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# Chorus Handbook

## Andrew Carnegie Children's Choir & Cougar Chorale

Principal: Mrs. D. Pollard | Asst. Principal: Mrs. J. Stem | Director: Ms. S. Buksa

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### Contact Information

If you have any questions you may contact me by email at [skbuksa@cps.edu](mailto:skbuksa@cps.edu). Chorus information will also be posted on the Carnegie Music Blog at <http://homenote.weebly.com>.

Students, thank you for choosing to be part of the Carnegie Chorus! Parents and guardians, thank you for allowing your children to take part in this musical experience. I look forward to a successful and musical year.

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## Goals of the Chorus

The purpose of the Carnegie Elementary Chorus is to provide students with a musically and socially enhancing experience. Musically, students will learn proper singing techniques and age-appropriate repertoire while also developing an advanced musical ear. Socially, students will have opportunities to build stronger friendships with peers and also experience community outreach.

## Attendance and Behavior Policy

### **Participation in choir is a privilege.**

Chorus members at Carnegie Elementary are ambassadors for and representatives of the school. Therefore, we have high expectations of student participation, attendance, and behavior.

The Carnegie Choirs will operate on a “Three Strikes” system. Should your child receive three strikes at any point in the school year, he or she will be removed from the chorus.

Listed below are examples of instances in which a student would receive a strike:

- Absence from chorus rehearsal
- Two tardy arrivals to rehearsal (equals one strike)
- Inappropriate behavior during a rehearsal, performance, or school day (including referrals or other behavior problems noted by teachers or administrators)

Three missed rehearsals (three strikes) results in removal from the chorus. Attendance will start with a “clean slate” in January. Ultimately, members can miss four rehearsals throughout the year (two in the fall and two in the winter / spring).

## Choir Attire

For all performances, students will wear a choir polo, black pants or slacks, and black shoes. You will need to order a choir polo for your child using the attached order form. Black jeans are NOT acceptable. Please no skirts or dresses as we often sit on the ground to play instruments. If students need help obtaining these items, please contact the choir director.

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## Sacred Music

With the understanding and appreciation of cultural and religious diversity in our school, it is necessary that we address the issue of performing sacred music in our chorus.

It is our goal to “enhance knowledge and understanding through a growing awareness and perspective of history and art as reflected in great music. To achieve any selected educational objective the quality of repertoire is of paramount importance...To study and perform music in which the musical setting of a text is artistically accomplished is a highly commendable objective...

“Since choral music with a sacred text comprises such a substantial portion of the artistic repertoire representative of the choral medium and the history of music, it should have an important place in music education.”

It is likely that sacred music will be performed by the Carnegie Choirs simply due to its availability and quality. This music is used strictly for educational purposes.

Quotes adapted from “The Choral Podium,” published by the American Choral Directors Association (Winter 1992).

## Rehearsal & Performance Schedule

Rehearsals will begin the week of September 12th, 2016. Students will rehearse once a week from 3:45pm - 5:00pm

Andrew Carnegie Children’s Choir (Gifted Kindergarten - 4th Grade): **Mondays 3:45-5:00pm**  
Cougar Chorale (5th - 8th Grade): **Wednesdays 3:45-5:00pm**

Many of our performance dates have not been scheduled yet. Please find the anticipated performances below. Additional performance opportunities may arise throughout the year (singing the national anthem at basketball games, for instance). I will inform you of those dates and times as soon as possible.

ACS Holiday Assembly	December 2016
Winter Choir Concert	December 2016
Black History Month Assembly	February 2017
Spring Music Concert	May 2017

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## 2016-2017 Carnegie Chorus Contract

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

I am very pleased that you have decided to participate in the Carnegie Chorus for the 2016-17 school year. In chorus we will experience the fun and joy in music through singing. Along with developing the singing voice, chorus members will develop increased self-confidence, self-discipline, and skills necessary for teamwork.

Participation in chorus is a privilege that requires discipline, commitment, and responsibility. Please review the following guidelines together then sign and return this sheet to the director.

-We understand that rehearsals are important and that chorus members are expected to attend all rehearsals and to arrive promptly by 3:45 PM each rehearsal.

-We understand that three absences (strikes) from October 12-December 14 or three absences (strikes) from January 9-May 24 will result in removal from chorus.

-We understand that three "strikes" results in removal from chorus.

-We understand that the privilege of being in chorus requires the members to be positive ambassadors of Carnegie Elementary. This means chorus members will maintain good behavior and academic standing in chorus and the school and local communities. Inappropriate school behavior and attendance can lead to "strikes" in chorus.

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We agree to the above listed statements and understand the "strikes" system and our responsibility of commitment to the chorus.

Chorus Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Chorus Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign and return by Friday, September 16, 2016