



## ROBINS AFB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHORUS

The Robins AFB Elementary Chorus is a special organization at our school and is made up of third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students who are energetic, expressive, demonstrate good behavior, and love to sing. Last year, due to low enrollment, we added third grade students who passed the singing audition, who demonstrated an ability to follow directions and stay focused.

Chorus members rehearse after school every Thursday afternoon from 3:15- 4:30 PM. Being a part of the chorus gives students an opportunity to grow and perform as musicians. Through hard work, self-discipline, determination, and teamwork, we can accomplish great things this year. The chorus performs for school assemblies, base and community events, and at an Atlanta Braves game.

**EXPECTATIONS:** Being a member of the Robins AFB Elementary Chorus is an honor and a commitment. While it is a voluntary, after-school organization, all chorus members and their parents are required to sign a chorus contract. If at any time, a student or parent decides for any reason that he/she cannot fulfill their obligation; a note from the parent requesting that their child be removed from the roll will be accepted. This is necessary to assure that parents know where their child is during after school hours.

*All chorus members will be subject to a trial period of thirty days.* Students will be evaluated during this time as to their ability to follow directions, rehearse attentively, and perform with energy and expression. I will also consult with teachers about students' classroom behavior and if they are completing class assignments. If a student is sent to the principal during this trial period, he or she may be removed from the chorus roll with the possibility of returning in January. Parents will be notified if a child is removed from chorus. Our school chorus should be an organization of students who enjoy singing. If we have a room full of unruly students who want to play around, even the best music students will not want to be a part of the chorus. I personally experienced this when I was in elementary school and dropped out of chorus because of the behavior problems my director had to deal with.

**Contract:** Chorus members are asked to sign a contract committing to

- attend rehearsals faithfully
- be attentive, energetic, and expressive in rehearsals
- listen to instructions, follow directions, and keep hands to themselves
- participate and sing when asked to do so in rehearsal
- be cooperative when given instructions by the director or another adult
- demonstrate a good attitude
- set a good example by rehearsing well and exemplifying good behavior
- refrain from the use of gum or candy in rehearsal
- cooperate with other chorus members and share responsibilities
- take pride in our chorus and strive toward excellence in singing
- keep up with class assignments
- refrain from inappropriate behavior that would result in being sent to the Principal or being suspended from school

Chorus can be fun and hard work. However, no disruptions will be tolerated. If a student is disruptive in rehearsal, he/she will be instructed to sign the discipline book. The second offense will require signing the book and having parents notified. The third offense, parents will be notified that their child is being dropped from chorus. This is accumulative through December. In January, a new log will begin. A student may be required to sign the book for the following: talking, not paying attention, not following directions, not singing or demonstrating choreography, bad attitude, argumentative, disrespectful to adults, use of gum/candy, repeatedly being tardy, hands on others, jumping off risers, or any behavior that is determined by the director to be unacceptable or disruptive to the chorus rehearsal.

**Absences:** Chorus Rehearsal will be held every Thursday from 3:15 - 4:30 pm. Attending rehearsals is mandatory except for illness, school absence, family emergencies, parent leaving for or returning from deployment or medical appointments. These types of absences are considered "excused absences" if the director receives a parent note. Any unexcused absence (shopping, hair appointments, skipping rehearsal, etc.) will result in being placed on probation status. The second unexcused absence will result in being dropped from chorus. I strongly suggest that appointments be made on other days when possible. Please send a note if you have prior knowledge that your child will be missing a rehearsal for any reason. No student can miss more than one rehearsal a month. If a student misses two consecutive rehearsals just prior to a performance, they will not be allowed to perform due to a lack of preparation. Final changes in choreography or logistics are made in final rehearsals and it is imperative that all chorus members be present at these rehearsals. Members will be dropped after three absences in the fall or three absences in the spring or when a total of five rehearsals or performances are missed. This will ensure that chorus members are musically prepared to perform.

**Concert Attire:** All chorus members are required to have both a chorus t-shirt and concert shirt to be worn with neat blue jeans for every performance. Chorus t-shirts are six dollars. Chorus t-shirts can be worn on any school day, Blast Assemblies, outdoor concerts, and less formal programs. Concert shirts are sixteen dollars. These shirts are to be worn only for performances. Mrs. Clopton will designate the shirt requirement for each performance. A two-shirt package discount of twenty dollars will be offered to those students who purchase both shirts. Payment is due on Monday, September 15 for all shirt orders. Make checks for shirts to Robins PTO. Former chorus members must purchase both shirts unless the shirts are in good condition and fit appropriately. Parents may also purchase shirts. Appropriate concert attire does not include hats, scarves, or earrings on boys. Girls may only wear post earrings in performances. Blue jeans must be full length, of solid color with no patches or trim. Wearing proper concert attire is a requirement to participate in any performance.

**Braves Game Trip:** The highlight of the year is when the chorus steps out onto Turner Field to sing the national anthem at the Atlanta Braves game. The chorus will travel by chartered bus. Buses will also be available to those who purchase bus tickets. All those sitting with or traveling with the chorus will be required to abide by specific rules such as refraining from drinking alcoholic beverages, smoking out of sight of students, and refraining from inappropriate behavior.

**Fundraiser:** Each year, the chorus has conducted a Discount Card fundraiser to support chorus activities and materials such as music, recorded accompaniments, costumes, chartered buses to the Braves game, game tickets, award medals, two parties, and for musical guest performances for our school. New regulations restrict the chorus from conducting a fundraiser with profits going into the Student Activity Fund. The PTO graciously accepted overseeing this fund raiser but it will be open to the entire school. The chorus will still receive funding for our program at the amount we earned in the past. Additional profit will go into the PTO account to support our school. Checks for Discount Cards should be made out to the Robins PTO.

No student is required to participate in the fundraiser; however, parents will be responsible for purchasing tickets to the Braves game and chartered bus tickets if they choose to attend these events. The Discount Card sells for five dollars. It features twenty-seven local businesses and offers discounts for an unlimited amount of visits to the cardholder for one year. Permission slips are required to distribute cards to your child. Selling a minimum of twelve cards pays for your child's Braves trip.

## **2008 - 2009 Chorus Calendar**

August 11 - 22 Chorus Auditions  
September 11 - Chorus Kick-off Meeting and refreshments in the cafeteria.  
September 18 – Chorus Forms Due  
September 18 – Shirt order funds and payment due  
October 24 - Sing for Blast Assembly, 8:45 AM  
December 15 - Christmas Chorus Program (tentative date)  
December 17 – Perform at the BX Food Court  
December 18 - Chorus Christmas Party

**January 6-7 - chorus auditions**

**January 15 – chorus rehearsal resume**

**March & April – school performances and other trips if transportation funding is available.**

**April or May - perform national anthem at the Atlanta Braves game, (date to be announced in January)**

**End-of-Year performance – time and place to be announced**

**End-of-year Chorus Awards and Party - date to be announced**

**Volunteers:** Parent support is vital to the success of our chorus program. Assistance is needed with rehearsals, performances, record keeping, chaperoning trips, fund raising, audio/video/ technical assistance during performances, and parties, just to name a few. Parents are asked to fill out a volunteer sheet designating areas they are interested in being involved in.

**The Director:** The director of the Robins AFB Elementary Chorus is Mrs. Clopton. Mrs. Clopton has taught music and directed chorus in the Department of Defense Schools since 1983. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and a Masters in Early Childhood Education from Georgia College and State University. She was Linwood School Teacher of the Year in 1999 and Air Force Association Carl Vinson Chapter Teacher of the year in 2000. She is a soloist and choir member at her church, Shirley Hills Baptist Church as well as for numerous community service events. She has been married for twenty-eight years to her husband, Terry, a church organist, former school choral director and recently retired eighth grade Georgia history teacher at Perry Middle School. They have two sons. Ryan, 23 is a recent graduate of Columbus State University and married Sarah Bradley in June 2008. Ryan is now attending Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC pursuing a degree in Cross Cultural Ministries while Sarah has just begun her elementary music teaching career. Jonathan, 19 is a sophomore at Columbus State University, works as a CVS pharmacy tech, and is church pianist for Richland Baptist Church.

**How to contact Mrs. Clopton:** If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to call me at the school (926-5003). Any checks for chorus purchases or payments are to be made to the **ROBINS PTO** designated with your child's name and what the money is for. When sending money to the school, please enclose it in an envelope labeled with your child's name, class, money amount, and designate what the money is for.

I look forward to meeting and working with all of you. With all of us working together, this year will truly be a successful one for our chorus.

Sincerely,

**MRS. CLOPTON  
CHORAL DIRECTOR  
ROBINS AFB ELEMENTARY**