Dear Choral Students and Parents:

Welcome to the ELCO High School Chorus Program! A successful chorus program is dependent on positive, active participation by both the students and their parents. I have worked hard over the summer preparing for what I think will be an exciting, musical year!

This handbook is designed to help the student and their parents understand the expectations for all chorus members at ELCO High School. Included in these expectations are the dates of performances and rehearsals your child will be required to attend. Please be sure to mark your calendars!

I have made every effort to answer parents’ and students’ concerns in this handbook. However, if you have questions of any kind, feel free to call or e-mail me. I will return calls and e-mails in a timely fashion. Rarely does a situation arise for which there is no workable solution. Please don’t hesitate to contact me!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Melodie Fair
Choral Director
Phone: (717) 866-7447 ext. 352
E-mail: mfair@elcosd.org

REMEMBER

Parents and students should review the following information together to avoid any misunderstandings. Sign and return the necessary attached documents to me by the required date. Make certain that…

- The student and parent have read and discussed the information contained on the following pages
- The calendar section has been thoroughly examined for conflicts
- The student and parent/guardian are willing to make a commitment to the chorus program and fulfill ALL requirements.
**Performance Expectations**

To achieve a successful choral program students must behave as a member of a team. Each choir member has a responsibility to all other choir members with regard to participation in all rehearsals and performances. The majority of our performance preparation will take place during the regular school day. However, this year there will be times when a rehearsal after school may be necessary, especially as a performance nears. Students will always be given plenty of advanced notice (at least two weeks when possible).

Since chorus is a class and you receive a grade for the course, attendance is required for rehearsals and performances beyond regular school hours. These include, but are not limited to:

- Concerts
- Performances for school, community, etc.
- Extra rehearsals as required
- Individual Assessments

It is understood that attendance at these functions is mandatory, and an unexcused absence may result in a grade reduction for the student.

Exceptions to this policy are:

- Religious Holidays
- Documented Illness
- Family Emergencies (approved by School Administration)

**Calendar**

The following dates involve all chorus members. Please put these dates on your family calendar, and avoid scheduling doctor and dentist appointments, family trips or outings, or other potentially conflicting activities around these days. At the same time, please share these dates with friends and family members that would enjoy hearing your students sing, as all are welcome at all of our concerts. The rehearsals and concerts below are required and part of the student’s grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>PLACE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Aug. 29, 2013</td>
<td>Handbook forms are due</td>
<td>Chorus Room</td>
<td>During Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday Sept 20, 2013</td>
<td>Homecoming</td>
<td>Football Stadium</td>
<td>7:00pm (reporting time 6:15pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Dec. 15, 2013</td>
<td>Holiday Concert</td>
<td>HS Auditorium</td>
<td>2:00PM (reporting time 1:15PM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday May 6, 2014</td>
<td>Spring Concert</td>
<td>HS Auditorium</td>
<td>2:00PM (reporting time 6:45PM)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SELECTED CHORUS MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN THESE EVENTS

This next set of dates will involve selected chorus members. These students will audition or sign-up at the beginning of the school year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County Chorus Auditions</td>
<td>Saturday, September 28, 2013</td>
<td>at McCaskey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Chorus Auditions</td>
<td>Saturday, October 26, 2013</td>
<td>Central York HS (ALL DAY)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Chorus Festival</td>
<td>Saturday, January 4, 2014</td>
<td>Elizabethtown High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Chorus Festival</td>
<td>Thurs-Sat, January 10-11, 2014</td>
<td>Central Dauphin HS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONCERT DRESS

Chorus students will be expected to wear the appropriate clothes at all performances unless instructed otherwise. Concert Choir, Odd 18 are expected to wear their assigned concert attire.

Sneakers are not acceptable. All hair must be away from the face. Ladies and gentlemen with long hair should wear a tight ponytail low on the back of their heads. No jewelry should be worn during any chorus performance. Small stud earrings will be allowed for those with pierced ears.

If purchasing the proper clothes for these concerts is a financial hardship, please contact me as soon as possible. All information will remain confidential.

MUSIC (Stuff)

Chorus members will be paired with another student in their section to share music. This folder will be used for all rehearsals. Chorus members are responsible for their own folder. All folders must be returned to the folder cabinet prior to leaving the room. Treat it as you would any other textbook. Students will be financially responsible for their folder if it becomes lost or damaged. Having your folder and a pencil at every rehearsal is part of being prepared for class, which in turn is part of your grade.
**BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS**

**General Rules**

There are only 4 rules you need to follow to get a good grade for class participation.

1. **BE ON TIME** – You need to be in your seat, quiet and ready to sing at 12:00 sharp!
2. **BE PREPARED** – You need to have your folder of music and a pencil on hand at all times!
3. **BE RESPECTFUL** – to the director and peers at all times. Talking **WILL NOT** be tolerated while the teacher is talking or while other sections are being rehearsed.
4. **BE YOUR BEST** – 100% participation is expected for all activities performed during class.

If any of the above rules are violated, students will receive a zero for the day’s rehearsal. Students will also receive detention for excessive talking or other disruptions during the rehearsal.

**GRADING POLICY**

Students can earn points in each of the areas below:

- Class participation (effort, focus, singing habits) - Students will receive several of these grades.
- Graded class work
- Performance, rehearsal, and sectional attendance
- Individual assessments
- Proper Concert Etiquette (Will be covered in class)

You may check your grades at any time online utilizing the powerschool website.

https://powerschool.elcosd.org/public/

**Performances and Rehearsals**

The grades for performances and extra rehearsals will be determined as follows: (Remember, performances and rehearsals held beyond school hours are required as part of the choral curriculum and are therefore part of the students' grades)

- Students who do not attend scheduled performances and rehearsals in a timely fashion and in the appropriate dress will fail to earn points for those events
- Unexcused absences earn zero points.
- Students who have an excused absence from a performance are expected to bring a signed note from their parent on the next day they return to school. See the **Performance Expectations** page for a list of excused absences.
- No bathroom passes will be granted during chorus. All chorus members have lunch right before chorus. Take care of bathroom visits at that time.
SECTIONAL REHEARSALS
This year, sectional rehearsals will be utilized more to lessen the time needed to learn notes and rhythms. Section leaders are to be respected and their directions followed.

CHANGE IN SCHEDULE
Due to Mrs. Fair being at both the middle school and high school this year, there will be several times in which Mr. Fair or another teacher will be covering chorus (i.e. Period E, late starts, etc.) Proper behavior is expected at all times. Please make sure to have a book to read or other work to do quietly during these times.

CHORAL BOOSTER GROUP
I encourage all parents to become involved with the choral booster organization. Meetings are usually the 3rd Monday of each month. The choral boosters provide many things for ALL chorus students throughout the year. The choral boosters cannot operate without your help. If you become very active with the group or volunteer to help out with one fundraiser, your involvement with the choral booster group is vital and will only help to strengthen the organization and help to provide ELCO chorus members with trips, awards, and social events.

FUNDRAISERS
The chorus will become involved with one or more fund-raising activities during the 2013-2014 school year. This information has not been finalized, but will become available to you as soon as possible. Fundraisers will be coordinated by the choral boosters. You should turn in all monies for fundraisers utilizing the following criteria:

- **Checks only NO CASH!** This is much safer than carrying large amounts of cash to school and acts as your receipt of payment
- Placed in a sealed envelope with your name on it.
- Mrs. Fair may designate a choir officer to collect envelopes during chorus rehearsals.
CHORUS HANDBOOK CONTRACT

Students are required to submit this completed sheet to Mrs. Fair by **Thursday, August 29th.** Returning this form in a timely manner will earn points towards each student's grade. Let’s have a great year and remember that chorus is a commitment!

By checking each item and signing this form, you agree that you:

_____Have read the chorus handbook and understand the information it contains

_____Have examined the calendar section for conflicts.

_____Understand that an unexcused absence from an after school performance or rehearsal will earn zero points.

_____Will attain and wear the required dress at designated times.

_____For the parents) I am interested in helping with the choral booster group. Please contact me with information!

Student’s Name (please print) ____________________________

Student’s Signature ____________________________

Student’s Email (print clearly) ____________________________

Parent’s Signature ____________________________

Parent’s phone number: ____________________________

Parent E-mail (print clearly) ____________________________