

Robert Anderson Middle School  
Choral Handbook  
2018-2019



Phillip Wood  
Director of Choral Activities

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! My name is Phillip Wood and I am the new choral director here at Robert Anderson Middle School. While I know change can be challenging, I also know that it can be a great experience for everyone involved. I am truly looking forward to working with each and every one of you this year.

Since I am new, I feel it's important for you, as parents and students, to know the instructor. I am from Belton, South Carolina. I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in saxophone and voice performance from Erskine College. Two years later, I earned a Master of Arts in Teaching degree from Valdosta State University.

During my time at Erskine, I served as the woodwind instructor for the Belton-Honea Path High School Marching Band. The students created spectacular programs where they consistently earned superior ratings and placed as one of the top twelve bands in the 3A class every year. While in Valdosta, I worked closely with every choir at the college, while also conducting three of the choirs myself. I am now working as the woodwind instructor for the Westside Ram Band.

Music can be a wonderful experience for everyone involved as it brings so many different people together from all walks of life for the same cause. This is an exciting opportunity for the students because they are at a point where they can really begin to grow this musical program.

In order to progress, we must work together. Here are a few important items I consider to be crucial in the development of any team or ensemble:

1. Embrace your mistakes. You're going to make mistakes. Own them. It's up to you as to how that mistake will make you or break you. You'll be surprised as to how much you'll advance when you simply embrace the mistakes.
2. Rome wasn't built in a day. It's a process. Embrace the process. Michael Phelps didn't become a swimming prodigy overnight. Enjoy your journey of getting to the level you want to be.
3. Let's face it -- you're going to have bad days from time to time. However, if we lift each other up, we're able to provide a safe haven for our peers. While that doesn't necessarily alleviate the 'bad day,' it does provide comfort to the student(s) that he/she has a happy place during the school day.

4. Never become complacent. If you choose to 'settle,' you will not reach your full potential. FYI, I will always find tiny elements in the music to fix and/or tweak. This doesn't mean you're bad. It does, however, mean that I believe in your ability to take your music to the next level.
5. Always remain teachable. No matter how old we become, if we lose our ability to remain teachable, we do a disservice to our own selves. There's an entire world with all sorts of things which we know nothing. However, we can learn those things if we just remain teachable.
6. Don't be afraid to ask questions.
7. Accept constructive feedback as a compliment. Just because I'm giving you advice on something you can utilize to better yourself musically, it doesn't mean I'm insulting you.
8. Rehearsal happens in the classroom. Practice happens outside the classroom. Rehearsal is when we work together to form a product of something you've practiced outside this classroom.
9. If you're early, you're on time. If you're on time, you're late.

## **RAMS Chorus Creed**

We make great music.

We make great music with those we care about.

We make great music with those we care about for those we care about.

# Lines of Communication

I do communicate frequently via E-Mail, parent letters, and Remind 101. If you'd like to received text updates on your phone, send a text message to 81010 with the following message: @DoReRAMS

If you need to reach me personally, my email is [phillipwood@anderson5.net](mailto:phillipwood@anderson5.net).

You may also remain updated by following the Robert Anderson Middle School Choirs page on Facebook.

## Required Materials and Performance Attire

### Required Materials

- ½ inch black three-ring binder (MUST BE BLACK and NO CLEAR FRONT POUCH)
- Pencils (NOT pens)
- Colored Pencils (green, blue, and red in particular)
- Notebook paper
- Performance attire

### Performance Attire

All students in the RAMS Choirs and Theater will be responsible for purchasing **formal concert attire**.

### Performance Attire Guidelines

- Females
  - SOLID black dress. No sparkles, stripes, polka dots, or any design of any kind.
  - Dress length MUST be at the knee or longer
  - Neck line must not show cleavage and shoulders must be at least three fingers in width.
  - Shoes must be close-toed black dress shoes with a slight pump or flats. Flip-flops, sandals, high heels, boots, and tennis shoes are NOT allowed.
  - Fingernail polish is NOT allowed. You must have clean fingers.
- Males
  - White button-up DRESS shirt, SOLID black necktie, black DRESS pants, black belt, black socks, and black DRESS shoes.

- It is wise to wear a SOLID white undershirt. If you wear an undershirt, it cannot have printed logos, symbols, and/or pictures of any kind.
- Black dress shoes are allowed. Nothing more/Nothing less.
- BE SURE TO WEAR LONG BLACK DRESS SOCKS! They cannot be white, short/no-show, or have any designs on them.
- Tennis shoes, flip-flops, sandals, boots, etc. are NOT allowed.
  
- Hair:
  - Hair is to be out of your face AND pulled back. Be sure to have it clipped back to not to cause any distractions.
  - Ribbons, bows, and headbands are not allowed. Keep it simple and use a rubber band. If you use a hairclip, it must match your hair color.
  - Males are NOT exempt from any of these rules. If you have manbun (or whatever they're called), you may wear it, but be sure it looks neat and clean.
  
- Bling-Bling:
  - Females may wear pearl studs in your ears. Nothing that shines, blings, jingles, or jangles is allowed.
  - No necklaces, rings, and/or watches are to be worn.
  
- This & That:
  - Folks have allergies and asthma. Therefore, do NOT wear scented fragrances. This includes, but is not limited to, lotions, perfumes, and colognes.
  - No gum, food, candy, or cough drops.
  - FOR THE SAKE OF THOSE AROUND YOU, WEAR DEODORANT!!! There will be a large number of us on the stage. There will also be very bright lights shining on us. Therefore, you may sweat. PLEASE be courteous and simply wear twice the amount you normally apply each day.

Any violations of these rules will result in not performing at the concert/event and an automatic "F" for that performance.

# Rehearsal and Classroom Procedures

## **Classroom Expectations:**

1. Be on time.
2. Be prepared.
3. No gum.
4. Be respectful.
5. Be positive.

## **Consequences:**

- 1st Offense: Warning, verbal  
2nd Offense: Warning, parents contacted  
3rd and after: Referral, parent conference

## **In order to receive full credit for a performance the student must:**

1. Be on time.
  - a. If you're early, you're on time.
  - b. If you're on time, you're late.
2. Wear proper performance attire.
  - a. If you don't wear the correct attire, you won't be allowed to perform.
3. Participate fully. Do what you're supposed to do.

## RAMS Choir Basics

### **Attendance is MANDATORY for ALL REQUIRED PERFORMANCES!**

Students will be required to attend any and all after school rehearsals and performances. All musical theater students will be required to participate in all choral events and all choral students will be required to participate in all musical theater events. If there is a conflict, please contact Mr. Wood. An absence form must be filled out for any absence from a rehearsal or performance. Excused absences include illness, death in the family, a religious holiday, or other extenuating circumstances. An alternate assignment will be given to those students who are excused from the rehearsal or performance.

Any unexcused absence from a rehearsal or concert will result in a ZERO in the gradebook. Additionally, an unexcused absence from a dress rehearsal may result in the student being removed from performing.

### **Concert Etiquette**

#### **Rules of Concert Etiquette:**

1. Always look at me.

2. If you aren't singing, just blink and breathe.
3. Always look at me.
4. No gum/candy.
5. Always look at me.
6. Don't wear jewelry.
7. Always look at me.
8. Don't wear perfume/cologne or scented lotions.
9. Always look at me.
10. Do your very best.
11. Always look at me.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

If you are interested in volunteering, please E-Mail Mr. Wood at [phillipwood@anderson5.net](mailto:phillipwood@anderson5.net). Volunteering duties range from filing music, backstage assistance, etc.

## **Grading**

If you do what you're supposed to do, you'll make an A. Simply follow directions and give everything 100%. Bad days will happen, but do you remember how we'll handle those bad days?

### **Grading Scale:**

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

### **Grading Rubric**

Performance & Tests 50%  
Participation & Daily Grades 30%  
Homework & Quizzes 20%

# Fundraising

We will participate in several fundraisers throughout the school year. Fundraising can be challenging, but if we work together, we can truly grow our music program to new standards.

Why is fundraising necessary?

- Music Purchasing
  - This is a major expense that we don't consider. Each piece of music is an average cost of \$1.95. If we have just two concerts a year with eight pieces of music and seventy singers, it means that each performed song is a cost of \$136.50. Each concert is \$1,092 just to perform the music. The years' worth of music is \$2,184.
- Festivals and Trips
  - Transportation costs are EXPENSIVE.
- Accompanists for Performances
  - Approximately \$150 - \$200 per performance which can accumulate to approximately \$400 per year.
- Professional Musicians for Performances
  - Approximately \$400 per year.
- So. Much. More.

## Performance Calendar Fall 2018

Date	Performance	Call Time	Performance Time	Dress	Performing Choirs
August 27 & 28, 2018	Willy Wonka Auditions	TBA	TBA	Business Dress	<b><u>OPTIONAL</u></b>
November 15-18, 2018	Willy Wonka: The Musical	TBA	TBA	TBA	<b><u>OPTIONAL</u></b>
December 10, 2018	Dress Rehearsal	During School	During School	Casual	<b><u>ALL</u></b>
December 11, 2018	Winter Concert	6:30 PM	7:30 PM	Concert Attire	<b><u>ALL</u></b>

\*\*Dates and times are schedule to change. Additional dates may also be added. Students are still responsible for attending any additional performances that may occur later in the school year.\*\*



# **RAMS Choirs Contract of Mutual Agreement 2018-2019**

## **Student**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, accept membership in the Robert Anderson Middle School Choral Program and understand that I am responsible for all policies set forth in the RAMS Choirs Choral Handbook. I fully agree to carry out my responsibilities to the very best of my ability.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Parent/Guardian**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the policies as set forth in the RAMS Choirs Choral Handbook. I also grant full permission for my child to be an active member of the RAMS Choirs. In addition, my child has permission to attend all chorus functions.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date