

# *Brainerd Music Department* *Brainerd, MN*

Welcome to 7th and 8th Grade Choir!

We are excited for another awesome year! We appreciate the time you will spend reading through this letter, as we have included important information about what is expected of choir students at Forestview. We have also included performance dates for all choir students. You can also find this information at [www.brainerdmusic.org](http://www.brainerdmusic.org)

In choir, each student contributes towards the group's success. Students are able to employ and build upon many values and talents, including leadership, self-worth, communication, creativity, focus, and musical skills. We welcome singers of all experience and ability levels, and look forward to working with diverse ensembles.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lucy Swanson and Mr. Marcus Aulie (7th and 8th Grade Choir teachers)

## **Concert Dates**

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**Choir is a performance-based class, and every student in choir is required to attend every performance.** If you foresee an excused conflict with a concert, you **MUST** contact Mr. Aulie or Mrs. Swanson as soon as possible, and we will assign an alternate method of making up these points. **In case of conflict with a sport or activity, district policy is that students will attend the concert.** Excused absences must be made up within one week of the concert or upon return to school. If the assignment is not completed or **if the absence is unexcused, this will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade.**

Concert dates are included on the last page. **Please mark these dates on your calendar now and share with family, friends, and coaches immediately!**

## **Concert Attire**

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**Top:** Black polo shirt with "Brainerd Music" embroidered logo - see ordering information below

**Bottom:** Black dress pants, black socks, black shoes

**Every student in 7th and 8th Grade Choir must wear a FMS Choirs polo shirt to every concert.** The black polo shirt is embroidered with the "Brainerd Music" logo and costs \$15.00. Polo shirt sizes include Adult XS, S, M, L, XL, and XXL. Please consider purchasing this shirt as a donation to our program, and to keep as yours to wear in 7th and 8th grade choir. If you would prefer not to make this donation, we will provide your child with a shirt to borrow for each performance. To order a new polo shirt, please fill out the order form attached to this letter, and attach a check written out to "Forestview Middle School" for \$15.00.

# Grading Policy

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Although we spend significant time talking about and looking forward to our three concerts, the most important aspect of being in this class is the effort contributed to our daily rehearsals. Our choirs are only successful when every member is trying to positively contribute to the success of these rehearsals. The most significant part of a student's grade in choir involves their level of participation on a daily basis. All choir students will be assessed on the two areas noted below:

**Participation-** This includes daily participation in classroom activities and participation in our concerts. Students' participation are assessed daily and updated weekly in Skyward. Participation grades involve posture, voice-building, socialization, taking care of folder/music, and participation in rehearsal.

**Sight-Reading/Music Fundamentals Assessments-** Choir students will take sight reading and music fundamental quizzes and tests. These evaluations will be based on the skills learned during our daily rehearsals. Some of these will be written exams and some will be performance based.

## Daily Routines

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**Tardiness:** All students are expected to get their music folder and be in their seats by the time the bell rings. Students who do not do this will be marked tardy.

**Hall Passes:** Students should take care of bathroom and locker needs prior to class starting. No hall passes will be given during class.

**Folders:** Each student will be assigned a folder with choir music. **The folder and music in it are the responsibility of the student.**

**Food and Drink:** We highly encourage our students to drink a lot of water! Besides water, no other food or beverages are permitted in class, **and this includes GUM!!!**

Thank you for supporting your child's interest in music! We are looking forward to this school year!

Mrs. Lucy Swanson  
Office: 218-454-6172

E-mail: [Lucy.swanson@isd181.org](mailto:Lucy.swanson@isd181.org)

Mr. Marcus Aulie  
Office: 218-454-6080

E-mail: [Marcus.aulie@isd181.org](mailto:Marcus.aulie@isd181.org)

## Concert Dates

### Tuesday, November 19, 2019

6:00 pm: 7th Grade Girls Combined

7:15 pm: 8th Grade Girls Combined

### Thursday, November 21, 2019

7:00 pm: 7th and 8th Grade Boys

### Monday, February 24, 2020

6:00 pm: 7th Grade Girls Combined

7:15 pm: 8th Grade Girls Combined

### Tuesday, February 25, 2020

7:00 pm: 7th and 8th Grade Boys

### Monday, May 11, 2020

6:00 pm: 6th Grade Girls (Pods A/B) & 7th Grade Girls Combined

7:15 pm: 6th Grade Girls (Pods C/D) & 8th Grade Girls Combined

### Tuesday, May 12, 2020

7:00 pm: 4th Annual Mancert: 6th Grade Boys, 7th & 8th Grade Boys, BHS Bards, Father, Faculty, Son Choir

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## Forestview Choirs

Please return this form by Friday, September 13, 2019. Each section must be acknowledged for full credit.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Day 1 or Day 2** (circle one)

\_\_\_ Yes! We have read the introductory letter for choir, and we are aware of the expectations.

\_\_\_ Yes! We have marked the dates for the choir concerts on our calendars and will be in attendance at each concert.

\_\_\_ Yes! We have reviewed the policy for concert attire and understand that we are responsible for providing black pants, socks, and shoes.

### Please check one of the choices below

\_\_\_ Yes! We would like to make a donation to the ISD 181 Choral Program and purchase a polo shirt. We will indicate the shirt size below, and will attach \$15.00 to this form.

Polo shirt Size (Adult sizes): \_\_\_ XS \_\_\_ S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ XXL

Shirt Cost: \$15.00 / student. Checks may be made out to Forestview Middle School. Shirt sizes run very large.

\_\_\_ We already have an FMS choir polo shirt.

\_\_\_ We would like to borrow a polo shirt from the school.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_