

Dear parents (and students),

I am so excited to be the new Choir teacher at DMMS this year. This is truly an exciting time for music in Murrieta schools, and I am honored and humbled to be part of it.

I have long term plans to stay here at Dorothy McElhinney and strongly believe that parent participation is the backbone of fine art in schools! This year, the choir at DMMS will be participating in many exciting ventures. Your child will have opportunities to sing music in different languages, different styles and genres, and also how to read music. Music literacy is just as challenging as learning a new language! Your child will be working very hard when they are in class with me, and I strongly believe that they will also learn valuable life skills. Students will learn to value teamwork and cooperation. They will learn how to fail without letting it affect their emotions negatively. They will gain exposure to different cultures through the music they play and sing; as global citizens, this prepares your student to have positive interactions with all types of people! Your student will develop social-emotional skills as they learn how to evaluate themselves and others while performing. Every human goes through life listening to and participating in music, and choir will give your child the tools to participate in it for the rest of their life.

Throughout the year, there will be four main performances in the MPR (two per semester). **Please look out for an email from me by 8/18/2019 with dates, call times, and more information regarding the choir performances.** There may also be field trips for your student, including festivals (where they perform for other choirs!). I will do my best to communicate openly with you at regular intervals throughout the semester through email. I will do my best not to text you, unless you prefer that type of communication from me (through Aeries). I will also email you a copy of the syllabus to look over.

This year, I am asking parents to give their student a binder (2") to use for choir alone. Many times, students borrow binders from the program. However, I want your child to have a sense of ownership and responsibility regarding their music and materials for class, and know that this may help enhance that experience for them. If you are unable to do so, please email me ASAP at rtaylor@murrieta.k12.ca.us. I will ensure your student has a binder for their music.

Please have the binder ready to bring to school by August 20th or August 21st (depending on which day your child has me for class!). Please also read the syllabus, which I will email to you by August 16th. After reading the syllabus, please sign the sheet attached to this letter stating you have read all its contents and agree to the policies of DMMS choirs for your child.

Do not hesitate to reach out. I look forward to meeting you in the future. 😊

All the best,

Ms. Rose Taylor

rtaylor@murrieta.k12.ca.us

PS.... What's the value of performances?

- Students spend 4 (or more!) hours every week learning how to count rhythm, sing written music with solfege, learn music theory, and how to sing complex harmonies with other singers. That is over 64 hours of singing, playing, tapping, and counting. For this reason, the four (4) hours of performing done in public each semester is *special*!
- Singing for an audience is both thrilling and terrifying. Students that have the opportunity to perform in public are practicing resilience and emotional fortitude. A student that makes a mistake in the moment on stage must be able to continue singing as if nothing happened. This is an important life skill to have!
- Singing for an audience builds self esteem. It is important for students to receive praise for the hard work they commit to. Students will see measurable improvement in their skills immediately in choir, and these accomplishments give them the opportunity to cultivate an objective and positive self assessment.

Signature clause for parents

- **We have read the syllabus information provided by email and understand all it entails. Please return signature clause to Ms. Taylor by August 20th or August 21st.**

Parent signature:	Date:
Student signature:	Date: