



Paxon Hollow Middle School

Choral Handbook

2024-2025



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Chorus Calendar of Events 2021-2022

*all events are subject to change

Monday, September 16, 2024	Morning Rehearsals Begin	7:15 AM	Music Wing
Monday, September 23, 2024	Music Parents Association Meeting	7:00 PM	Microsoft Teams
Monday, October 28, 2024	Music Parents Association Meeting	7:00 PM	Microsoft Teams
Monday, November 18, 2024	Music Parents Association Meeting	7:00 PM	Microsoft Teams
Wednesday, November 27, 2024	*6ABC Thanksgiving Day Parade Rehearsal	11:30-3:30	Philadelphia Art Museum
Thursday, November 28, 2024	*6ABC Thanksgiving Day Parade	7am-1pm	Philadelphia Art Museum
Monday, December 16, 2024	Chorus Winter Concert	7:00 PM	Auditorium
Monday, January 27, 2025	Music Parents Association Meeting	7:00 PM	Microsoft Teams
Monday, February 24, 2025	Music Parents Association Meeting	7:00 PM	Microsoft Teams
Friday, February 28, 2025	*Middle School Musical	7:00 PM	Auditorium
Saturday, March 1, 2025	*Middle School Musical	2:00 PM	Auditorium
Wednesday, April 9, 2025	Chorus Spring Concert	7:00 PM	Auditorium
Monday, April 28, 2025	Music Parents Association Meeting	7:00 PM	Microsoft Teams
Monday, May 12, 2025	Music Parents Association Meeting	7:00 PM	Microsoft Teams
Wednesday, May 14, 2025	Choral Night	7:00 PM	MNHS
Monday, May 19, 2025	*Art Show	7:00 PM	Auditorium
Friday, May 30, 2025	<i>TENTATIVE: High Note Festival</i>	<i>All Day</i>	<i>Allentown, PA</i>

*indicates events for select students

Additional events may be added throughout the school year. Please be aware of all communication coming from Paxon Hollow Middle School and the Music Department.

Marple Newtown School District
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Department of Choral Music

Dear Choral Students and Families,

I am delighted to welcome you to the Paxon Hollow Middle School Choral program for the 2024-2025 school year. You have chosen to be part of an organization that can offer you many opportunities for growth and involvement in your middle school years and provide musical experiences that you will remember for a lifetime. Paxon Hollow is lucky to have a wealth of talent in our music program as a whole.

This handbook is designed to introduce you to the many facets of the Paxon Hollow Middle School Music Program and to answer as many questions as possible. In an active program like this one, your cooperation helps insure a successful experience for all. Family and community involvement and support for our program is our greatest asset.

Please take a moment to read through this handbook and familiarize yourself with its contents. In order to offer the many activities within the department, we require parent/guardian support and encouragement.

I hope that you will take a moment to look over this information carefully.

We welcome any and all volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering with our program, please reach out to me via email for more information. We hope you will consider joining us this year!

Looking forward to a great year of music making!

Musically yours,

Ms. Georgia La Rue
Director of Choral Music

Contact Information

I have an open-door policy regarding questions and/or concerns within the Choral Program.

Please feel free to contact me at any time using the means below:

Name: Ms. Georgia La Rue Director of Choral Activities

School Address: 815 Paxon Hollow Road
Broomall, PA 19008

Voicemail: (610) 359-4200 ext. 6590

Email: glarue@mnsd.org

Websites

Schoology

Online learning management system for Marple Newtown SD
Students have access to music materials and practice files through their Schoology class

Ensemble Descriptions

Chorus

Choir meets for a full year with the purpose of developing music concept knowledge, vocal technique, and ensemble performance experience. The repertoire consists of outstanding compositions of the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary periods, as well as pop selections. Members are eligible to audition for district level festivals. In addition to all scheduled classes, members of the choir are responsible for all scheduled before and after school dress rehearsals and performances throughout the year. Each grade is expected to attend a weekly morning rehearsal at 7:15. Please see the music department rehearsal schedule and calendar dates for details.

Tiger Tones

Tiger Tones is a select auditioned group that meets for a full year with the purpose of developing more advanced vocal technique, challenging and varied choral styles, and more advanced performance experience. The repertoire consists of masterworks in choral literature and contemporary compositions. In addition to all scheduled rehearsals, members of the Tiger Tones are responsible for all scheduled before and after school dress rehearsals and performances throughout the year. Tiger Tones meets once a week before school. Students are required to be registered in a chorus class in order to participate.

Attendance Policy

Participation in an ensemble, much like playing on a sports team, requires a constant team effort to achieve musical mastery and unity. It is imperative that all ensemble members be in attendance and on time to all group lessons, full ensemble rehearsals, and performances.

Chorus Class is held during the school day; therefore, all scheduled members (all those enrolled in Chorus) will be expected to be at each lesson except in the case of an excused absence from school or dismissal from school by the nurse.

Tiger Tones is held after school and the expectation is that students are to attend rehearsals if they are present for school.

An unexcused absence from school/class period on a given day will result in zero credit given for the day's assignments until a note of excusal is handed into the attendance desk (as per school policy).

Attendance at all full ensemble rehearsals is mandatory and is part of participation for chorus class. These rehearsals will be held once per week. This rehearsal will be held before school.

If your child needs to miss rehearsal, please contact the director by written note, phone, or email so that the absence can be marked as excused.

Because concerts and performances are an assessment of student abilities and ensemble musicianship, **attendance at all concerts and performances is mandatory and a part of the graded portion of the course.**

All performances are listed at the beginning of this handbook; please try to schedule appointments, vacations, and other commitments with these dates in mind. If a conflict with a performance should arise, please send in a written note of excusal, containing the reason for the missed performance, to the director. Typical examples of excused absences include, but are not limited to: medical emergency or necessity; wedding; significant religious obligation; or death/funeral in the family. All absences will be handled on a case-by-case basis. **A student who is excused from a performance will be asked to complete an alternate assignment.**

Participation in Chorus satisfies the school club requirement for Renaissance eligibility each marking period. The following circumstances will result in your child's

automatic disqualification for utilizing Chorus as their activity for Renaissance credit: an unexcused absence from a performance; and/or three or more unexcused absences from full ensemble rehearsals in marking period. Continuous unexcused absences from performances and/or rehearsals may result in disqualification from attending music trips and other events or removal from the program/class.

PLEASE NOTE: Intramural practices and games/contests, sponsored by the school, **ARE NOT** valid excuses for absence from a rehearsal or performance. Some students choose to participate in an honors ensemble not affiliated with Marple Newtown School District. If selected for one of these ensembles, the student’s performing priority remains with the school. If a conflict occurs between a school performance and an outside organization’s rehearsal/performance, the student must attend the school function.

Select musical opportunities outside of school include, but are not limited to, membership in a corps affiliated with Drum Corps International or Drum Corps Associates, the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra, the Delaware County Youth Orchestra, Summer Stage, Philadelphia Boys Choir, Keystone Boys Choir, etc.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
La Rue	AM		6th Grade Chorus 7:15am	Tiger Tones 7:15am	7th/8th Grade Chorus 7:15am	
Marmelstein	AM	7th/8th Grade Orchestra	7th/8th Grade Band		6th Grade Band	
	PM	Jazz Ensemble				

Rehearsal/Performance Policies and Procedures

Be present and on time! This means in your assigned seat with your music folder and ready to sing by one minute after the bell rings/scheduled start of rehearsal.

Participate. Making an effort to sing with the group is the expectation of all choral ensembles.

Be respectful. Disrespect towards the director or fellow students will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action.

Any folders and sheet music used in class is the property of the Paxon Hollow Middle School and Marple Newtown School District. If a student returns a piece of sheet music and/or a permanent folder in unacceptable condition - that is, beyond normal "wear-and-tear" -they will be responsible for the cost of replacing the folder and/or piece(s) of sheet music. Important note: students are never to write on school copies of music in pen, marker, or highlighter, or white-out! You may only use pencil. Students may be held responsible for replacing school copies of music if any pen, marker, highlighter, or white-out marks are found. Consumption of food and drinks other than water is not permitted in the chorus room, especially during rehearsal.

Electronic Device Policy

Use of personal electronic devices are STRICTLY PROHIBITED in class. Any student seen using an unauthorized device will have it confiscated, and the device will be turned over to the main office. When authorized for use, any student found to be using their device inappropriately or for matters not pertaining to classwork will be verbally warned for a first offense, followed by confiscation for a second offense. Electronic devices are not to be brought on trips off of school campus unless otherwise stated by the director. Additionally, while social media is a platform in which students can share their memories of music department events, it can also be used as an instrument for harassment, harm, and bullying of classmates. Students should NEVER use social media in an abusive form such as those previously mentioned. If a student is caught using social media as a means of harassing, harming, or bullying another student (Paxon Hollow or otherwise), they will be subject to administrative referral and may be barred from participation in future events/trips or from the program as a whole.

Trips/Travel Policy

In order for students to be able to participate in any trip, students must turn in a signed permission slip and a signed medical information form. Any student who has not turned these forms in will not be able to join the group on a trip. All school rules and policies are in effect at all music functions.

Any student who engages in inappropriate and/or destructive behavior may be barred from attending another music event on or off campus.

Any student found to have caused purposeful or negligent damage to bus/venue equipment will be held financially responsible for any consequential and necessary maintenance or repairs.

All students travel to any off-campus activity on the bus unless special arrangements have been made with the director in writing in advance. If a student wishes to ride home from an event with his or her parents (or designee), the parent must notify the director in writing in advance. The parent or designee will then sign the student out in person, at the conclusion of the event, and the student will be removed from the bus roster.

Only directors may release students, not chaperones or staff. Please be aware of this policy -- it is for your protection as well as ours. Any injury that occurs during a music function should be reported to the director without delay. At any chorus contest, festival, trip, or other function, chorus members should move from place to place in a group. Do not go off by yourself, especially after dark. To leave the site, you must have permission from the director. For the safety of students and for ease of identification for staff and chaperones, all students are to wear their Tiger Music polo shirts or the designated t-shirt at all times while away.

Member Behavior & Image Disclosure Participation

Involvement in the choral program is a privilege for students who both enjoy music and wish to learn through performance on an instrument. With that privilege comes responsibility for your instrument, your music, yourself and your classmates. As an instrumentalist, your conduct in and around school is seen by the director, classmates, teachers, and administrators. Irresponsible behavior is a poor reflection of the band & orchestra program, and that negative image will not be tolerated. If at any time during lessons or rehearsal, you are observed breaking basic school rules or violating the expectations and procedures in this handbook, the discipline method will be as follows: 1st Offense - Verbal Warning 2nd Offense - Teacher Detention & Phone Call Home 3rd Offense - Written Referral to School Administration As previously stated, poor behavior in school will not be tolerated. Students must remember that their actions affect everyone, one way or another. If a student is reprimanded by the school in a way that directly affects an ensemble's image, rehearsal, and/or performance (ex: afterschool detention, suspension), the director reserves the right to remove that student from solos, leadership roles, or the ensemble entirely and replace with another deserving student as necessary.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

All chorus members should be prepared for concerts/performances with the following appropriate attire. T-Shirts may be provided for festivals/trips as indicated by the director.

White dress shirt/blouse

White Music Dept. Polo

Black dress pants or skirt

No sweatpants, jeans, or athleisure

Black dress shoes

No sneakers, avoid stiletto heels

Due to proximity on risers and the increased heat from stage lighting, please avoid perfume, cologne, or other heavily scented products which can irritate allergic conditions and asthma.

Grading Procedures

Chorus is a unique class at Paxon Hollow Middle School. They have curricular requirements, just as any other academic discipline, but they also have out-of-class time requirements. The level of commitment from each individual student is the driving force behind the organization and is reflected in the level of achievement reached by the individual and the program. Grading takes place only during chorus class - during the school day, with the exception of attendance at concerts and performances (see breakdown below). A student's marking period grade is not affected by before-school rehearsal attendance; however, multiple unexcused absences from before-school rehearsal have a negative effect on Renaissance eligibility (see page). Students' grades will be determined based on the follow criteria and factors:

Breakdown of points for each marking period

Rehearsal 40%- Demonstrates singing abilities and appropriate skill application during warm-ups and repertoire rehearsal.

Performances and Assessments 40%-Recording assignments, written assessments, and performance assessments will be graded with rubrics

Musicianship and Reflection 20% -Musical terminology, music theory, critical listening, and performance critique and reflection

STUDENT/PARENT CONTACT FORM

Please complete this form and turn in to Ms. La Rue by October 2, 2023

Student Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Student ID: _____ Date of Birth (Optional): _____

Street Address: _____

City/Town & State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Student Email (Optional): _____

Grade: _____ Shirt Size (Adult Size): _____

Parent/Guardian Information

Adult's Full Name: _____

Adult's Email: _____ Relation to Student: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Adult's Full Name: _____ Adult's Email: _____

Relation to Student: _____ Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

By signing below and returning this form I agree to the terms and commitments explained in the Choral Handbook and will support my child:

Signature _____

Date _____

**Please review the Paxon Hollow Chorus Handbook
with your child before signing and returning the
acknowledgement form and video/photo release.**



**If you have any questions, please contact me at
glarue@mnsd.org**