

OMS CHOIR SYLLABUS
OMS Girls' Choir & OMS Boys' Choir
Fall 2024 & Spring 2025

Teacher: Dr. Hannah Ardrey

Room 308

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Course Description:

- This syllabus applies to members of both girls' and boys' choirs.
- The OMS Choirs are performance-based groups that consist of a treble voice, tenor/bass voice, and a mixed voice choir.
- All OMS Choir classes explore the music of various styles, cultures, and languages in the following voicings: unison, SA (Soprano/Alto), TB (Tenor/Bass), Two-Part, Three-Part, and SAB.
- As a member of the OMS Choir, students will perform during class, at adjudicated festivals, school activities, and concerts for audiences of all ages.
- Students will be asked to showcase mastery of skills that include but are not limited to conducting, composing, improvising, performing, music theory, sight reading, and arranging.
- Students will develop strong melodic and rhythmic music literacy skills by incorporating daily sight-reading strategies into rehearsal.
- Students are expected to make a concerted effort to improve their craft during individual practice time outside of school.
- Students will use ta-ka-di-mi syllables to increase rhythmic music literacy and Solfege syllables and Curwen hand signs to strengthen melodic skills.

Content Standards:

- Students will follow guidelines set forth by the National Core Arts Standards - Creating, Presenting, Responding, Connecting - and the National Standards for Music Education.
- Students will have the opportunity to:
 1. Sing - alone and with others - a varied repertoire of music.
 2. Perform using instruments - alone and with others - a varied repertoire of music.
 3. Improvise melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
 4. Compose and arrange music within specified guidelines.
 5. Read and notate music from various periods and cultures.
 6. Listen to, analyze, and describe music individually and as a member of a large group.
 7. Evaluate music and music performances, learning to give and receive critiques.
 8. Understand relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
 9. Understand music concerning history and culture.

Supplies:

- Choir binders will be provided by the OMS Choral Program for all choir members, but if a member wants to bring a personal 3-ring binder, the student is welcome to do so as long as the binder is 1-inch and black.
- Helpful but not required - water bottle!
- Pencils and highlighter tape will be provided to students by the OMS Choral Program.

Choir Website:

- [Click here to access the OMS Choir website](#)
- Please check the website periodically to refresh your understanding of the guidelines outlined in the choir handbook, honor choir information, reminders, rehearsal tracks, and other helpful information.

Concert Attire:

- Females:
 - Dresses will be purchased by the OMS Choral Program and loaned to the chorister.
 - Dresses are to be dry cleaned by the chorister and returned after the final concert in May.
 - Failure to return a choir dress may result in your child being placed on the fees list for \$75 to replace the dress.
 - If you are interested in purchasing your own concert attire, please let Dr. Ardrey know so that she can send you the link for ordering.
 - Additionally, black, closed-toed shoes must be worn and should be purchased by the chorister.
 - No heels greater than 2 inches should be worn, hair must be out of the chorister's face, and jewelry should be kept simple and minimal (stud earrings, no more than two bracelets, etc.).
- Males:
 - Tuxedo ensembles will be purchased by the OMS Choral Program.
 - All parts of the tuxedo uniform - jacket, pants, bowtie, cummerbund - should be drycleaned and returned by the end of the school year.
 - Failure to return a tux ensemble may result in your child being placed on the fees list for \$100 to replace the tux.
- Dresses and tux pants may require hemming - this should be taken care of by the chorister. It is not the responsibility of the OMS Choral Program to hem each chorister's tux pants or dress to the appropriate length (no pants/dresses should touch the floor). If a seamstress cannot be found, consider using a hem adhesive (remove before returning tux/dress in May).

IMPORTANT DATES:

All concerts, performances, and contests are mandatory. Failure to attend any of these events (except for honor choir) means a student has not shown mastery of the standards/objectives of a unit, and a 0 grade will be given.

Fall Concert

Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Ava H. Bonds Auditorium

Oxford High School Performing Arts Center

Attire: Concert Black

Who: OIS, OMS, & OHS Choirs

Riverland Choral Festival

Friday, November 8, 2024 (TBD)

Pearl High School in Pearl, MS

Holiday Concert

Monday, December 16, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Ava H. Bonds Auditorium

Oxford High School Performing Arts Center

Attire: Concert Black

Who: OIS, OMS, & OHS Choirs

All-State Jr. High Honor Choir

January 22-25, 2025

Hattiesburg, MS at USM

(only applies to those who make honor choir)

Solo & Ensemble Competition

TBD

(as of now - 8th graders only)

Contest Concert

Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Ava H. Bonds Auditorium

Oxford High School Performing Arts Center

Attire: Concert Black

Who: OMS Choirs, OHS Choirs, & OHS Orchestra

OMS State Performance Assessment

TBD (usually in March)

Orlando Choir Competition

(tentatively the [last weekend in March](#) - more information soon)

Spring Concert

Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Ava H. Bonds Auditorium at OHS

Attire: Concert Black

Who: OIS, OMS, & OHS Choirs

Performance opportunities may be presented to the OMS Choirs throughout the year; therefore, dates may or may not be added to this list at a moment's notice. Parents and students will be notified via SchoolStatus and/or Schoology of any change. On the rare occasion that a time or date changes, you will be updated immediately in writing. All concerts and other dates will be updated on the OMS Choir Calendar on the OMS Choir website.

Calendar/Performance Conflict Procedure:

- Each student has up to 10 DAYS before each performance to submit a parent/guardian-composed and signed letter stating the nature of the conflict.
- This is the only way that the student will be considered eligible for an alternate assignment.

MHSAA Eligibility:

OMS Choir is an MHSAA activity and competes in the statewide MHSAA competition called State Performance Assessment, also known as “contest” or “SPA”. For a student to be able to sing/compete at SPA, he/she must register and submit important documents using the **DragonFly** platform before October 1, 2024. Information about registration and eligibility can be found on the [OMS Choir website](#).

Expectations of Students:

1. Show up to class on time every day.
2. Students must turn in all class assignments at the end of the class they are due, and all projects should be turned in at the beginning of the class period on the due date.
3. All Music Theory Quizzes (MTQ) and Sight Reading Assignments (SRA) must be completed by the due date. There will be a one-week grace period from the due date for anyone who gets behind. Remediation assignments may be offered to students if they have not demonstrated mastery of the standards and objectives of a particular unit.
4. Students must bring all required materials to class each day - choir binder, music, laptop, and pencil.
5. Choir is a performance-based class; therefore, you must perform and rehearse with the choir to show mastery of all standards and objectives as well as earn credit for the class.
6. ***Students are not allowed to have their cell phones out during class.*** A student should be engaged during each rehearsal - answering questions, participating in discussions, singing music, etc.
7. **No headphones or AirPods will be worn during class.**
8. If a student finds themselves in In-School Suspension or Alternative School, Dr. Ardrey will visit with the student in a one-on-one meeting.
9. Each student is responsible for his/her learning, but Dr. Ardrey understands that everyone has good and bad days. Remediation assignments will always be offered to students who want to show mastery of a standard or skill.
10. Dr. Ardrey LOVES student-centered learning and believes in cultivating a classroom culture where students feel safe, encouraged, and prepared to achieve various goals. Dr. Ardrey often asks students to share input, and opinions, and voice concerns; however, there is a fine line between student *involvement* and student *interference*. Check your baggage at the door. Baggage claim markers are visible at every exit to provide ease of access when disposing of baggage as you enter the choral rehearsal space.
11. You are not allowed to leave the classroom for any reason. In an emergency, one student may leave at a time. Alternatively, Dr. Ardrey will escort the class to and from lunch, the restrooms, and the water fountains.

Laptop Etiquette:

- Do not watch YouTube in my classroom - ever. You will be given time to complete online assignments in class (MTQs, SRQs, etc.). If I see that you are playing games/watching YouTube, or doing anything else off-task, you will lose the privilege of using technology in my classroom.
- If I see that you are on YouTube in any class without permission, I will email a principal and immediately have your YouTube suspended.

Discipline and Consequences:

- Student/Teacher Conference After Class
- Contact and Inform Parent or Guardian via SchoolStatus text, call, or email
- Parent/Teacher Conference
- Office Referral
- Possible Removal From Choir

Tips for a Successful Choral Experience:

- Show up to school, and always try your best! If you don't show up, you've given yourself no chance to succeed.
- Understand that you are part of a group... Music cannot be spelled without putting US before I.
- Getting a solo does not make you better than other people.
- Don't complain about things you cannot change or things you didn't try to fix.
- It is okay to not be okay. Admitting you are struggling or having trouble is the first step to becoming better. Solfege is hard. Ta-ka-di-mi is hard. Learning a foreign language can be frustrating. Help can only be offered if you ask for it.
- Extend grace and kindness to yourself and others. You never know what someone may be going through. People work harder when they feel valued and supported. It's easier to attract flies with honey instead of vinegar.
- Life happens. The choir doesn't need to be your only priority for you to succeed in this class. However, you need to always bring a positive, can-do attitude to rehearsal and know that the choir is a family. This is where you will succeed, make lifelong friends, develop an amazing work ethic, and learn to love yourself unconditionally through mistakes and triumphs. We are the sum of all our parts; therefore, we must all work together to succeed and become better musicians, learners, and people.

Dr. Ardrey's Mantras:

1. You don't have to get ready if you stay ready.
2. Can't never could in a slop bucket.
3. *The difference between a good musician and a great musician is a pencil.*
4. Leave it better than you found it.
5. Blessed are the flexible for they shall not allow themselves to be bent out of shape.

Grading:

All assignments will be posted in Schoology. Students and parents should be checking Schoology daily to ensure all work is being completed and turned in on time.

Communication:

- All communication will be conveyed through SchoolStatus, Schoology, or email.
- [Click here to join the OMS CHOIR 24-25 BAND APP for announcements!](#)

Office Hours:

The best way to get in contact with Dr. Ardrey is by email or SchoolStatus.

- For phone conversations and conferences, Dr. Ardrey is available:
 - Before school from 7:45-8:30 (Monday-Friday)
 - During her planning period (5th block from 2:30-3:40, Monday-Friday)
 - After school from 3:45-4:15 (Monday-Thursday)
 - By appointment requested in writing via SchoolStatus or email

JR. HIGH ALL-STATE HONOR CHOIR INFORMATION

[Click here to access the Jr. High All-State Honor Choir page of the MMEA website.](#)

Timeline:

- **August 8, 2024:** This is the deadline to tell Dr. Ardrey you want to participate in All-State Honor Choir. Music will be ordered on this day. There will be no extra music ordered.
- **August 21, 2024:** Audition cuts will be announced.
- **September 4, 2024:** The audition window opens.
 - Dr. Ardrey will register you on her laptop during class.
 - You will get an audition link sent to you via email.
 - You must PAY for your audition when you register via credit/debit card! (\$15 in the past)
- **September 4-20, 2024:** The audition window is available on Opus Events.
- **September 20, 2024:** The audition window closes at 11:59 PM. ALL auditions and applications must be uploaded by this time, or you will be ineligible.
- **September 21-October 8, 2024:** Auditions will be adjudicated.
- **October 24, 2024:** Honor Choir Rosters will be posted and sent to you by Dr. Ardrey.
 - Dr. Ardrey will book hotels.
 - Students will be responsible for paying for their hotel.
 - Students will be in a room of 3 to 4 students.
 - The total amount for hotels and registration will be determined and shared with participants.
- **November 15, 2024:** Registration Forms and ALL payments are due to Dr. Ardrey.
- **January 23-25, 2025:** Jr. High All-State Honor Choir
 - The University of Southern Mississippi
 - Hattiesburg, MS
 - ACDA/MMEA State Convention

Cost:

- Audition Fee: \$15 per student (pay online individually via card) - non-refundable
- Registration: Approx. \$75 (includes one meal, music, t-shirt)
- Hotel for 2 or 3 nights: This will range from \$150-\$200 per student.

Transportation:

- Students from the OMS & OHS Choirs who make the honor choir will be transported via OSD transportation (bus) to and from Hattiesburg. Mr. Ardrey (OHS) will drive the bus.
- If you would like to transport your own child, let Dr. Ardrey know ASAP.
- It is recommended that parents come to the final concert on Saturday (1/25/25 - Dr. Ardrey's birthday) and have their child ride home with them.
- If you cannot make it to the final concert, students will ride back with Dr. and Mr. Ardrey.