

## **Welcome to the RMS Ram Music Department 2017-2018**

Dear Students and Parents/ Guardians,

I would like to welcome you to the RMS Ram music department. I am excited to have you in class this semester and to make beautiful music together. My name is Mrs. Makayla Coonrod and I am the lead teacher for the middle school choirs and the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band. I also assist Mr. Randy Beyer at the high school in the high school band class and one of his choir classes. Mr. Beyer will also be assisting in some of the junior high classes as well.

A little bit about myself, I am originally from this area and have lived here in Southeast Kansas for my entire life. I went to school and graduated high school from Columbus, KS. Since then I attended Pittsburg State University where I received my degree in Music Education with an emphasis in instrumental education. I graduated in May of this year and am excited to be a Ram and start my teaching career. I also started a family and have been married to my wonderful husband, Jacob, for almost a year now. Jacob and I also have two cats, Tom and Autumn. ☺

I am excited to start this journey with you and see what our future holds. I have high hopes for the music department here in Riverton and believe it will be a wonderful place to start my career as a teacher. This year will be a year of learning from not only you as a student but also me as a teacher and I couldn't be more thrilled.

*\*Important\**

Parents, please read through these pages carefully as they will outline the expectations for the class and will go over the grading policies as well as other information that is pertinent to your child's success in this class. The final page is to be filled out by you as the parent and then returned by your child to me during their music class on *Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>*. This will be for a grade and is important that it is turned in on time. The remaining pages are yours to keep.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Makayla Coonrod

Middle/ High School Band and Choir

Riverton USD 404

[mcoonrod@usd404.org](mailto:mcoonrod@usd404.org)

(620) 848-3388

## RMS Music Classroom Expectations

# P R I D E

<b>Preparation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will be in their seats with their music/folder, and instruments (band) ready to sing/ play when the bell rings</li> <li>• Students will bring a pencil to class with them EVERYDAY</li> </ul>
<b>Respect</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will follow the director’s instructions               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Be respectful and courteous to your classmates and the director</li> <li>- Be respectful of the equipment, instruments, and music in the music room. Permission is required to touch any instruments that do not belong to you.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Integrity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will act, sing, and play like ladies and gentlemen               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enter the classroom quietly, get folders/ instruments and sit in assigned seat</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Discipline*</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yelling, excessively loud talking or inappropriate noises on instruments will not be tolerated</li> <li>• Proper breath support, posture, and self-control are expected at all times</li> <li>• Absolutely NO food, GUM, candy or beverages (other than water) are allowed in the music room</li> </ul>
<b>Excellence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A healthy attitude and hard work are expected daily</li> <li>• Practice time outside of class is expected to produce results</li> <li>• Excellence and success will be those results</li> </ul>

\*Discipline in the music class will correspond with the strike policy used at RMS. If you come prepared and actively participate in class no discipline measures will need to be used. Remember, YOU always have the choice to do the right thing. If you choose to make the wrong choice, the following consequences will be enforced:

1<sup>st</sup> offense: Verbal warning

2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Strike – Parent Contact

3<sup>rd</sup> offense (or 5 strikes): Office referral

## **Course Syllabus: Middle School Choir**

Riverton Middle School Choir is a group of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who explore choral singing at the middle level. Students in middle school choir will develop as life-long learners in music.

### **Grading Policy**

**All vocal music students will be graded using total points.**

#### **Daily attendance, participation, preparedness, and attitude:**

Daily attendance, participation, and your attitude will determine how successful we will be this year. This includes proper rehearsal and performance etiquette, promptness, reliability, and preparedness. Please be at school, ready and willing to give 100% every day.

Students will be given 5 points daily to equal 25 points in a week. The grades will be entered weekly. Every student is given 5 points unless they give reason for their points to be deducted. Students can/ will lose points for coming to class unprepared, inappropriate talking, and other actions that disrupt the class. If you come to class ready and participate daily, you will have no issues getting the full 5 points every day.

#### **Classwork/ Homework:**

Students will be given in and out-of-class activities which will fall into this category. Bell work will fall into this category.

#### **Quizzes:**

Quizzes will be given periodically over musical terminology learned in class.

#### **Supplies:**

Each student will be supplied with a folder where they will keep their bell work and music. It is the responsibility of the student to supply a folder if they lose theirs.

Performances:

Performances are required. A list of performances will be given to your child to be brought home. These dates will also soon be available on the school website. Reminders will be sent before each concert as well.

Performances are what make taking a choir class different than any other class. Being in a performance is like being on a team- only there are no substitutions! We need EVERYONE at ALL performances. Each performance will make up a large portion of your grade.

**If you are unable to attend a performance, I need a parental/ guardian notification (phone call, email, REMIND message, or written note) within two days after you return to school. If you know of a conflict before the concert please see me as early as possible. The following absences will be excused IF proper notification is made:**

- *Illness*
- *Death in Family*
- *Emergency*

The following are not excused: no ride, had to work, had to babysit, out of town, forgot, didn't want to, etc... Please make every effort to put the performance dates on your calendar ASAP so there are no scheduling conflicts. *It is the student's responsibility to speak with me after an absence* and explain the reason, as well as provide a parent note, email or phone call to validate the excuse. **Performance points from an EXCUSED absence can be made up with a written assignment** due within 3 days from the time the assignment is given to be made up outside of class time. Students who do not complete the assignment or have an unexcused absence will receive a zero. Any unexcused absences from a performance will result in a loss of the privilege to participate in field trips.

**PERFORMANCE DATES 1<sup>st</sup> SEMESTER**

Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> - 7pm      Middle School Christmas Concert      Auditorium

Additional performances (When the dates are set you will be contacted):

October	Date and Location TBA	Nursing home performance
December	Date and Location TBA	Nursing home choir tour/ Mall

## **CONCERT ATTIRE:**

Students will wear **all black** at all concerts, unless given significant notice that the attire will change. Uniform dress makes the group look and feel professional and is standard in most performing groups. Concert attire must adhere to the school's dress code. If you need assistance purchasing the required attire please contact me at least two weeks before the first concert.

### *Gentlemen:*

- Black slacks (Black jeans are not appropriate as they do not look uniform or professional)
- Black button up shirt or polo.
- Black socks
- Black Shoes (Tennis shoes are only appropriate if they are ALL black, dress shoes are preferred).

### *Ladies:*

- Black slacks, or black skirt with a black blouse OR black dress
- Black shoes
- Black socks/ pantyhose
- Dresses and skirts need to go past the knees. If you choose to wear a skirt or dress, black panty hose are required. Performances take place on stages that are elevated and we want to make sure that skirt lengths are appropriate when sitting or standing on a stage. Also shoulders need to be properly covered according to school dress code.

## **COMMUNICATION**

In order to keep you more informed and to protect the privacy of both students, parents, and myself, I would like to invite you to subscribe to REMIND. Using this website, I will be able to text both students and parents with important communications without either party having to reveal their phone numbers. All you have to do is use the information on the back of this paper to subscribe and receive updates. I will be using this as the main form of communication. Additional ways to contact me can be found on the first page of this packet.

## **SIGNED LETTER OF COMMITMENT**

This needs to be signed by both the parent and the student. This is due back for points by Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. This is the first grade that will be given for choir. The last page is all that needs to be turned in. The rest is yours to keep.

### **Student Portion:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have read the middle school Choir Syllabus and understand what is expected of me throughout the class. I understand the rules and consequences and by signing this agreement I will comply with the policies and procedures.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student Signature)

### **Parent/ Guardian Portion:**

I have read the syllabus and I understand what is expected of my child and the responsibilities it may place on me including providing transportation to and from performances and after-school rehearsals. I understand that this class requires commitments outside of school hours and those commitments are attached to the grades for this class. I am aware that this class is an elective.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (printed)

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone (emergency)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address