



OAK MTN **CHOIR**

Oak Mountain Choral Department 2015-2016 School Year

CONTRACT AGREEMENT

Director: Michael Zauchin

Email: MZauchin@Shelbyed.k12.al.us

The purpose of this contract is to provide the requirements and commitment that you and our student agree to should you accept a position in the Oak Mountain Singers or Muses Choir for the 2014-15 school year. Outlined in this contract is the average cost to participate in each choir along with the average rehearsal, concert, and competition commitments that will be involved.

Please Note: *The contract below is an average estimate. Costs are approximate and may increase or decrease as competitions and scheduling are finalized over the summer. Costs will be finalized no later than August 30, 2015.*

FUNDRAISING

Before the school year begins and throughout the school year fundraising and other means of earning money to defray choir fees will be available to students. If a student works hard to utilize "Fee Raisers" and takes advantage of the sponsorship program most, if not all, of their choir fees can be earned.

By signing the second page of this agreement, you are making a commitment for the entire year and will be responsible for completing payments on or before the stated deadline. You are also committing to volunteer and assist the OMHS Choral Boosters as needed throughout the year.

DEPOSIT

Should you accept a position in Singers or Muses a non-refundable deposit of \$150 will be due by our first mandatory parent meeting on Sunday, May 17.

ADDITIONAL CHOIR FEES

Additional fees not covered in this contract:

- Formal Choir Attire (Freshman and new choir members only) - \$50 - 100
- Annual Choir Trip (Spring 2016) Optional, TBA



*****APPROXIMATE CHOIR FEES FOR THE 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR*****

Choir Fee \$950.00

Fee covers: costumes, music, sets, choreographer(s), competition fees, and band fees

Choir Assistant Fee \$200

Fee covers: Choir Assistant Salary paid by the OMHS Choral Boosters

Booster Organization Dues: \$50

Fee covers: choral director supplement and inclusion in all Booster organized activities and communication

TOTAL: \$1,200.00

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

MAY 17	\$150.00	AUG 11	\$150	OCT 15	\$150
JUNE 9	\$150.00	SEPT 8	\$150	NOV 10	\$150
JULY 14	\$150.00	<i>*Sept payment with formal attire fee – new members</i>		DEC 8	\$150
			[\$200-350]*		

These dates detail when payments are due. Accounts not reflecting a \$0 balance on or after the dates outlined above will be considered late. Please communicate if you have a financial hardship or special request so that accommodations can be considered. Students who get behind or miss payments may lose the opportunity to perform. It is the responsibility of the student and parents to communicate with the Choir Treasurer regarding choir payment issues.

CHARMS

Student accounts are managed through CHARMS a web based app that enables you to check your students financial status and fundraising via the web or smart phone. A username and password will be provided to choir students at the beginning of the year to access payment and fundraising receipts.



REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES:

Rehearsals will take place during the school day and designated week nights:

Muses: Tuesday evenings, 5pm – 8pm

Singers: Thursday evenings, 5pm-8pm

A choir calendar will be available on the choir website, OMHSChoirs.com with rehearsal and performance/competition dates. Additional rehearsals can be called by the Director during the school year. It is the responsibility of the student to make note of the additional rehearsals and be in attendance.

Students are expected to bring a list of **ALL** known conflicts for the year (including sports schedules) to the Director **ASAP**. There is no excuse for a forgotten conflict and such conflict may or may not be accepted. (*NOTE: If a sports schedule is not known yet we will work out the conflicts with the student and coordinator when the schedule is finalized.*)

Rehearsals:

Students are expected to be present and **ON TIME for all rehearsals** and meetings. If a student expects to be late due to another school activity's practice or game, he/she is required to communicate to the Director **IN ADVANCE**. The student may call or leave a message for the Director and come **DIRECTLY** to the choir rehearsal as soon as the other activity is released.

In the case of a "fast transfer" from one sport/activity to rehearsal, packing a dinner or having food delivered to the student to "eat on the go" is preferred. **Missing rehearsal to get food and/or eat during rehearsal time is not permitted.** No food or drink is permitted at rehearsal (in the choral suite or auditorium) with the exception of water. *Water bottles are acceptable and encouraged at all rehearsals.*

Dress Rehearsals:

Generally the rehearsals directly before any performance are **MANDATORY** rehearsals for all members (singers/dancers, band, and crew). Performance order, last minute blocking changes and other important show revisions are reviewed and finalized at this rehearsal. Unless excused by the Director in **ADVANCE** of the dress rehearsal a student **WILL NOT PERFORM** unless he/she is in attendance. In most situations an alternate singer/dancer will be assigned to the position at the dress rehearsal.

Performances/Competitions:

Singers and Muses will participate in various competitions, events, performances and concerts throughout the year. **These performances are extremely important and therefore cannot be missed.** Students are required to participate in all concerts, events, competitions, and performances. In an activity that is **TEAM-BASED** it is imperative that we have all members present for competitions. If a judge sees a "hole" in our blocking due to a missing member this affects every member of the group and can potentially affect our overall score and ultimately our ability to place in a competition.



Performances/Competitions (cont.)

These events will be detailed in a schedule given to students at the beginning of the year. Several weekends in February and March must be reserved for competitions.

If there is a conflict with a scheduled performance or competition this **MUST** be communicated to the Director **ASAP**. If a **MAJOR** conflict arises during the year (i.e. Track or Swim Meet, Cheerleading Competition, or Baseball game), the conflict must be worked out between the Director, Activity Coordinator, and the student. **Work schedules or regular practice schedules are not valid grounds for missing a weekend competition and will be considered unexcused.**

In general... a team-based ensemble requires 100% commitment 100% of the time. Students are expected to plan ahead, make every effort to balance their schedules and make sacrifices on occasion.

Attendance Policy:

The philosophy of the Director has always been that students should be able to participate in as many high school activities as they desire as long as they can maintain their academic grades and perform at acceptable standards in each activity. This means adhering to all attendance, rehearsal, and performance policies.

THREE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES/TARDIES FROM REHEARSAL = PROBATION STATUS

Attendance will be taken by section leaders at rehearsals and performances. (In extreme unexcused absence cases the choir member may be released from the organization.)

In accordance with the OMHS Attendance Policy students must be IN SCHOOL for a minimum of a half day in order to attend a rehearsal or performance on THAT day. If you are in *In School Suspension* or *In School Detention* you will not be allowed to attend rehearsal after school. If there is a performance on a day where you are in *ISS* or *ISD* you will be required to attend the performance and dress out, but you will not be allowed to perform.

All Oak Mountain Choir members are expected to be in attendance at the beginning of the first period any day following an evening or weekend performance.

Drugs:

The Oak Mountain Choral Department is a substance free organization. Any violation of the school substance abuse policy during the school year or during any school related activity will result in swift and severe consequences as well as expulsion from the group without refund of monies invested.

Grades:

Students are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA during the competition season to remain eligible. Grades will be checked periodically by the Director to identify students who may be falling behind academically.



Grades: (cont.)

This rule ensures students are taking care of their minimum academic requirements. Parents are strongly encouraged to set stricter guidelines on grades and participation at home. The Director will support these fairly driven policies when made aware of them.

Costumes:

Choir costumes and uniforms are generally hand-made, which means they are very expensive and very fragile. Proper garment care **MUST** be followed and uniforms must be cleaned and pressed for each show. All uniforms have to match exactly so that we look like a unified ensemble across the stage. **ALL** uniforms and costume pieces must be properly tagged, including shoes.

Each show choir member will have a garment bag in which to keep his or her belongings. Failure to maintain proper care of your costume will result in suspension from performances.

Grooming & Appearance:

Since appearance is a critical component to show choir group members are expected to conform to a more conservative appearance.

Gentlemen – during competition season men gentlemen are expected to have their hair cut short and out of their face. Shaggy hair cuts that conceal the eyes are not permitted. No unnatural hair color (i.e., blue, green). In general a “clean-cut” appearance is desired.

Ladies – during competition season you are expected to adhere to the hair guidelines established by the Director. Competition hair typically involves large curls with hair pulled half way up with a teased “poof” in front. Uniformity is important so this may mean growing your hair out to chin length or below and growing out any bangs so they may be pinned back during competition season. Hair style will be decided in the fall semester so every student will have time to make any necessary adjustments to adhere to the hair guidelines.

All Members – No facial piercings are not allowed are strongly discouraged in accordance with the school dress code policy. Visible tattoos will be covered up with make up or band-aids.

Teamwork:

Every student, Senior to Freshman, is required to pitch in and help with everything from loading and unloading equipment, setting up risers for rehearsals and performances, sweeping, organizing, whatever work is required to be done. Students who shirk responsibility and slack off will be noted. At the end of rehearsals all trash must be cleaned up, folders stored, and equipment put away. Everyone will stay until all work is completed.



Parent Meetings:

Parent meetings are one of the primary ways in which we will communicate with parents throughout the school year. We ask that parents make every effort to attend the parent meetings.

***Our first mandatory parent/student meeting will be **May 17 at 6 p.m.** in the OMHS Performing Arts Center. You must be in attendance to secure your placement in Singers or Muses.*

OMHS Choral Boosters:

The Oak Mountain Choral Boosters (OMCB) is composed of parents of Choral Department students. The Booster's role is to provide support to the Choral Department and Director through fund raising and volunteer efforts. The OMCB assists the Director in building the by engaging the community through advocacy and sponsorship. Volunteer opportunities are varied—including serving at choral concerts, events, performances, fundraisers, and competitions.

All parents of choral music students are automatically members of the OMCB. We strongly encourage all choral parents' participation in the Boards activities and to volunteer during the school year. The OMCB's support of the Choral Department is essential in order to provide our students the best music education possible. We look forward to having all parents actively participating in OMCB.

If you agree to the above policies and guidelines please sign and detach the signature page (last page of this document) and include it with your audition paperwork at the time of audition. Keep the above information for your records.



Oak Mountain Choral Department Contract and Commitment Agreement

I understand that the commitment involved with, [] OMHS Singers [] OMHS Muses, is both a time commitment and a financial commitment. I have read and understand the policies outlined in this agreement. By signing this contract I am making a full commitment to the Oak Mountain Choral Department for the entire school year of 2015-2016

I understand that fundraising is available to me to help with the costs of the year. As a parent/guardian, I am responsible for my child's account if they are unable to raise the fees with fundraising. Breaking school or OMHS Choral Department rules set up by Mr. Zauchin such as the substance abuse policy, attendance requirements, grade requirements, dropping the class or discipline problems, will result in termination from the organization; and all money in said student's account will remain with the Oak Mountain Choral Boosters. Any fees that have been assessed to my account at the point of dismissal will be paid in full to OMCB.

I agree to make all payments to OMCB in a timely manner and any financial matters/hardships will be communicated to the Director. I understand the payment schedule and will make monthly payments in a as outlined in this contract. I understand that it is my responsibility to monitor my account through CHARMS and if my account is negligent or tardy, my student may be withheld from performing.

By signing this agreement I am giving OMCB permission to use my student's likeness in any promotion, website, or other literature produced.

This contract is due before your student may be considered for membership in a competitive choir. Your first payment of \$150.00 will be due by our parent meeting on Sunday, May 17.

Parent Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

Student Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date: