



# **HANDBOOK**

2021-2022

## **Policies, Procedures and Guidelines**

Ryan D. Ellis - Director  
Cindy C. Ellis - Director

# IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

(subject to change, this will grow)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Performance or Event</b>	
<b>2021</b>		
Sept. 18	FVA All-State Qualifying Test @ MAS*	8:00am-5:00 pm
Sept. 21	Coffee House #1 (all)	6:30pm-8:30pm
Oct. 5	Fall Concert rehearsal (all).	2:30pm-5:30pm
Oct 6	MAS Vocal Fall Concert (all)	6pm call time
Oct. 16	FVA All-State Vocal Auditions @ Florida Christian*	9:00am-4:00 pm
Oct. 19	Coffee House #2 (all)	6:30pm-8:30pm
Nov 16	Coffee House #3 (all)	6:30pm-8:30pm
Dec. 2	HS Caroling Competition (Bellarmonia)	7pm-9:30pm
Dec. 3	MS Caroling Competition (level 2/3)	8pm-9:30pm
Dec. 7	Possible Return to Caroling	7pm-9:30pm
Dec. 12	Holiday Concert Dress Rehearsal @ MAS PAC (all)	3pm-6pm
Dec. 14	MAS Vocal Holiday Concert @ MAS PAC (all)	7:30pm-9pm
<b>2022</b>		
Jan 12-15	FVA All-State Choir in Tampa/FMEA*	All Day
Jan TBA	Coffee House #4 (all)	6:30pm-8:30pm
Feb 15-16	A cappella Showcase @ MAS PAC*	7:30pm
Feb TBA	Coffee House #5 (all)	6:30pm-8:30pm
Mar 4-6	District Evaluation (all)	All Day
Mar 14-20	College Tour/Mozart Performance @Oakwood MavSingers	All Day
Mar TBA	Coffee House #6 (all)	6:30pm-8:30pm
April TBA	Spring Finale combined rehearsals (all)	2:45pm-4pm
April 18-22	Possible State evaluation for HS	All Day
April TBA	Superintendent's Honor Choir*	TBA
April TBA	Coffee House #7 (all)	6:30pm-8:30pm
April 28-29	Spring Finale Dress Rehearsal at MAS (all)	3pm-7:00pm
April 30	MAS Vocal Spring Finale (all)	5pm-9:00pm
May TBA	Talent Show	7:30pm
May 6	Vocal Banquet(all)	TBA

\*select students

# **Classroom Expectations**

## **Exhibit Positive and Effective Behavior in Class and on Stage**

### **Respect:**

- MAS Vocal students are expected to treat each other, all adults, and property with respect at all times. Behavior expectations during performances and classes are similar, as class time is used to practice excellent concert behavior and participation. Any issues with behavior or participation will be addressed immediately and a parent will be contacted as needed.

### **Contributions:**

- Practice daily
- Work on the development of proper vocal skills
- Participate with a positive attitude
- Present an eagerness and willingness to learn

### **Leadership:**

- Set examples of positive self-discipline in all classes
- Learn music quickly to help others with their parts
- Take initiative in all class activities

### **Respect for diversity:**

- Music is internationally understood as an art form that brings people of diverse backgrounds and opinions together. We expect you to do your best to resolve simple disagreements on your own.
- Serious issues that remain unresolved should be addressed to the teacher.

## Daily Supplies

- BLACK binder with all Music<sup>1</sup>
- Amazon music journal (see MS or HS cost page below for link)
- Sharpened pencil

## Rules

- **NEVER** eat or drink anything other than water.
- Gum chewing is **not** allowed at MAS. If seen chewing gum, you will receive a detention. Missed detentions result will in referrals.
- Have all supplies ready to go before entering classroom daily.
- Cellphones should be left OFF and in your book bag unless otherwise instructed. If any phone is seen in the classroom, **it will be confiscated and a parent can pick it up** in the office at the end of the day. In case of emergency, always speak to teacher **before** taking your phone out.

**Consequences** for students who **choose** negative behaviors:

- Step 1: Conference with teacher after class (verbal warning)
- Step 2: Detention, and/or phone call to parents
- Step 3: Written referral to administration, exclusion for class period, and phone call to parents

## Grading Policy

Grades will be determined by the effort a student puts into the choral ensemble. The grades will be divided into three categories:

- **Assessments – 50%**
- **Rehearsals/Performances – 30%**
- **Participation- 20%**

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<sup>1</sup> During the course of the year, students will be issued a great deal of music. All music is expected to be kept in the folder and brought to class each day. It is acceptable to make copies of music and have a separate black binder for your B day backpack. The excuse, “it’s in my B/A day book bag,” will result in a 0 for all assignments that class period.

Each student is responsible for all lost or damaged music. Replacement costs for each original piece of music range from \$1.25 to \$7.95. Copied music is yours to mark and keep.

## Assessments – 50%

Sight Reading Factory- A great tool for dedicated learners, a sight reading factory (SRF) account will be provided to each student. SRF allows students to practice music literacy skills independently and allows teachers to assess student progress. There will be 1-2 SRF assessments due per week. Students are **REQUIRED** to practice a minimum of 5 practice exercises per night (each line takes a little less than 1 minute so this assignment is minimal). Practice exercises will be graded weekly for middle school students as part of their practice log and monthly for high school students. Cheating on any assignment including SRF, will result in a ZERO for that academic grade. Multiple incidents of cheating will be cause for automatic probation or other disciplinary action in addition to the zero.

Part Testing – Part testing can consist of group singing, solo singing (live in class or video recorded and sent via YouTube or voice memos). Singing alone is a necessary aspect to any performing arts magnet. Portions of the literature will be assigned and then assessed. Part testing dates will be announced for new material. Unannounced tests will cover material that has already been assigned. Accuracy, diction, tone, phrasing, and musicianship will be evaluated.

Formal Written Assessments– Melodic dictation tests will be administered once weekly. In addition, written homework, quizzes and/or essays may be utilized during any given quarter.

Late work— Student is responsible for bringing music folder every single day. **All late work is a 50%.**

## Rehearsal/Performance– 30%

Rehearsal Attendance – Extra **MANDATORY** rehearsals may occasionally be necessary for ensembles for various performances and may be called outside the school day. 100 points will be awarded for each rehearsal. Sufficient notice will be given for all extra rehearsals. **No eating** in after school rehearsals, please eat by rotunda right after school while waiting for rehearsal to start. Rehearsal time is very valuable and we must make use of each and every moment. **Rehearsals will start at 3pm.** Tardies will result in a lower effort/conduct grade. There is no such thing as an excused absence and there is **NO** make-up assignment for missing after school rehearsals. It is impossible to make up for a missing part of our team.

**You will receive 0 points if you miss outside of school rehearsals.**

**There is no excused absence from rehearsals or performances.**

Students will receive up to 100 points for each scheduled after school rehearsal they attend. Points will be awarded based on the following rubric.

- 100 Points - Participates fully and attentively during warm-up  
Involved actively in rehearsal vast majority of time  
Displays correct posture at all times while singing
- 80 Points - Participates in warm-up with minor attention lapses  
Involved in rehearsal but has minor attention lapses  
Displays correct posture most of the time while singing
- 70 Points - Participates in warm-up with some attention lapses  
Involved in rehearsal but has some attention lapses  
Displays correct posture intermittently
- 50 Points - Fails to take warm-up seriously  
Involved in rehearsal casually and distractions are many.  
Displays correct posture only after warning from director
- 0 Points - Absent from rehearsal or **removal from rehearsal for disciplinary reasons**

**Performance Attendance** – Performances are **MANDATORY**. Students will receive up to 10 grades per performance providing they arrive at the appointed time, wear the correct attire and remain until the completion of the performance. There is no such thing as an excused absence and there is **NO** make-up assignment for missing a performance. Punctuality and attire grades are A or F grades. All students are to arrive in their uniform and report to designated area on or before their **call time**. One minute past call time is late, and therefore an automatic F grade for punctuality, so please make sure that your child is always on time. Also, if a child arrives to a performance without the exact uniform, they will earn an F grade for uniform and may be excluded from the performance.

In the event of a family emergency, a “good faith” attempt (text to director’s cell 786-877-2529MR. ELLIS, 305-910-9151MRS.ELLIS) must be made to notify the director **before** a concert or extra rehearsal. Follow up documentation such as hospital discharge papers, a letter from the doctor, etc. will be requested to verify the emergency. **Family vacations during school are NOT an emergency.** Please check the school events and MAS Vocal calendar prior to booking a vacation, and remember all school days are important.

## Participation – 20%

Please remember that effort and conduct grades go with participation. Since singing is an activity that engages the mind, body and spirit, your participation, effort and conduct are tied together. This includes off-task behaviors, slouching, and underperforming. Bring your most focused, creative, and musically expressive self to class everyday and you will have an A1A. Inconsistency, lowers academic, effort and conduct. Please make the effort of attending school daily and only missing in case of emergency. **In case of absence, students are responsible to ask a peer for what they missed before coming to the next rehearsal unprepared.** All assignments missed during absences will be Z's on gradebook until the absence is excused. Only then will student receive credit for making up the work. Please review the MAS attendance policy in our school's website.

## Jobs/Work & Music (High School)

It is your responsibility to notify your place of employment about rehearsal and performance dates. You should submit a copy of the performance schedule along with rehearsal dates to your employer at the beginning of the school year. Employers are happy to work around your schedule if they know it well in advance. **They are usually less willing to work around your schedule when they find out the day before.** Work is **never** an excuse under any circumstance.

## Concert Attire

All chorus members are required to purchase and maintain their own formal concert attire and casual concert attire.

**Formal Concert Attire-** Please refer to [masvocal.com](http://masvocal.com) for formal attire information and links

- go to [masvocal.com](http://masvocal.com)
- under "Parents" click on "Attire"

**Informal/Casual Concert Attire-** Black MAS Vocal polo (purchased under mercy on [masvocal.com](http://masvocal.com)), black formal pants, black flats (no heels, no sneakers, no combat boots) or formal black shoes.

Long hair will be half up half down with informal and formal attire. Make-up should be as natural looking as possible. Jewelry is **not** allowed. We highly recommend leaving all your jewelry at home so it does not go missing.

## Eligibility

Mr. Ellis and Mrs. Ellis reserve the right monitor the academic and conduct of all vocal students in **ALL** of their classes. **Students unable to meet eligibility requirements will be removed from the music magnet according to the terms outlined by Miami Arts Studio.**

Be aware of your magnet schedule and be **PROACTIVE** with your academic teachers so you avoid academic emergency situations.

**Any student with a D or F in any class (academic or conduct) may be removed from any performance or field trip until the grade is raised.**

## MAS Vocal Ensembles

### High School

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| *SoFlo Harmony     | Advanced HS A Cappella Ensemble (all HS grades/ by audition only) |
| * Maverick Singers | Advanced SATB HS Ensemble (audition only)                         |
| *BellArmonia       | Advanced SSAA HS Ensemble (audition only)                         |
| * MAV Men          | TTBB HS Ensemble (audition only)                                  |
| * Viva Voce        | SSAA HS Ensemble  |

### Middle School

- |                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| * MAS Treble Chorus | MS Chorus 2/3 |
| * Mini Mavericks    | MS Chorus 1   |



## All-State Choir Information

Earning a spot in the Florida All-State Choir is one of the highest honors you can earn in MAS Vocal. The process is long and demanding, but the reward is great. All members of the All-State Choir travel to Tampa in early January to participate with their All-State group. There are five choirs in which members of the vocal department are eligible to earn membership. For more information, please visit [fva.net](http://fva.net), click on events > AllState.

**In order to audition for All-State as a female, you must have one of the top 15 (middle school) or 12 (high school) scores in the pretest given at the beginning of the school year. All males with passing pretest scores are encouraged to audition.**

**Additionally, at least one parent must be a registered Level 2 MAS volunteer and be willing to travel to Tampa with the student in January. The travel expenses will not be covered by MAS.**

**Remind Codes** - All students and at least one parent must join the remind app for their chorus. Messages and reminders will be sent through this app at least once a week. Only sign up for your ensemble!

MS CHORUS 1 (all incoming middle school students)  
Text to: 81010  
Message: @maschorus1

MS CHORUS 2  
Text to: 81010  
Message: @maschorus2

MS CHORUS 3  
Text to: 81010  
Message: @maschorus3

VIVA VOCE  
Text to: 81010  
Message: @vivamas1

MAV MEN  
Text to: 81010  
Message: @mavmen123

BellArmonia  
Text to: 81010  
Message: @bellasong

2021-2022 Contract

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print student name), have read the 2021-2022 Chorus Handbook. I understand and agree to the terms herein. I understand the attendance policy for both rehearsals and performances, and agree to come prepared daily with a folder, my music, and a pencil. In addition, I will bring my best attitude and a desire to grow as a musician each day.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print parent name), have read the 2021-2022 Chorus Handbook. I understand and agree to the terms herein. I agree to support my child in their academic and artistic growth to the best of my ability.

We, Ryan and Cindy Ellis, have read the 2021-2022 Chorus Handbook. We understand and agree to the terms herein. We agree to support our students with creative, well-designed instruction. We understand that we chose our profession in order to help students develop a love and appreciation for great music, and to teach them to dig deep and strive for greatness in all that they choose to do by improving daily.

Signed,

\_\_\_\_\_, Student

\_\_\_\_\_, Parent

Ryan Ellis / Cindy Ellis, Directors