

Welcome to Governor Mifflin Middle School Chorus!

We are fortunate to have a history of great music programs in Governor Mifflin, and our continued success is dependent on the involvement of new, young, talented singers, as well as our returning choral members. If your child has any interest in being involved in music education, I encourage you to get them involved in our Choral Program.

Here are a few things to know about our program, and what you can expect your child to experience:

- At GMMS, our choral students make a big leap from their elementary choruses. We offer Chorus as a graded ensemble in your child's schedule, allowing for much more class time and the opportunity to learn and experience musicianship. Full rehearsals occur during homeroom, and pull-out sectionals (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only) allow more individual attention to the developing musician.
- During sectionals (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only), students learn the mechanics of the voice and how to properly use it to produce good vocal tone. Additionally, all chorus students learn how to read music, enabling them to sing more challenging and complex music.
- Each year, we sing a wide variety of music, including but not limited to music from many cultures, eras, languages, and in many styles - from classical music to pop music, renaissance madrigals to American folksongs and spirituals (some in the Gospel style of singing).
- Our students have the opportunity to perform many times throughout the year. Both the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choirs perform at school concerts during the winter and spring, and additional performance opportunities are attainable through the optional, auditioned "Show Choir," which meets outside of the school day.

As we are well aware, singing is a very personal form of expression, and many of our new students are often shy about singing and/or performing in front of others. Please do not let this discourage your child. By providing a safe environment for them, I have seen many of these same students grow to be very self-confident through their involvement in the chorus. I personally believe that the opportunity to successfully perform regularly can help children overcome their insecurities and can turn them into leaders.

The concepts that are learned are skills that can enrich your child's life for many years to come. Also, the sense of teamwork and camaraderie among our chorus members has helped to develop many new friendships by bringing students from around the school into the same learning environment.

We are very proud of our Choral Program, and I sincerely hope that you consider your child for participation in the Governor Mifflin Middle School Chorus! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns, and I hope to meet your children sometime soon!

Sincerely,

Mr. Travis Williamson  
Middle School Choral Director