**Rebecca Harris**
**Director, Brookwood Middle Choral Department**
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Grade/Subject: 6-8 Vocal Music

**ABOUT THE CHORAL DEPARTMENT:**

The Brookwood Middle School choral department provides students with opportunities to perform, but most importantly, offers a comprehensive education in proper vocal production, tone quality, vowel formation, music theory and sight singing. Students work on cooperative learning skills, character development, and team building. Students have the additional opportunity to audition and/or be selected to participate in events such as All-State Choir and the University of Alabama Middle School Honor Choir. Student members must be willing to participate in all BMS concerts, rehearsals, selected in-school events, as well as State Performance Choral Assessment (SCPA).

The BMS Music Program adheres to the following statement regarding public performances:  ***Members of performing musical organizations are to be present at all performances except in the case of personal sickness, death in the family, or extenuating circumstances approved by the Director and/or Principal.***

**Performance/Concert Attendance Policy**

Should another BMS event conflict with a BMS Choral Department Performance; it is the student’s responsibility to communicate the conflict to the director.

The choral uniform will consist of black formal attire, which will be purchased individually but must consist of the following:

* Men:  Black pants, black shoes and socks, white long-sleeved collared shirt, and black tie (may be purchased from BMS Choir Dept.)
* Ladies:  Black dress pants or floor-length black skirt, black closed-toed shoes, black shirt (Small earrings are permitted but no other jewelry should be worn).

*All students must purchase a Brookwood Choir T-Shirt ($10), which will be worn for casual performances.*

**Course Fee**: The fee for the choral music class is currently $25 per year, as set by the Tuscaloosa County School System.

**Course Materials:** Folder with paper and a pencil.

**Course Goal:**The goal of the director is to assist in the development of comprehensive musicians (quality performers as well as knowledgeable and skilled musicians). High standards result in high achievement. Musical growth requires significant effort. Each of the objectives listed below will be addressed on a daily basis in rehearsal.

**Course Objectives:**By the completion of the year, all students will be expected to accomplish the following:

*Vocal Skills*

1. Demonstrate appropriate music reading and aural skills in regular rehearsals, performances, and during singing evaluations.
2. Demonstrate appropriate vocal technique (including proper breath control and good tone quality) in regular rehearsals, performances, and during singing evaluations.
3. Demonstrate appropriate choral singing technique (including balance, blend, and intonation) in regular rehearsals, performances, and during singing evaluations.
4. Demonstrate musical performance of all the focus literature\* (including note accuracy, memorization, and musicality) in regular rehearsals, performances, and during singing evaluations.

*Musical Knowledge*

1. Demonstrate knowledge of all musical terminology reflected in the focus literature.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical background of the focus literature as presented in rehearsals.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic form and structure of the focus literature as presented in rehearsals.
4. Demonstrate the ability to critically listen and evaluate the musical performance of the ensemble.

\* “Focus literature” refers to all literature rehearsed and performed during the term.

**Grading Policy**

In keeping with the philosophy of developing comprehensive musicians, the Brookwood chorus director will assess knowledge and regularly assign participation and performance grades. Choral performances may be included as exam grades. Students will be expected to keep a choir folder with daily work such as bellringers, musical notation, etc. which will be graded at random times throughout the year.

**Attendance/Tardiness**

It is imperative that students are present and on-time to be successful in this course. Students will be allowed to make-up their work when they are absent in accordance to TCSS policy. It is the responsibility of the student to inquire about the work they missed, complete the work in a timely manner (meeting the deadline set by school system policy), and return the work to the teacher for grading. Tardiness will be counted and reported to the office in accordance with school and school system policies/procedures. Points are deducted from a student’s participation grade for each unexcused absence or tardy. A student cannot participate when they are not in class.

**Participation**

One of the most important aspects in a choral music class is participation. Since there is no textbook, few out-of-class assignments, and instruction is active teacher-led instruction with immediate student response, a student cannot be successful if they are not present and actively participating in an appropriate manner. With this is mind, grades in all Brookwood Middle School choral music classes are heavily influenced by class participation. Points may be deducted for infractions such as late arrivals, being out of assigned area, disrupting a rehearsal, sleeping, not having music/materials, not properly marking musical scores, and lack of appropriate participation during rehearsal. Students are welcome to discuss their participation grade with the teacher at any time.

**Class Rules and Expectations**

* Absolutely no cell phones at any time, per the school-wide BMS policy. (Yes I can tell when you hide your cell phone behind music, a chair, in your backpack, etc.)
* No food/gum/candy or drink is allowed outside of the lunch room. I don’t care how good Takis are, I don’t need your Taki dust all over my music
* If you are fashionably late to class you will be marked fashionably tardy.
* Treat all classroom materials carefully and with respect. This includes all papers, music, pencils, technology, chairs, etc.
* Treat all teachers and classmates with kindness and respect at all times.
* You must sign out and back in anytime you leave the room during class time.
* Participation is required! Please follow all instructions from the teacher and participate in singing, class activities, games, etc.

**Remind Messaging**

Parents and students age 13 and older, please join you or your child’s period of choir in Remind. This is how I will communicate things such as activity updates, concert details, reminders etc. This is a secure messaging system that allows us to communicate while maintaining privacy. Remind allows you to send and receive messages through both text messages and through their app.

* 1st Period, Text @1choirb to 81010
* 2nd Period, Text @2choirb to 81010
* 3rd Period, Text @3choirb to 81010
* 4th Period, Text @4thchoirb to 81010
* 5th Period, Text @5choirb to 81010
* 6th Period, Text @6choirb to 81010
* 7th Period, Text @7choirb to 81010

**Important Choir Events**

**All-State Choir Auditions**

November 4th, Christ Episcopal Church

**\*Winter Concert**

December 9th, BMS Gym

6th Grade 6pm

7th & 8th Grade 7pm

**Tuscaloosa All County Honor Choir**

January 11, 2022, Moody Music Concert Hall, University of Alabama

**All-State Choral Festival**(7th and 8th grade students only)

March 10-11 2022, BJCC in Birmingham, AL

**SCPA (State Choral Performance Assessment),**

**4th Period Advanced Girls Only**

Spring 2022

**Young Voices Festival**

April 29-30, 2022, Moody Music Building, University of Alabama

**Spring Trip**

Dates TBA, dependent on COVID procedures.

**\*Spring Concert**

May 12th, Moody Music Concert Hall, University of Alabama

**All of the above activities are subject to change. Due to the nature of COVID-19, choral activities and dates can be unpredictable. Thank you for your flexibility and understanding!**

**\* Denotes required performance for all BMS choral members**

***Dates for required events will be announced as soon as performance venues are acquired and approved by the principal.***

2021-2022 Syllabus Acknowledgement Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(student’s printed name), acknowledge that I have read and agree to the terms of the 2021-2022 Brookwood Middle School Choral Syllabus.

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Student’s Signature Date

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Parent’s Signature Date