



ABINGDON HIGH SCHOOL

FALCON SINGERS
HANDBOOK

2017-2018

<http://www.ahschorus.com>

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This handbook was revised August of 2017 by
The Choral Director, Alissa King
and
The Executive Board of the AHS Choral Booster Association

INTRODUCTION

The Abingdon High School Choral program is composed of students in grades 9 – 12 and consists of Ninth Grade Chorus, Advanced Chorus (grades 10-12), and the auditioned Jazz/Chamber Choir. Additional extracurricular choruses/activities offered include the annual winter Broadway Musical, the guys and girls *a cappella* ensembles, the Jazz Choir/Special Education late-Spring Musical, various small groups throughout the year, and the summer *Glee Camp* counseling team. The different choruses have received numerous awards through independent contests and district and international concert festivals and consistently place students in the All-District Chorus, All-Virginia Chorus, Honor's Choir, and the OAKE National Chorus.

AHS CHORUS 2017-2018 Calendar

Fall Semester, 2017

August 14 th	1 st Semester Chorus Parent Meeting @ 6:30PM Chorus Room
August 16, 18, 19	Bristol Race Fundraiser
August 26 th	Car washes 2 locations: Advance Auto (Exit 7), TruPoint Bank (Abingdon) 10AM – 2PM
September 11 th	Highlands Honor choir Auditions (9 th -12 th graders)
September 17 th	Bristol Rhythm & Roots Fundraiser
September 26 th	Benefit Concert (6-7:30PM) AHS Stadium
October 2 nd	Pizza Inn Fundraiser (4:30 - 7:30)
October 7 th	Honors Choir Auditions (seniors only) Longwood University
October 12 th	Highlands Honor Choir Event (9th-12th graders)
October 26 th	Pancake Supper/FALL CONCERT/Talent Acts
November 4 th	Jr. District Chorus Auditions (Freshmen)
November 11 th	Sr. District Chorus Auditions (10th-12th graders) Chilhowie
November 16 th -18 th	Honor Choir Event The Homestead
December 2 rd	Special Ed Musical
December 14 th	HOLIDAY CONCERT!!

Spring Semester, 2018

February 9 th – 10 th	Senior District Event John Battle
February 16 th – 17 th	Senior District Event (Snow Date)
February 22 rd – 24 th	AHS Chorus Musical
March 2 rd – 3 rd	Junior District Event Location TBA
March 9 th – 10 th	Junior District Event (Snow Date)
March 16 th	Choral Assessment E&H College
April 5 th – 7 th	All-Virginia Choral Event (Richmond)
April 24 th	Spring Concert

All AHS Chorus Parents are Welcome to Attend Booster Meetings!

AHS 2017-2018 Choral Booster Meetings

Booster Meetings will be held on the SECOND Monday of the month, unless noted below.* If school is closed or cancelled, the meeting will take place the next night school is open. Meetings are from 6:30pm – 7:30pm in the Chorus Room and minutes will be sent out within a week of the meeting date.

- o Monday August 14 – **All Parents Chorus Meeting** - 1st Semester events
- o Monday September 11
- o Monday October 9
- o Monday November 13
- o Monday December 11
- o Monday January 8 - **All Parents Chorus Meeting** - 2nd Semester events
- o Monday February 12
- o Monday March 12
- o Monday April 9
- o Monday May 14

2017-2018 Chorus Executive Board

President.....Tina Fleig - tfleig@wcs.k12.va.us
Vice Presidents.....Robin Bolling – catbirdsmom@yahoo.com
Linda Gambrel - ggrambrel@bvu.net
Treasurer.....David Maloney – dmaloney@gmail.com
Secretary.....Angela Wolfe - angela@highlandsrealtyinc.com

CHORUS AWARDS and LETTERING REQUIREMENTS

All-County Chorus: A certificate of participation will be presented to all students who audition and participate in this workshop.

All-District Chorus: Beautifully engraved medals and certificates will be given to all students who participate in this workshop and the concert.

Martha Ramsey Award: This award is determined by the program director and is presented to a senior choir member. This individual will have lettered in Chorus and demonstrated extraordinary leadership qualities. This is the highest award presented and is in honor of past AHS Chorus Director, Mrs. Martha Ramsey.

Graduate Honor Cord Requirements:

To receive an Honor Cord at graduation a student must meet the following requirements three (3) out of four (4) years in High school.

- 1) A student must maintain an “A” average in Chorus for one year.
- 2) A student must audition for two (2) of the following: All-County Chorus, Jr. or Sr. All-District Chorus, All-Virginia Choir, Honors Choir, or the Musical. When the student makes the chorus he/she must participate fully to the best of his/her ability.
- 3) The student must maintain an overall excellent attitude and work for the improvement of the chorus group.
- 4) The student must attend scheduled performances.

RULES FOR ATTENDANCE

The Choral Director is to be told in advance of a student's need to miss a performance. Students will be excused for illness or emergencies as the circumstance dictates. Failure to attend a performance will make a student ineligible to letter and a replacement homework assignment being a 5-page research paper will be mandated. Failure to submit this assignment will result in a failing grade.

GRADE EVALUATION

Each 9 weeks grade will be based on the following:

Semester Concert 50%

Tests- 15%

Quizzes- 15 %

Participation- 20%

BEHAVIOR CODE

1. Directions given by the Chorus Director, Accompanist, Section Heads, or Chaperones are to be strictly followed.
2. The use or possession of tobacco, illegal drugs, or alcohol is prohibited during ALL SCHOOL activities.
3. During a chorus activity, students are expected to travel to and from the activity with the chorus and remain in their assigned areas.
4. Mature social behavior is expected from all chorus members.
5. There is to be no **chewing of gum.**
6. Profanity or obscene gestures will not be tolerated.
7. All school rules apply to all chorus activities.

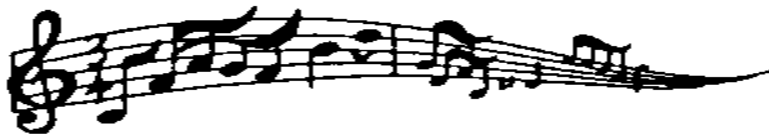
NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THESE RULES MAY RESULT IN NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS, BEING SENT HOME FROM AN ACTIVITY, BEING PLACED ON PROBATION, RESTRICTED FROM PARTICIPATION IN CERTAIN CHORUS ACTIVITIES, SUSPENSION, AND POSSIBLE REMOVAL FROM CHORUS.

PROPOSED TRIPS

During the school year students may travel to different schools for performances. In the spring, current chorus members usually take a trip to participate in musically enriching activities and to explore other parts of the country.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR TRIPS

- 1.As representatives of our school, community, and state, all students are expected to display themselves as well-groomed and courteous citizens at all times.
- 2.Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and any illegal substances are absolutely prohibited.
School Rules Apply on All Trips!
- 3.Curfews will be assigned and must be obeyed. No excuse will be acceptable.
- 4.Students must at all times be in groups of **3** or more. **Your safety is our first concern.**
- 5.Horseplay & excessive noise will not be tolerated.
- 6.All music / game technology played on headphones only.
- 7.All chorus members will eat and participate within their large or small group. At no time will you be allowed to leave the group with friends or relatives.
- 8.Trips are for chorus members and chaperones only.
- 9.Public displays of affection will not be tolerated. Holding hands is the only exception 😊
10. Rules and regulations set forth by the school administration apply to all trips. Any infraction of these rules will result in limitation of trip activities. A serious infraction could result in suspension from the school and being sent home at your parents' expense. These rules were set up for the students' safety, so **please abide by them!**
11. If a student has gotten in trouble at school and has received a detention or suspension (with the exception of detention for tardiness) they will not be allowed to travel with the group. **DO NOT EVEN ASK!**
12. If a student has 10 or more unexcused absences from chorus class, he/she will not be allowed to go on the chorus trip.



SELECTION OF PARENT CHAPERONES

For the safety and well-being of the chorus students involved in extracurricular trips, chaperones will be required at most of the events. The selection of chaperones is made on the recommendation of a volunteer committee and the choral director based on the criteria listed below:

- 1. Background Checks for all Overnight Events is Required:** Official forms can be picked up at the Abingdon High School main office.
- 2. Chaperones must have up-to-date Booster Membership Fees:** Individuals \$10 ~ Families \$20
- 3. Experience:** Experience comes from active participation in charring projects and being involved with students. The more involvement by the parent, the more often that parent will be invited to chaperone.
- 4. Personality:** Not only is the chaperone expected to look out for the well-being of the students, but he or she is encouraged to see that the students have a rewarding experience. In order to do this, one must temper discipline with reason. Students like to have fun.
- 5. Type of Activity:** An overnight trip requires adults who are experienced and are familiar with student needs based on past experience in chaperoning minor activities.
- 6. Chaperone List:** A list will be circulated at the Booster meeting for parents interested in chaperoning trips. On occasion, due to last minute circumstances, someone with less experience may be asked to fill in if a more experienced chaperone is not available. Chaperones will be expected to pay the cost of the trip as well as meals and spending money. Chaperoning is a job, not a vacation, and must be treated as such if our students are to have a safe and enjoyable experience.

PROCEDURE FOR PARENTS PICKING UP THEIR CHILD AFTER AN AWAY EVENT

Students will be allowed to ride home with their parents from selected events if the director is notified in advance or at the event. Please do not pick up a child from an event without alerting the Director.



HOTEL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Sexual activity of any sort between chorus members will not be allowed! **NO BOYS IN GIRLS' ROOMS AND NO GIRLS IN BOYS' ROOMS.**
2. At curfew time, you are to be in your OWN ROOM. **NO ROOM CHANGES** will be permitted. At curfew time, no one is to enter your room except a chaperone or staff member.
3. Plan ahead so that ***"lights out and quiet"*** are observed at the scheduled time.
4. Telephones may be available for **PROPER USE**. They are not to be used after curfew except in an emergency. There could be a charge to your room for any phone calls. Do not place long distance calls from the hotel rooms.
5. **DO NOT** take towels or any "souvenirs" from the rooms. **YOU** will have to pay for them or pay for any damage to your room at check out.
6. A hotel has many other residents. Out of courtesy to all others in the hotel - **DO NOT MAKE NOISE** - hallways carry sound.
7. Do not congregate in any room. Use the lobby areas for meeting and conversing.
8. Keep your room locked at all times. Know who has the key. Look through the peep-hole before allowing anyone into your room. Safeguard and keep track of personal belongings. **CHECK TO SEE WHERE ALL FIRE EXITS ARE LOCATED.**
9. Students must adhere to School Dress Code at all times.

FUNDRAISING AND USE OF FUNDS

The Abingdon High School Choral Boosters Association is the support group for the Abingdon High School Chorus. One of the Boosters' primary functions is fund raising.

The Choral Boosters Association is the financial backbone of the chorus. Without the majority of parents participating, the chorus would be severely limited in its number of activities. Since funds for the operation of the Chorus are limited, it is necessary for students and parents to raise the majority of money.

Fund raising involves detailed record keeping of each student's progress toward the financing of that year's budget. All funds will be collected at the time orders are taken. **No orders will be accepted without payment in advance.** All funds should be submitted in a sealed envelope, with the student's name, class, amount enclosed, and **the project description**, and placed in the chorus room lock box.

A student must not have an outstanding balance on a prior fundraiser before starting a new fundraiser.

Student Accounts

Student accounts are opened upon an initial deposit of \$25 payable to “AHS Chorus Boosters.” Account balances can be added to through various Chorus fundraisers. Funds raised can be used for audition fees, t-shirts, trip fees or any chorus related activity. Any remaining funds in student accounts will be rolled over to the next year or transferred to a sibling’s account, but, cannot be withdrawn for cash. Funds raised must be used for AHS chorus activities. For graduating seniors: In order to transfer funds to a sibling, a written request by the parent must be received by the last day of school.

ESTIMATED FEES & COSTS:

- ❖ Auditions – range from \$3.00 - \$12.00
- ❖ Spring Trip – range due to destination \$650 - \$850
- ❖ Musical – costumes, cast party - \$25 - \$100 or a service day will be arranged if available
- ❖ AHS Chorus T-Shirt - \$10
- ❖ Formal Concert attire:
 - Men: Tuxedo - \$70 plus shipping (a limited supply of used are available at discount)
 - http://www.stageaccents.com/mens_formal/product/2404/
 - (There are two shirt types there: order the wing tip)
 - Ladies: Formal Dress - \$74 plus shipping (a limited supply of used are available at discount)
 - http://www.stageaccents.com/womens_formal/product/2467/
 - Make sure you use the measurements sheet. Don't just use your standard dress size. These dresses tend to run small. Also, MAKE SURE TO GET THE BLACK COLOR (not wine.)
 - These items can take up to 6 weeks for delivery. You will also need to allow time for hemming. The pants and the dress come in a standard length which is very long! If your child is also in band, the dress and tux is the same.

CONCERT ATTIRE:

Pancake Supper – AHS Chorus T-Shirt or Navy Blue t-shirt with Khaki Pants

Holiday Concert Attire – Black Formal Dress or Tuxedo with Black Shoes

Students and parents are responsible for paying the costs of all trips, fees, uniforms, costumes, and any other expenses.

HOW STUDENTS QUALIFY AND APPLY FOR NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

Parents/Guardians must submit a letter requesting financial assistance (including reasons for such) and mail this to the AHS chorus director. If scholarship money is available, it is then divided among the students based on need and level of participation. **Opportunities to raise money are given to each student and students requesting scholarships are expected to participate in ALL fund raising opportunities.** Scholarships are to *help* pay for the trips. *We are unable to pay the entire amount for any student.*



ABINGDON HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL BOOSTERS ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I - NAME: The name of this organization shall be the Abingdon High School Choral Boosters Association.

ARTICLE II- OBJECTIVES: The particular objects for which this association is formed are:

1. To create a closer relationship between parent, students, and chorus director.
2. To foster a deeper interest in music within the students, parents, and school community.
3. Membership fees are \$10.00 for an individual or \$20.00 for a family.

ARTICLE III- OFFICERS: The officers of the association shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

1. **President:** Shall preside at all meetings of the association and shall be a member ex-officio of all committees EXCEPT the nomination committee. Meets with the director to determine agenda; keeps flow of information moving between officers.
2. **Vice-President:** Shall perform the duties of the president in his or her absence and act in an advisory capacity at all times. Responsible for emailing announcements to parents and board members. Will assist with all committees as needed. Responsible for publicity, and media contact.
3. **Secretary:** Shall keep the minutes of all executive board and association meetings and submit these to the membership in a written report for acceptance .Shall send press releases to the media announcing student recognitions and performances. Shall enlist media coverage for promotion of performances. Responsible for thank you notes to businesses / organizations that donate to the AHS Chorus Boosters.
4. **Treasurer:** Shall manage funds and accounts for organization. Responsible for deposits, payments and balancing records of student savings accounts. Disbursements under \$200.00 do not need approval of Boosters or Executive Board Members. All disbursements over \$200.00 will need Board approval, unless the amount is a county sponsored event. A budget shall be set up each year for each major activity.



ARTICLE IV - COMMITTEES: The Committees shall be those deemed necessary for the preservation and well-being of the association. Each committee will have Coordinator.

1. **Volunteer Coordinator:** Shall organize volunteers for various events; spaghetti dinner, all county/district tryouts, and musical events throughout the year. Responsible for finding ushers, ticket takers, and concession salespeople.
2. **Ad Sales / Program Publications Coordinator:** Shall contact businesses / organizations for ad sales for winter and musical programs. Responsible for organizing and printing winter and musical programs.
3. **Dinner Performance Coordinator:** Shall organize all details of biggest fund raiser at beginning of year.
4. **Musical Coordinator:** Shall organize the Broadway musical logistics; works with director and coordinates set, prop, and costume committees. Oversees program design, ticket sales, awards, and cast party.
5. **Trip Coordinator:** Shall organize annual trip
6. **Fundraising Coordinator:** Shall assist in finding appropriate fundraising opportunities for the Chorus Booster Organization.

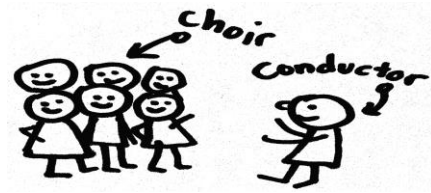
ARTICLE V - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS: Officers of the association shall be elected at the last regular meeting in May and shall assume their duties immediately upon adjournment of the meeting. At the regular April meeting, a nominating committee, of no less than three members including the director, shall be named to present a slate of officers at the May meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

The term of office shall be one year or until a successor is elected. No person may serve more than three consecutive terms in the same office.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS: Regular meetings shall be held on the second Monday night of each month at 6:30 PM in the chorus room unless otherwise noted. In the event that school is cancelled or closed, the meeting will be held the next evening that school is open. Meetings shall be limited in time to one hour when possible. The time and date of the meeting may be changed by the executive board in special cases, no less than one week prior to the scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS: These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present provided a copy of the proposed amendment shall be available to every member prior to adoption of the proposed amendment.

ARTICLE VIII - GOVERNMENT: “Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised” shall govern this association in all cases to which they are applicable and in so far as they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws.



Before a student may participate in chorus activities and fundraising activities, parents must sign and return this page showing acceptance and commitment to the guidelines set forth in this handbook.

Student Name: _____

Class Period: _____ Grade: _____

Parent Name: _____

T-Shirt Size: _____

Parent Preferred Email Address: _____

Parent Preferred Phone: _____

Phone number for SMS (text) updates/reminders: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Please place this form in an envelope with student's name and class period and return to chorus room lock box.

Thank you and welcome to the 2017-2018 Chorus Year!



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"He's here to hit the high notes."