

# *Riverview High School Chorus*



## Handbook 2017-2018

**Director:** Elizabeth Stewart, M.M.E.

(813) 671-5011 extension 282

11311 Boyette Road

Riverview, Florida 33569

Room 803

Teacher e mail: [Elizabeth.stewart@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto:Elizabeth.stewart@sdhc.k12.fl.us)

Booster e mail: [sharkchorus@gmail.com](mailto:sharkchorus@gmail.com)

[www.sharkchorus.weebly.com](http://www.sharkchorus.weebly.com)

## Course Objectives

- Grow as a responsible, disciplined member of a performing group.
- Receive instruction pertaining to the development and improvement of vocal techniques in solo and choral performance.
- Discover the fundamental principles of music theory and how it is structured in notated music.
- Learn the historical background of the music that is studied.
- Understand the role and value of music in your life.
- Listen to, analyze, describe, or evaluate music and musical performances.
- Foster creativity in improvisational singing and/or arranging and composing vocal warm ups or songs.

## Quarter Grading Policy

**35%:** Class participation, quizzes, quartet formation, and conduct. There will also be random assessments of student progression in music theory, vocal production, harmonization, and musical creativity.

**5%:** Concert reflections

**60%:** Participation in concerts and other required performances.

## Daily Materials

Students are required to have the following items every day;

- Pencil (NO PENS!)
- A 1/2 inch black binder with NO PLASTIC COVER for putting assigned music in.
- College ruled notebook paper

## Concert Expectations

Remember, all school and county rules as outlined in the SDHC Student Handbook apply when at any performance. When you are performing, you are representing the Riverview High School Chorus program. **Full participation is expected at all concerts.** In order to receive full credit, you must be on time to all performances and attend these concerts in full, with the appropriate uniform(s). If an emergency should arise, please contact the at least director 24 hours beforehand. All concerts usually start at 7:00 p.m. and student call times are 30 minutes prior to any performance event. When you arrive at the concerts or events, make sure to check in and check out with the designated student leader. Non-chorus or event participants are not allowed back stage; this includes the auditorium stage, the back music hallway, dressing rooms, and classrooms. Performers should arrive fully dressed in their assigned uniform.

### Sheet Music Expectations

Each member will be required to purchase a black folder to store music. This folder will be used for the entire school year. You will be issued music throughout the year. This music should be kept in your folder and be with you in class each and every day. You will be charged replacement cost for any lost or damaged original music. Music shall be marked with PENCIL ONLY. Replacement costs for each piece of music range from \$1.00 to \$8.00. You will be assigned an unsecured slot in the choir room for folder storage. If you choose to keep it in your slot, you are still responsible for the contents therein. Any folder left out will be collected and placed on the top of the music cabinet by the door. If for some reason, you do not receive a piece of music, share with your neighbor for the day, then at the end of class, talk to the librarian or Ms. Stewart. Only appointed students will be allowed in the library.

### Classroom Rules & Conduct

- There is to be no talking or disruption of any kind once rehearsal has started unless otherwise directed.
- When the tardy bell rings, you need to be in your seat with all the needed materials for that day. If you walk into the class after the bell, you will be marked “unexcused tardy” unless you present a pass.
- Be respectful and professional to all persons in the class. This includes not;
  - Using profanity
  - Making derogatory comments toward anyone
  - Moving from your seat while someone is speaking
  - Talking while another section is working
  - Packing up before instructed to do so
  - Inappropriate public displays of affection.
- Electronic devices may not be used during rehearsals, before or after concerts. **I see it; I take it no questions asked.** Any confiscated devices will be turned into the main office and must be picked up by a parent or legal guardian.
- Food, gum, or drinks are not allowed in class. Bottled water is the only thing permitted in class. Help us keep our carpet clean.
- Adhere to all procedures and guidelines set out in the SDHC Student Handbook.
- We work from bell to bell. Please be on time to class every day!

## Varsity Letters

To earn a letter/bar in Chorus, you must;

- Attend all rehearsals and performances
- Maintain a B average in the class both in conduct and academics.
- Other factors include: attitude, participation in extra events, leadership, and citizenship.
- Demonstrate musical achievement
- Serve as a positive role model

## Fundraising

We plan on doing many various types of fundraisers this year in order to cover the cost of trips, as well as music and supplies for our Choral program. We are a competitive choir; therefore, students should plan on fundraising throughout the school year to insure enough money to cover trip costs and choral department expenses. Although students are not required to participate, it would certainly help to cover expenses that will be required throughout the year. As of January 2015, we no longer have student accounts to offset individual costs throughout the year.

## Payments

The chorus accepts the following forms of payments; cash, check, PayPal, cashier's check, and money order. Please make checks and money orders out to "RVHS Chorus Boosters." All payments are to be deposited into the box on the shelf on Mrs. Stewart's office desk, in an envelope with the student's name, enclosed amount, and the reason for the payment. Envelopes will not always be available for students to use so please anticipate on providing your envelopes. **Please do not hand your payment to a student leader or leave it on Mrs. Stewart's desk.** If you need to set up a payment plan, the parent must contact Mrs. Stewart via email to arrange payments. All monies must be paid before we can order uniforms, polos, or pay for trips.

Vision/Harmonix show uniforms	August 23
Formal Uniform	September 1
Polo shirts	September 15

## Grade Eligibility for Trips

It is the goal of the chorus program to provide trips that will enhance your Music Education experience as a developing high school performing artist, and to boost the morale of entire choral department as a whole. In order to participate in music enhancement activities and trips you must;

- Have an A average in Chorus
- Have an A average in conduct
- Be passing all other classes with a B or higher
- Be in good conduct in all of your classes
- Maintain a weighted GPA of 2.5 or higher to be eligible for trips of any kind

\*This includes All County, All State, Solo & Ensemble, and both state and choral level MPA.\*

## **Music Enhancement Opportunities**

- Participation in Honors Choirs
- Seasonal ensembles
- Small group ensembles
- Vision (Show choir)
- Harmonix (Vocal a capella ensembles)
- Solo & Ensemble
- All County
- All State
- Spring Musical with Ms. Vaughan
- Master Classes (offered throughout the year)
- Student leadership
- National Anthem at Fall & Spring home sporting events
- Spring trip to New York City

For more information, please visit our website.

## **Student Leadership**

- Mrs. Stewart will appoint students leaders only when she needs them and they are expected to serve the choir in a respectful manner.
- Their goal, as leaders, is to reinforce the positive potential of the vocal ensemble in which they sing, never to challenge the director.
- Expectations:
  - Do not talk down to the members on the choir
  - Remain calm and be patient and demonstrate what teamwork is really about and be consistent!
  - Convey a respectful attitude toward other members of the council and your student peers. **LEAD BY EXAMPLE!**

## **Chaperones**

- Anyone who will be chaperoning overnight trips must be fingerprinted by Hillsborough County School District at their own expense.
- Fingerprints last for 3 years
- All volunteers and chaperones must complete a SERVE form

## **Parent and Other Supporter Booster Organization**

- One membership fee per household
- Offset the costs of District and State Music Performance Assessments
- Offset the increasing cost of judges and guest clinicians
- Purchase new music and accompaniment tracks

Booster Officers 2016-2017			
President	Tracey Long	<b>Vice President</b>	Kym Cancela
Secretary	Pamela Cooper	<b>Treasurer</b>	Marjorie Rainey
Large Event Coordinator	Lynette Brown	<b>Spring trip Coordinator</b>	Whitney Howard
Uniform Coordinator	Tacy Troncoso	<b>Administrative Liaison</b>	Yolanda Dowling-Dickey

### Uniform Guidelines

- Both gentlemen and ladies need to have their hair neat and out of their face.
- Do not wear flashy or distracting jewelry (stud earrings only!), and heavy perfumes or colognes.
- If you do not purchase a formal uniform by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester, you will be removed from chorus.
- Tennis shoes are not allowed on stage (dress shoes only)
- Ladies need to wear flat black shoes for choral performances, (heels or character shoes are not permitted with formal uniform regulations).

Choir Uniforms			
Please have all uniforms purchased, fitted, and hemmed before the first performance. <i>All uniforms are purchased, not rented.</i>			
Gentlemen		Ladies	
Informal (\$25)	Formal (\$115)	Informal (\$25)	Formal (\$80)
Chorus polo Black slacks Black dress shoes* Black socks*	Tuxedo Jacket Bow Tie Tux Pants Cummerbund Black dress shoes* Black socks*	Chorus polo Black slacks* Black flats*	Blue chorus dress Black ballet shoes*
*Not included in uniform cost and must be purchased on your own.			

### Contact the Chorus

Director contact: Elizabeth Stewart

Conference period: 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> period

School phone: (813) 671-5011 extension 282

Email: [Elizabeth.stewart@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto:Elizabeth.stewart@sdhc.k12.fl.us) or [sharkchorus@gmail.com](mailto:sharkchorus@gmail.com)

### Get Connected!

**Remind:** Sign up with the codes to the left. Get the app on the App Store and Google Play.

**Twitter:** @sharkchorus

**Instagram:** @sharkchorus

**Email:** Enter your email addresses(s) you wish to receive reminders from on the Performer Contact Form

**Facebook Group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rvhschorus/>

Remind Text message service	
Text the code(s) below to 81010	
Group	Code
Boosters & Parents	@18boosters
P6: Vision	@vision18
P6: Harmonix	@harmonix18
P 7/8: Mixed Chorus & Wmen's Choir	@803chorus
*you must type the @ symbol in the message*	

## **Director**

**Elizabeth Stewart**, a native of Florida who grew up in the Brandon area. She attended Brandon High School. She currently resides in Apollo Beach with her husband.

This is her 13th year as the Choral Director at Riverview High School. This year, she teaches Keyboard (Piano skills), AP Music Theory, ESE Music, Vision (show Choir) , Harmonix (Vocal a capella), Mixed Chorus and Women's Choir. During her tenure at Riverview, she has additionally taught courses in Musical Theatre, Music Appreciation, Orchestra, and Guitar.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Music with a concentration in Vocal Performance and a minor in piano from the University of Tampa (1991). In addition, she holds a Masters of Music Education from the University of Florida (2016).

Prior to the appointment as the Choral director, she owned and operated her own Voice and Performing arts studio in the Brandon area for 18 years and has trained over 300 voices, many whom are working professionals in music as commercial artists, college professors, cruise ship entertainers, theme park entertainers and music educators. A few of her studio alumni are featured in the television and movie industry.

"It my goal as a music educator to help my students realize the extent of their full potential, not only as developing musicians, but also as productive members of our society; fully equipped with life skills that will sustain them and contribute to their future success after high school."

