

# Congratulations!



FIRST REHEARSAL  
**Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**  
7:00 – 7:50 am

Please read the attached handbook with a parent and turn in the contract (last page), signed, at the first rehearsal. **You may not participate in rehearsal before handing in a signed contract!**

See you soon!

# MIDDLE C's HANDBOOK

## MR. COOMBS

Welcome and congratulations! You are now part of Clarke Middle School's select chorus, and you should be very proud of yourself. You are here because your skills, dedication, and passion have demonstrated your readiness to sing at the highest level we have to offer. During each rehearsal and every performance, we will all strive for excellence in musicianship and teamwork. I am *really* looking forward to working with all of you!

### Overview

We will spend much of our rehearsals working on music that is a bit more challenging than in our in-school choruses. This includes several different styles and different languages. We will also start to explore advanced musicianship skills, such as ear training and singing in different styles. Above all, we will learn how to work with one another to create the most fulfilling musical experience we can, for each other and for ourselves.

### Expectations

As you are aware, this group offers the opportunity for the richest vocal music experience possible at Clarke. With that comes an important responsibility to actively contribute to this choir with your attendance, behavior, focus, and teamwork. All in-school chorus policies apply, with additional higher expectations for Middle C's members:

1. **Attendance:** Excessive absence is damaging to the group. Students are allowed two (2) unexcused absences for the year, including partial absences (e.g. arriving late or leaving early). Please see the following page for details about absences.
2. **Punctuality:** Arrive on time, **ready to begin singing at 7:00am**. Every minute together is precious!
3. **Focus:** During rehearsals, it takes everyone's mental contribution at once to truly grow as a unit. You must be as much of a leader as the person next to you.

## A LESSON ON TEAMWORK...

Xvxn though my computxr kxyboard is an old modxl, it works quixt wxll xxcpt for onx of the kxys. It is trux that thxrx arx forty-six kxys that function wxll xnough, but just onx kxy not working makxs all thx diffxrxncx.

I bxlixvx with all of my hxart that a chorus is just likx my computxr kxyboard whxn not all of thx mxmbxrs arx working togxthx as a txam.

You may say to yoursxlf, “Wxll I am only onx pxrson. I won’t makx or brxak any organization.”

But it rxally doxs makx a hugx diffxrxncx! You sxx, for any pxrforming xnsxmblx to bx xffxctivx, it rxquirxs the activx participation of xvxry mxmbr. So thx nxxt timx you think that you arx only onx pxrson and that your xfforts don’t mattxr, plxasx rxmxmbr my old computxr kxyboard, and start txlling yoursxlf:

“I AM A KXY PXRSON IN OUR PROGRAM, AND I AM NXXDXD VXRY MUCH.”

## Middle Cs - Dates to Remember

*The Middle C's will meet every Wednesday and Thursday morning from 7:00 – 7:50 a.m., with the exception of school vacations and holidays. If Mr. Coombs is unable to hold a scheduled rehearsal for any reason (illness, emergency, etc.), parents will receive an email as soon as possible. For this reason, **parents are urged to check email on evenings before and/or mornings of scheduled rehearsals.***

*Below is a list of required performances for the Middle Cs.*

### December

**Tuesday, 12/13** – Winter Choral Concert @7pm

**Thursday, 12/22** – LHS Choral Extravaganza @9am (field trip)

### March

**Saturday, 3/25** – Community Performance with *Master Singers*

### June

**Tuesday, 6/13** – Spring Concert @7pm

Please remember to stay up to date with the website:

**[mrcoombsmusic.weebly.com](http://mrcoombsmusic.weebly.com)**

## **Attendance Policy – Middle C's**

When an ensemble meets outside of the normal school day, there is a tremendous amount of responsibility put on the students and parents to ensure consistent attendance. Progress in learning and performance is extremely difficult when the entire group isn't there every day, so the Middle C's enforces a strict attendance policy.

### **Unexcused Absences**

Students are allowed two (2) unexcused absences from Middle C's for the year. Unexcused absences include almost any absence from Middle C's rehearsal on a day when the student attends school. If a student misses part of a rehearsal (e.g. arrives considerably late or leaves early), that will count as an unexcused absence.

### **Consequences**

After two unexcused absences, you will be asked to sit down and have a conversation with Mr. Coombs. Unexcused absences beyond two may result in removal from the Middle C's.

### **Performances**

All Middle Cs members are expected to attend the required performances listed on the next page. Students should not accept their position in the ensemble if they foresee any conflicts.

**\*Note:** Students are still required to give advance notice for both excused and unexcused absences.

## Middle C's Agreement

I have read the *Middle C's* Handbook and understand everything that will be expected of me as a member of this ensemble. I am aware that being a part of the *Middle C's* is a privilege, and that my eligibility will be jeopardized if I fail to meet the above outlined expectations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\*Above all, a positive attitude and a willingness to work hard are what will bring us that ultimate sense of accomplishment. I am looking forward to making music with all of you this year!