.**

- a. White dress shirt (gentlemen) or blouse from Land's End (ladies). No T-Shirts. Ladies may purchase Land's End Concert Blouse directly from catalog p. 21 (f).
- b. Black Tie (gentlemen)
- c. Black dress pants (with dark belt) or long black skirts (without prints)
- d. Black socks or stockings
- e. Black dress shoes (**no** sneakers!)

**3. Arrival times**

As Directed by Ms. Chiles

## GRADING POLICY

Students in choral music will learn many aspects of music as outlined in the Essential Learner Outcomes for Maryland and the voluntary state music curriculum. These detailed objectives are based on the nine National Standards for Music Education.

**National Standards for Music Education:**

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
5. Reading and notating music.
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
7. Evaluating music and music performances.

8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

### Formative and Summative Assessment

**Summative** grades (25% of total grade) reflect academic performance only. Students will receive multiple opportunities to demonstrate achievement through a variety of assessments to include:

Concerts	Written Quizzes & Tests	Part Singing Test
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**Formative** assignments (70% of total grade) are designed to help students work toward achievement of musical objectives and indicators. Participation and assignment completion are directly related to successful learning in music.

<b>Classwork (Rehearsal Habits &amp; Practices)</b>	Participation in class with music, pencil, paper. Contributes ideas, asks questions, uses feedback or engages in tasks to clarify, refine, or extend learning without interfering with the learning of others. (Proper Rehearsal Etiquette)	
Theory & Music History Worksheets	Practice Logs, Sight Singing Tests	Reading/Listening & Writing Assignments (Home and In-class)

**Homework** assignments, singing and written, are worth 5% of total grade

### Grading

A	90-100	Student demonstrates full and complete understanding of indicators
B	80-89	Student demonstrates good understanding of indicators
C	70-79	Student demonstrates basic understanding of indicators
D	60-69	Student demonstrates some understanding of indicators
E	Below 60	Student demonstrates little or no understanding of indicators

## STUDENT PROGRAM FEES

Due to a recent change in MCPS Policy, student fees can no longer be charged to participate in Chorus or General Music. The money will be made up through “Fund Raisers” to benefit the SSI Music Program. A nominal fee will be charged to replace recorders (a consumable product) used in General Music, that are lost or destroyed. There will be two fund raisers; one each semester. Details will be provided through the SSI Music Boosters Association.

## CONCERT PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

<u>Concert/Activity</u>	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Ensemble</u>
MS Honors Chorus Auditions	Nov. 8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> /TBA	TBA	6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> graders
Jr. All State Auditions	Nov. 13 <sup>th</sup> /TBA	TBA	6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> graders
SSIMS Open House	Oct. 21 <sup>st</sup> /TBA	SSIMS TBA	General Chorus
Winter Concert	Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup> (Waiting for Confirmation)	Northwood HS	General Chorus
MS Honors Chorus Concert	Feb. 23 <sup>rd</sup> /TBA	Watkins Mill HS	6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> graders
All-State Jr. Chorus	March 11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> /TBA	Frederick, MD	6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> graders
MS Choral Festival	April 5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> /TBA	TBA	TBA
International Night	Spring TBA	SSIMS	General Chorus
Spring Trip	May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Hershey Park	General Chorus
Spring Concert	May 24 <sup>th</sup> (Waiting for Confirmation)	Northwood HS	General Chorus
MYP Showcase	TBA	SSI	General Chorus

\*\*\*Please note: There may be additions or changes to this calendar involving festivals or other performance opportunities. You will be notified of any changes as soon as they become known. Donations will be accepted at the winter and spring concerts to help the music department meet its financial responsibilities.\*\*\*



## Parent Booster Volunteer Form Chorus & General Music

Welcome to Chorus/General Music. Parents play a big part in the success of our choral music program. I hope you will consider volunteering this year. Please fill out the following information so I can keep you informed of the upcoming events and activities the Boosters are having at The Silver Spring International Middle School.

Student's Name:

Parent/Guardian:

Best Time to Contact You:

E-Mail address:  
(for sending Music Department information and contact only)

The boosters help to promote and build the music department here at SSIMS. Let me know the activities and events you would like to help in throughout the year (check all that apply).

- Chaperoning a concert
  - Chaperoning the County Choral Festival – April 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Bake Sales and Raffles
  - Donating time to the music library and copying
  - Fundraisers
  - Pianist - Play the piano as an accompanist for the chorus at concerts/festivals
  - Carpool Parent – Willing to carpool 1-2 additional students in your neighborhood to and from the evening concerts.
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
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**PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN**

**BY**

**SEPTEMBER 10, 2010**

**We have read the Music Handbook and understand the policies and responsibilities pertaining to the Silver Spring International Middle School Music Department.**

**The performance dates have been noted on the calendar.**

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Work Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
(For sending Music Department information and contact only)

Please save the rest of the handbook to reference it throughout the year.