

To my students and their parents,

The Otte Blair Middle School choral program is dedicated to helping each student achieve his or her highest musical potential. Students will be exposed to music theory, sight singing, new cultures, musical theater, folk music, music history, and the fundamentals of healthy singing through a wide variety of choral literature; both sacred and secular. I desire our music classes to be enjoyable, and we want all students to learn. Students should also appreciate how and why music and the arts are important to our society.

Because a choir's success is built by students' attitudes and participation, choir members at OBMS must exhibit a desire to actively contribute to the group. Students are expected to perform leadership and membership responsibilities within the choir when appropriate. Students will develop, maintain, and demonstrate a positive attitude toward themselves, the ensemble, its members, and the directors.

Looking forward to a great year!

Ms. Willing and Mrs. Thiemann



### **Contact Information:**

Music Office Phone: 402-427-2842

Email: [molly.willing@blairschools.org](mailto:molly.willing@blairschools.org)

Website: [mollywillingottemusic.weebly.com](http://mollywillingottemusic.weebly.com) you can also access this site from my school site at: <http://www.blairschools.org/oms/mwilling>

**All Students will need the following supplies:**

- 1 inch 3-Ring Binder to be left in the music room
- Spiral Bound SINGLE-subject notebook
- At least one sharpened pencil to write in music and complete assignments.

### **Concert Attendance/Attire:**

Students are required to be in attendance at **all concerts**. Students will need to report to the choir room 15 minutes before the start of the concert for warm-up. Concerts are worth 400 points each. Should you be absent from a concert for whatever reason, a make-up assignment will be assigned. **Students are required to stay for the entire concert. This means they will be present for the band portion. To achieve the entire 400 grade points, attendance for the performance is required.**

**Students are expected to dress appropriately for concert performances and adhere to the school dress code.** Nice dress shirts and dress pants are great for boys. Ties are not required, but look very professional! Skirts and dresses are also acceptable, but please consider appropriate length. **No rubber flip-flops and no jeans please.** Cell phones do not need to be visible during a concert performance.

### **Grading Procedures:**

My goal is to provide your kids with the knowledge to have a lifelong appreciation for music. They will have the skills to continue performing should they choose to do so. The grade received in this class will reflect progress as a musician and a responsible student. Grades are based on the use of Formative Assessments 20% (rehearsal skills, written work, and quizzes), and Summative Assessments 80% (tests, concert attendance and performance).

Rehearsal Skills will be graded daily, but will only be entered once a month. Students must:

- be in their assigned seat with materials when the bell rings or within the time frame announced. Class will start one minute after the bell rings.
- have a pencil in their possession
- have all assigned music
- no gum or candy, water bottles that seal are acceptable

Written Work will be assigned every week and will be completed during class time. Quizzes will be given every other week.

- bell work assignments - will introduce and review vocabulary, a complete vocabulary list will be given to each student
- written music theory quizzes - test the definable aspects of music that will be covered in class.
- written response to listening - It is important that students are exposed to many different genres of music. Students will simply listen to a piece of music and then respond appropriately in writing.
- written performance summaries/critiques - allows students to apply those definable aspects and use the vocabulary in context.

## **Concert Review Guidelines -- should you be absent from a concert**

- Students are writing about their favorite or not so favorite performing group.
- Review must be two pages, typed, double space
  - Include the following information about your choice of group: Who, When, Where, What (music they play), do you enjoy their music or not, and why you do or do not enjoy their music. Do these performers adhere to the musicianship skills you have been working to develop?
  - Research should include information on specific songs and biographical pieces as well. Biographical information could include family, education, etc.
  - Use more than one source. More than one website is acceptable. Please list these sources at the end of your review.  
**Due one week following the performance or can be turned in prior to absence.**

This assignment is the only way to make-up the points missed for being absent from a concert. The assignment needs to be completed in its entirety in order to receive the full 400 concert points.

Concert Schedule

# 2016-2017

Please write these dates down now or keep this sheet. Concerts are the main focus of this performing arts class.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**October 13** – 7:00 pm OMS Gym

**November 29** – 7:00 pm OMS Gym

**February 27** – 7:00 pm OMS Gym

**April 24** – 7:00 pm OMS Gym

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

**October 13** – 7:00 pm OMS Gym

**November 15** – 7:00 pm OMS Gym

**February 27** – 7:00 pm OMS Gym

**May 2** – 7:00 pm OMS Gym

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**October 13** – 7:00 pm OMS Gym

**November 17** – 8:00 am NMEA Convention, Lincoln NE

*Prepare Now!!!! Bus will leave at 6:00 am*

**December 6** – 7:00 pm OMS GYM

**March 16** – 7:00 pm OMS Commons

**March 24** – TBA Platteview Music Contest (during the school day)

**May 4** – 7:00 pm OMS Gym

# SIGN AND RETURN TO CHOIR OFFICE!!!!!!

DO NOT return the entire handbook! Put concert dates on the calendar now!

This handbook is considered a homework assignment and it needs to be completed by August 26th. Failure to do so will result in after schools until the necessary paperwork is completed. Thank you!

Your signature affirms that all have read through and understand the policies contained in the 2016-2017 OBMS Concert Choir Handbook.

Please initial the following:

\_\_\_\_ I/We understand that attendance is required at ALL performances.

\_\_\_\_ I/We understand that appropriate concert dress is required for all performances.

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**Parent/Guardian Signature**

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**Student Name (Please Print)**