



**OAKVIEW  
CHOIRS**

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Choir Syllabus

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# WELCOME!

*Welcome to the Oakview Choir Family! Lake Orion Choirs have a long tradition of providing students with very extra-ordinary experiences. Now, YOU are a part of this tradition!*

*Oakview singers know what it means to be the best. They understand what success means and know how to get to that place.*



# OUR CHOIRS

*6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir*

*7<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus*

*8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorale*



*Music sight-reading, vocal technique, and appreciation of various musical styles will be emphasized. Both sacred and secular choir music of all styles and centuries will be studied and performed.*

*Consistent attendance at all class functions including rehearsals and concerts is considered regular class work. This choir will perform at approximately one school choir concert per quarter.*



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# 4 REQUIREMENTS FOR EVERY STUDENT

1. Singers are required to show respect for their fellow choir members, the music which they perform, the director, and the work which must be done to make our choirs perform at their highest possible level of achievement.
2. Singers are required to show responsibility for their individual contribution by trying their best at all rehearsals and performances.
  3. You and I will not tolerate a student infringing on another student's right to learn.
  4. You and I will not tolerate a student infringing upon Mr. Dawley's responsibility to teach.



Students who do not meet these requirements may be removed from our program....

BUT...

*Students who meet our success requirements will be rewarded with an experience unlike any other that they may have in school!*



# CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

*Our concerts and performances can only be as good as our rehearsals.*

*The following guidelines are used in all professional musical organizations and will be the foundation of our rehearsal process as well.*

- *When the bell rings, all singers are to be in the choir room going to their assigned seats with their choir folder and other materials. Tardies will be assigned according to Oakview MS policy. Please leave books, purses, food, cosmetics, and other personal items in your locker or areas indicated by Mr. Dawley.*



# CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS *(continued)*

- *Music (including public domain photocopies) is the textbook for this class. Do not leave music on the floor at the end of rehearsals. Lost/damaged music will be treated as a lost textbook, for which a fine is imposed. Your choir folder and music should remain in the choir room. PDF versions will be posted on the choir website.*
  - *Please have a pencil with you every day and be prepared to use it. As much as we all like to use pens, **WE USE PENCILS.** Musicians around the world do this, so do we.*
  - *Please try and use the restroom during passing time. Restroom passes are only given in the event of emergencies. Plan accordingly. Please let Mr. Dawley know about documented medical conditions that require restroom use.*





# CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS *(continued)*

- *In accordance with Oakview MS policy, texting/making phone calls/using electronic devices during class (unless instructed to do so) will result in the device being confiscated. Electronic devices may be collected by the student at the end of the school day. Repeated offenses will result in disciplinary action.*
  - *Realizing that posture has a significant influence on vocal tone, breathing, intonation, etc., students will observe proper standing and sitting posture while singing.*
  - *The piano, sound system, dry-erase boards, practice rooms, choir office, and all other Oakview MS property are not to be used unless specific permission has been granted by Mr. Dawley.*



# CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS *(continued)*

- *Mark something in your music every day with a pencil. You must remember musical terms and symbols that are explained in class. Take ownership of your experience.*
- *Vocal health is stressed in choir by teaching good singing habits. Your grade depends upon you putting into practice the things that you are taught. Make these things (especially good posture) unconscious habits rather than something you save for performances.*
  - *A cold should not prohibit you from singing, but a sore throat might... Talk to Mr. Dawley BEFORE class if you have a problem. This is a participatory class. Only in very extreme cases should you be sitting out.*

# CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS (*continued*)

- Chewing gum, eating, and drinking pop/juice/etc. will not be permitted in the classroom. *Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to class each day.*
- You may not do homework during class time unless Mr. Dawley gives special permission to do so.
  - Rather than saying you can never talk in choir class, I like to say that you must have an “attitude of attentiveness” during the class time rehearsal. This simply means, sometimes you can, sometimes you can't.
  - A respectful attitude toward your fellow classmates and your teacher must always be maintained. This is a *team*, and one person's bad attitude can bring the whole group down.



# GRADING / ASSESSMENT

*Our curriculum is based on the Core Music Standards. To ensure that all learners are measured by what they know and what they can do, students will be assessed on the following standards:*

## POWER STANDARDS

- *Students will demonstrate proficiency performing in the classroom setting.*
- *Students will demonstrate proficiency performing in the concert setting.*
- *Students will demonstrate proficiency in creating.*
- *Students will demonstrate proficiency in connecting.*
- *Students will demonstrate proficiency in rehearsing, evaluating, and refining.*
- *Students will demonstrate proficiency in responding.*

4	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS
3	MEETS EXPECTATIONS
2	NEAR EXPECTATIONS
1	BELOW EXPECTATIONS
0	NO EVIDENCE OF LEARNING



# GRADING / ASSESSMENT *(continued)*

*PowerSchool will be used to input all assignments/assessments by standards assessed.*

*More than one assessment per standard will result in an average within the standard (up to the last three attempts) and then converted to a final numeric value.*

*All standards will have individual scores and will then be averaged together to arrive at a final grade.*

*Parents can view their child's grade on PowerSchool, and email or call Mr. Dawley for a more detailed explanation of the grade at any time.*



# GRADING / ASSESSMENT *(continued)*

## **PERFORMANCES** *(Performing: Concert setting)*

*Concerts are equivalent to a major exam in choir. It is very important that students attend all required concerts. There is a district-wide policy regarding an absence from a concert. We will hold to that policy when a student misses a concert.*

*It is not possible to make up a missed concert. Missed concerts will be assessed as 0 Insufficient Evidence.*

*Students will have the opportunity to do make up assignments when they miss rehearsals.*



# REHEARSAL MAKE-UP WORK

Attendance in any musical ensemble is crucial to not only the individual student, but the entire group. Elements such as balance, blend, and particular phrasing cannot be addressed when there are musicians missing from the section. **If possible, please do not miss class!**

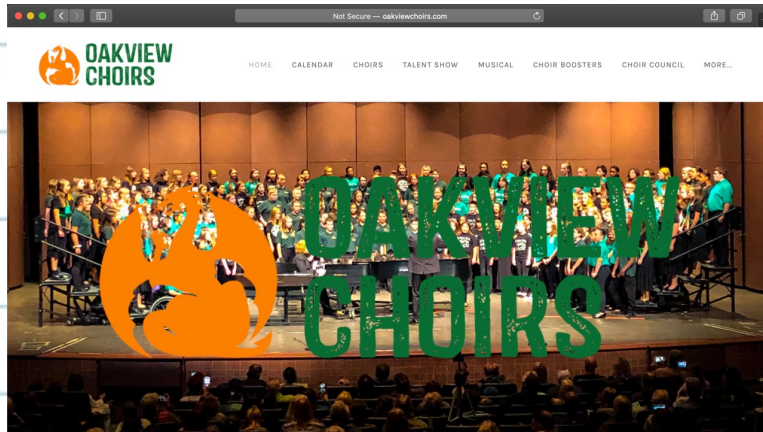
If a student misses a choir class for any reason other than a school related absence, they:

- may be asked to complete a Practice Log for 30 minutes to make up the assignments (daily rehearsal).
  - Practice Logs can be found on the choir website (PDF) or in the classroom and are due within 10 days of the student's return to school.
  - Students must practice music that we are working on in class.
  - Students may also have sight reading/music theory work to make up.



# CHOIR WEBSITE

We will use our choir website quite a bit throughout the year. This is where our calendar will stay updated and you can also find rehearsal tracks for the songs we are working on in class so you can rehearse at home (which you are expected to do). Copies of all student/parent documents, fundraiser information, choir tour paperwork and dates, etc. can also be found here.



[www.OakviewChoirs.com](http://www.OakviewChoirs.com)

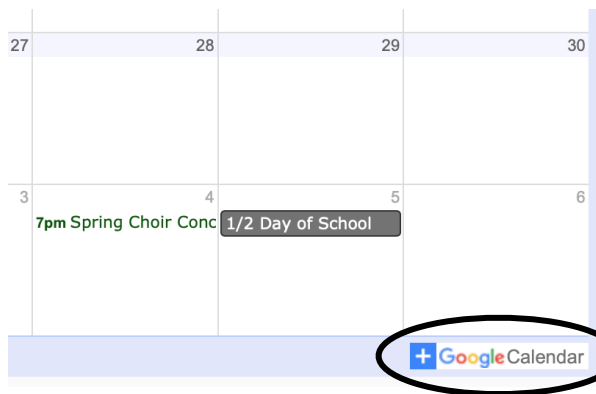
The password to access the rehearsal tracks is:

*sing*



# CALENDAR

All students are expected and required to be at all concerts and any extra rehearsals. Choir is a team effort, and we rely on the responsibility of those around us. The choir calendar is given during the first week of school as well as can be found online at [www.OakviewChoirs.com](http://www.OakviewChoirs.com), 24/7. Students and parents are expected to schedule around concerts and any after school/evening rehearsals.



You can sync our Google Calendar with your device by clicking here.



# UNIFORMS

The word uniform means that everyone will look the same. It's not the time to show your unique personality, so prepare yourself for this.

Students must always have all uniform parts clean and presentable. If you appear with a wrinkled uniform, or you have an incomplete uniform, you may not be able to perform and your grade will be affected.

If you have long hair, you must pull it back with a hair colored band or barrette. No other hair ornaments. Your hair must be neat and off your face, not just hanging there. Think "PERFORMANCE HAIR"!



# UNIFORMS *(continued)*

Students will be asked to purchase an Oakview Choirs polo shirt for the school year. Students will need to provide their own solid black dress pants (jeans/leggings are not acceptable), long black socks, and black dress shoes. Students will continue to use these polo shirts for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade choir. You will only need to purchase a new one if you grow out of it.



# UNIFORMS *(continued)*

*For our final concert of the year (Pop Concert) you will be asked to purchase a choir t-shirt. You will wear this with blue jeans and sneakers (close-toed athletic shoes).*



*If a student is having a problem obtaining parts of the uniform, please touch base with Mr. Dawley ASAP and he will work with the student and parent to see that proper attire is obtained. It is not our goal to exclude any student from participating in our concerts due to financial reasons.*

*Oakview Middle School is a member of MSVMA; a non-profit, professional organization of vocal music educators whose purpose are improving, promoting, and assisting vocal music education.*

*Lake Orion Choirs participate in many MSVMA activities, some of which include:*



# MSVMA (continued)



## HONORS CHOIR

*There are two levels of Honors Choir- Regional and State.*

*Students will submit an audition video in October. The audition music will be taught in class to everyone. From there, students will go on to the Regional level, performing with hundreds of singers from across our region of the state. Students are assigned a points score for their video in the categories of tone, memorization, intonation, phrasing, diction, & vocal technique.*

*The top scoring students are selected for the State Honors Choir which performs at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids in January. Students interested in being part of the MSVMA Honors Choir program should talk to Mr. Dawley privately for more information. Registration is in September.*



# MSVMA (continued)



## SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

Students who are taking voice lessons are invited to enter as soloists in the District Solo & Ensemble Festival held every year in February. Working in conjunction with their voice teachers, the students prepare 2 songs of contrasting nature and perform them for an adjudicator. One is to be from the MSVMA required list. There is no sight singing required.

Students are responsible to pay the entry fee and the accompanist fee.

Ensembles that participate in this event are typically from a choir class, but other ensemble entries are possible, depending on interest and preparation.



# MSVMA (continued)



## CHORAL FESTIVAL

The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorale will participate in the District Choral Festival held every year in March. Participating choirs must sing two selections of contrasting nature, one from the MSVMA required list. Groups will also sight-read in unison and parts at one of three levels of difficulty: Primary, Intermediate, or Advanced. Specific details will follow later.

Choirs earning a Division 1 rating are eligible to move on to participate in State Choral Festival in April.





# FUNDRAISING

*Fundraising is an essential part of running a successful choir program. There are many expenses associated with the choirs such as accompanists, sheet music, instrument purchase and maintenance, uniforms/t-shirts, festival fees, bus fees for field trips, choir tours, etc. Please make an effort to participate in each fundraiser. It will help to make your choir experience that much better!*

*Any time money is turned in, please make sure it is in a sealed envelope with the student's name and what the money is for clearly written on it.*



# EVEN MORE OPPORTUNITIES!



Voice Lessons  
Show Choir Workshop  
Talent Show  
Musical  
and MORE!

# VOICE LESSONS

Private voice lessons are for the choir student at Oakview MS who wants to excel with their own vocal talents. A one-on-one private coaching lesson is the quickest and most complete way to see real progress with your own voice. When Mr. Dawley works with a choir class, he cannot take the time to focus in on everyone's individual voice needs. During choir class he is looking for ways to make the large group of different voice types sound like one big, beautiful choral sound. It's impossible to focus on each solo voice.

So, if you are serious about wanting to accelerate with your vocal progress this year, please contact Mr. Dawley for more information and the proper paperwork.



# SHOW CHOIR WORKSHOP

*The Macomb Community College Junior High Show Choir Workshop allows you the opportunity to study with professional choreographers and vocal coaches during a two-day comprehensive workshop. Upon completion, you will showcase what you have learned to family and friends in a performance on the Macomb Center's main stage. Return to school inspired and ready to share this exciting music and dance experience with fellow classmates. This workshop happens every year in January.*

*The cost of the workshop is \$60, which includes the registration fee, t-shirt, sheet music, bus transportation, and pizza dinner (first day).*



# MUSICAL

*Auditions for Oakview's Annual Musical take place in February/March. Complete audition information will be on our website some time in December. All Oakview students are encouraged to audition! Performances will take place in May.*

[www.OakviewChoirs.com/musical](http://www.OakviewChoirs.com/musical)



# TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

## CEDAR POINT

Every Fall the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorale from Oakview, Scripps, and Waldon travel to Ohio for a day at Cedar Point. This is a day of fun and bonding among the 8<sup>th</sup> grade singers and their directors. This is not required, but highly encouraged.

## CHOIR TOUR

Every Spring the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorale from Oakview, Scripps, and Waldon travel together on a Choir Tour. This is an overnight trip that includes performance opportunities, working with a clinician, seeing a live show, and many other exciting opportunities. In the past we have visited Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and more! This is not required, but highly encouraged.



# PHOTO / VIDEO RELEASE



*To promote the choir students and their accomplishments, we would like to include pictures from our choir concerts and events on the choir and district websites and occasionally in newspaper articles and social media. Children will always be photographed in a group setting. We will also video record all of our performances. These recordings get placed on our choir website for our choir families/students to view.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** *By signing and submitting the Choir Contact Sheet/Contract you are agreeing to the above. Also, by submitting this contract, this will allow us to photograph/video record you child EVEN IF you have submitted a FERPA form to the school.*

*PLEASE CONTACT MR. DAWLEY IMMEDIATELY IF YOU ARE NOT COMFORTABLE WITH YOUR CHILD BEING PHOTOGRAPHED OR VIDEO RECORDED.*



# STATEMENT ON SACRED MUSIC



*Oakview Middle School Choirs follow the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) philosophies on sacred music.*

*In representing the history and development of music, vocal music cannot be taught without the inclusion of historic and cultural sacred choral literature. In representing historic composers and the variety of styles and forms in music, the use of sacred repertoire is essential to the curriculum and is introduced without teaching and/or promoting doctrines. Since roughly 80% of existing choral literature is sacred and 20% is secular, that ratio could be heard at any given Oakview MS concert or performance.*





# SOCIAL MEDIA

*Please follow us on our social media accounts!*



**FACEBOOK**

*LOOakviewChoirs*

**TWITTER**

*@OakviewChoirs*

**INSTAGRAM**

*oakviewchoirs*

*And one more time, don't forget about our Choir website!*

*[www.OakviewChoirs.com](http://www.OakviewChoirs.com)*



# THANK YOU!



*Thanks for taking the time to go through this very important information with me.  
It will be the foundation to a fun and exciting year in Choir!*

*Parents: Please remember to complete the parent forms/Choir Contract with your child. Be sure to bookmark our website as you will want to check it often. It's updated on a regular basis throughout the year. Here's to the best year yet!*



*Mr. Dawley*

# CONTACT INFORMATION



*Mr. Ryan Dawley, Choir Director*

*Oakview Middle School*

*Lake Orion Community Schools*

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