

**PEARL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

**CHOIRS**

2021-2022

Student and Parent Handbook

Ashlynn Grissom and Sarah Little, Directors

**Mission Statement**

The mission of the Pearl Junior High School Choral Program is to provide a superior choral arts education in which students gain not only musical skills and a lifelong appreciation of music, but also develop individual skills and strategies that will help them to be successful in all academic areas and throughout their lives.

**Vision Statement**

The Pearl Junior High Choral Program will be a place of respect, nurture, excellence, and creativity at the highest levels. Parents, teachers, students, and the community will join in a choral experience that inspires and challenges students to reach their greatest potential musically and academically.

**Performing Ensembles**

**Pearl Junior High Singers**

The PJHS Singers is an auditioned, select ensemble for students who have served at least one year in choir. Members of this ensemble must excel in sight-reading and choral singing, follow the mandates of the choral covenant, meet classroom and rehearsal expectations, and demonstrate an interest in furthering their musicianship. This choir is composed of 60-80 members, both male and female, and performs a varied repertoire of standard choral literature for mixed voices.

**Ladies’ Chorale**

The Ladies’ Chorale is an auditioned, select ensemble consisting of 40-60 7th and 8th grade female singers. Members of this ensemble must excel in sight-reading and choral singing, follow the mandates of the choral covenant, meet classroom and rehearsal expectations, and demonstrate an interest in furthering their musicianship. This group performs a varied repertoire of standard choral literature for treble voices.

**Treble Choir**

The Treble Choir is a non-auditioned female ensemble consisting of 20-40 7th and 8th grade students. These students must wish to further their musicianship through sight-reading and performance by focusing on the development of fundamental musical and choral concepts. This group performs a varied repertoire of standard choral literature for treble voices.

**Boys’ Chorale**

The Boys’ Chorale consists of 20-40 7th and 8th grade male singers. Members of this ensemble must excel in sight-reading and choral singing, follow the mandates of the choral covenant, meet classroom and rehearsal expectations, and demonstrate an interest in furthering their musicianship. This group performs a varied repertoire of standard choral literature for male voices.

**6th Grade Chorus**

The 6th Grade Chorus is a non-auditioned choir for all 6th grade students, both male and female. The goal of this choir is to begin learning concepts of correct choral singing, solfeggio, sight-reading, and performance. These ensembles perform a varied repertoire of standard choral literature for treble voices.

**Staying Connected: Charms**

Throughout the year, we will communicate with students and parents using the emails through the Charms system. This system allows Ms. Grissom and Mrs. Little to send group and individual e-mails to students/parents.

You and your child will have a Charms account created for you using the information you provide on the Choir Information sheet.

Once your account is created, you can log on, create a password, and view your child’s financial statements for choir.

**Music Selection**

Music from a variety of genres with both secular and sacred texts may be selected from all historical time periods. The purpose for all music chosen, regardless of text, is to teach the historical development of music and provide an opportunity to perform music by many great composers.

**Dragonfly**

Students must create an account through Dragonfly to be eligible to participate in any MHSAA activity. This account asks for a full health history and contains waivers of liability for the school. The completion of this account is mandated by the state and is required for all 6-12th graders participating in any sport or activity. If your child already has an account for another sport or activity, they can simply add JV Choir to their activities; a separate choir account won’t be necessary.

**Dues and Fees**

**Dues**

The arts have always been expensive. Everything this program does costs money, from purchasing music, supplies, and uniforms to covering registration, audition, and travel costs for contests and festivals.

**CHOIR DUES:** **$45**

**CONCERT ATTIRE DUES: $15 for 6th graders**

**$30 for 7/8th graders**

Payment of dues is required to participate in any choral activity. Dues cover the costs of folders, music, entrance and transportation to Riverland Choral Festival, District VI Festival, and State Choral Festival. It also covers audition fees to the MMEA All-State Honor Choir as well as an accompanist at all festivals and concerts.

Being selected to participate in any honor choir, choir trips, or the Lakeshore Choral Camp may involve additional dues.

**DUE DATES:** Concert Attire Dues: August 27th

Choir Dues: November 5th

Concert attire dues MUST be paid on time so that the uniforms can be ordered the next week. Our uniforms require several weeks to be manufactured and shipped.

For sixth graders, the price for their first t-shirt is $15. If your child loses their r-shirt, replacement t-shirts may be purchased for $20 while supplies last.

Dues and fees can be paid in cash or check/money order made to PEARL SINGERS. Failure to pay dues or fees may result in result in the student not being allowed to participate in any activities.

FUNDRAISERS WILL BE APPLIED TOWARD STUDENT FEES.

**Required Activities**

The following activities are required. Make all necessary plans and arrangements to attend. Participation in each of these required activities shall count as two (2) major grades.

1. Should any of these dates or locations need to change, notice will be given as soon as Ms. Grissom or Mrs. Little becomes aware of such a change.
2. Things happen. Students may only be excused from these activities for legitimate reasons. Parents may be asked to provide written proof of excuse (doctor’s note, funeral bulletin, etc.)
3. The director reserves the right to determine what is and what is not a legitimate excuse for missing a required activity.
4. Grades for required activities can be made up at a later date (written assignment) for excused absences only.
5. Unexcused absences from required activities cannot be made up.

**Fall Required Activities**

TBD Riverland Competition (for Ladies Chorale/Boys Chorale)

TBD Honor Choir Auditions

TBD Male Vocal Symposium

November 30th Christmas Concert after-school rehearsal (all choirs)

December 2nd Christmas Concert (all choirs)

**Spring Required Activities**

TBD After-school rehearsal for District Festival (Boys Chorale, Ladies Chorale, Treble Choir)

TBD District Festival (Boys Chorale, Ladies Chorale, Treble Choir)

TBD Honor Choir Convention

TBD After-school rehearsal for Choral Arts Festival (6th Grade Chorus)

TBD Chorale Arts Festival (6th Grade Chorus)

TBD State Festival (Boys Chorale, Ladies Chorale, Treble Choir)

TBD After-school rehearsal for Spring Concert (all choirs)

TBD Spring Concert (all choirs)

**Eligibility**

Members of the PJHS Choirs must remain eligible to participate under the standards of the Mississippi High School Activities Association. In addition to other requirements and limitations, MHSAA requires that all students maintain a C (70) or higher in all classes averaged. If a student ceases to meet this or other requirements at any given time, they may not participate in any choral activity. Students must also create and complete a Dragonfly account to remain eligible for MHSAA activities.

**Notice of Non-Discrimination**

The Pearl Junior High Singers does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in the determination for and provision of educational programs, activities, or services and benefits.

**Concert Attire Policies**

6th Grade Choir

All 6th choir students will be required to purchase a choir t-shirt, which will be worn for ALL performances. In addition to the t-shirt, students will be required to wear long blue jean pants and closed-toed shoes.

7/8th Grade Choir

All 7th and 8th grade choir members will be issued a school choir robe to rent. Along with their robe, students will be required to wear black, closed-toed shoes (not tennis shoes).

**General Information**

No jewelry shall be worn while in concert attire. Fingernail polish, other than clear, shall not be worn.

Hair is to be pulled back off of the face. Hair must be styled in order for the eyes to be seen and style or color may not cause disruption or distraction.

Hair accessories, other than hair clips, ponytail holders, and bobby pins, shall not be worn.

**Grading and Attendance**

Grading will be based on level of participation and mastery of objectives in vocal concepts, choral singing, sight-reading, and ensemble performance. Participation in required activities shall count as two (2) major grades. Daily minor grades will be given based on the items previously listed as well as classroom behavior/ following procedures and will be given every week.

Severe behavioral problems will not be tolerated in a chorale ensemble. Each choir student should, at all times, be an outstanding representative of Pearl Junior High School. Failure to follow the behavioral standard and procedures set in place will make the student ineligible to perform at competitions and concerts.

Just as a sports team must practice as a team, a choir must rehearse as a team. Excessive absenteeism is disrespectful to your team of classmates and may result in the lowering of your grade and/or ability to travel and perform with the choir.

**Classroom Rules and Procedures**

1. Be on time. Enter the classroom quietly, place your backpack at the back of the room, retrieve your music folder, check the board for daily sight-reading, sit down in your assigned seat, and begin sight-reading.
2. You must have a pencil for all rehearsals.
3. Stay on task, follow directions, and remain seated unless you have been given permission to get up. Only 1 person will be allowed out of his/her seat at a time.
4. Be nice to everyone. Swearing, teasing, talking back, or bullying will not be tolerated. Respect yourself, your classmates, your teacher, and your classroom.
5. Keep your hands and feet and objects to yourself. If you don’t own it, do not touch it.
6. Wait respectfully and calmly for your turn, and do not complain. Listen to the teacher when he/she is talking.
7. Candy, food, gum, and drinks other than water are not allowed in the classroom.
8. Personal grooming is not allowed in the classroom.
9. Place folders and music back in its proper place when rehearsal is finished.

Consequences for failure to follow classroom rules and procedures will be in accordance with the PBIS handbook. Warnings will be given only once. If a student’s behavior becomes unruly or extreme, he/she will receive an Office Discipline Report (ODR) and will be sent to the principal’s office.

**Discipline Plan**

1st Offense: Verbal Warning

2nd Offense: Parent Contact

3rd Offense: Wednesday Detention issued, Parent Contact

4th Offense: ODR, Sent to Principal, Parent Contact

**Performance Procedures**

**On-Stage Procedures**

* Enter the stage with your arms at your side.
* Watch your step!
* Do not talk, gaze around the room, or acknowledge any in the audience.
* Stand up straight with both hands resting at your sides.
* Do not lock your knees.
* Resist the urge to adjust glasses, move hair, scratch your nose, etc.
* Your eyes should always be on the director.
* Do not react to movement in the audience or in the choir.
* Do not talk or “drop your character” between songs.
* Exit the stage quietly when directed.

**Off-Stage Procedures**

* Listen to others attentively when they are performing.
* Do not talk.
* Never ridicule, discredit, or criticize another group’s performance.
* Do not stand up or leave during a performance.
* Applaud only when the director acknowledges the on-stage choir.

**Audience Etiquette**

Good concert etiquette is behavior that is considered appropriate and polite while enjoying or performing a live musical performance. Good concert etiquette shows respect for the conductor, performers, other audience members, and the music that is being performed.

Please read the following guidelines for Audience Concert Etiquette.

* Be on time to the concert. In fact, be early.
* Sit quietly and wait for the concert to begin. You may talk softly while you are waiting. Do not talk or make noises during the performance. It can be very distracting to the performers.
* Applaud after each full piece of music has been completed.
* Sit quietly during the performance. When a performing organization presents a concert, they are putting forth their best effort; they should expect the same from the audience.
* Keep concert programs quiet during the performance.
* If you must get up to leave during a concert, do so only at the end of a group’s performance or between pieces. It is best if you stay for the entire concert.
* Cell phones should be turned off or to mute. Watches set to beep on the hour should also be turned off.
* Do not attempt to livestream the concert in any way. Copyright law does not allow this.
* Listening to iPods or playing games during the performance is impolite to the performers.
* Please use discretion in taking photos. Flash photos during a performance are extremely distracting for all.
* Parents should keep small children seated with them and not allow them to move around during the concert.
* If very young children become restless and disrupt others' ability to listen, please take them from the performance area until they are quiet.
* Please remove all hats.

**2020 – 2021 Calendar of Opportunities**

**August 20th Student Info Sheet and Rehearsal Covenant Due**

**August 20th Concert Attire Fee Due**

**August 30th Choir Parent Meeting**

**August 30th- Sept. 10th Simply Sheets Sale**

**October 25th-Nov. 5th Begin Candle Sale**

**November 5nd Choir Fees due**

**November 6th Riverland Choral Festival**

*Ladies Chorale and Boys Chorale*

**TBA Male Vocal Symposium**

**December 2nd After-School Practice – 3:20 – 5:30 p.m.**

*All Choirs at PHS Auditorium*

**December 6th Winter Concert – 6:30 p.m.**

*All Choirs*

**January 31st Honor Choir Auditions (virtual)**

**TBA Afterschool Practice**

*Boys Chorale/Ladies Choral/Treble Choir only*

**February 24-25th District VI Choral Festival**

*Boys Chorale/Ladies Chorale/ Treble Choir only*

**TBA Afterschool Practice**

*6th Grade Choir Only*

**March 10-11th Choral Arts Festival**

*6th grade Chorus only*

**TBA** **After School Practice**

*Only choirs moving onto State Competition*

**March 24-25th State Choral Festival**

*Groups that earned superior ratings at District*

**March 31st- April 2nd State Honor Choir Convention**

*Selected Students*

**May 6th After School Practice – 3:20-5:30 p.m.**

*All Choirs at PHS Auditorium*

**May 9th Spring Concert – 6:30 p.m.**

*ALL choirs*

**Fundraising Opportunities**

**Simply Sheets Fundraiser – Fall Semester**

BED SHEETS! Yes... Bed sheets. Every home needs bed sheets.

Simply Sheets Fundraising is a bed sheet fundraising company that offers a high profit margin, which is great for offsetting the cost of dues. The company provides sheets in over ten colors and in every size. Profits range from $6 (twin) to $26 (California king) per set.

**Yankee Candle Fundraiser – Fall Semester**

Yankee Candle Fundraising allows students to sell candles, kitchen products, and other festive odds and ends. The profit margin is substantial for a sale of this type. Students will be provided with a seasonal fundraising catalog that contains the items available for purchase.

**General Information**

If students opt out of participating in fundraisers, any request to waive either the choir dues or concert attire dues will be denied. Please take advantage of these fundraising opportunities.

**Contact Information**

You may contact Ms. Grissom or Mrs. Little in the following ways:

**Email:** agrissom@pearlk12.com

slittle@pearlk12.com

**Phone:** (601)-664-2242 (choir office phone)

Please visit the choir’s Canvas page for notifications and assignments.

**Pearl Singers Pledge**

I am a Pearl Singer, and this is my music. I will never have these moments again, so today I choose to encounter knowledge, rehearsal, and performance with all my heart, soul, mind, body, and strength. I will allow this music to bring encouragement and joy to life. Because it is the right thing to do, I choose to respect all persons at all times, allowing this experience to be productive and meaningful. I am a Pearl Singer, and this is my solemn pledge.

**PJHS Singers Choral Covenant**

**DUE: August 28th**

**I will do my best in EVERY rehearsal to follow the rules and procedures of the classroom.**

**CLASSROOM RULES AND PROCEDURES**

1. Be on time. Enter the classroom quietly, retrieve your music folder, check the board for daily agenda, sit down in your assigned seat, and begin sight-reading.
2. You must have a pencil for all rehearsals.
3. Stay on task, follow directions, and remain seated unless you have been given permission to get up. Only 1 person will be allowed out of their seat at a time.
4. Be nice to everyone. Swearing, teasing, talking back, or bullying will not be tolerated. Respect yourself, your classmates, your teacher, and your classroom.
5. Keep your hands and feet and objects to yourself. If you don’t own it, do not touch it.
6. Wait respectfully and calmly for your turn, and do not complain. Listen to the teacher when they are talking.
7. Candy, food, gum, and drinks other than water are not allowed in the classroom.
8. Personal grooming is not allowed in the classroom.
9. Place folders back in its proper place when rehearsal is finished.

I have read and understand the information contained in the Pearl Junior High School Choral Handbook and will seek to follow the mandates of this contract with all my heart, my soul, and my strength.

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_



**Student Information Sheet**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Grade:

Student Class Period:

Student T-shirt Size (Adult XS-Adult 4X):

Student Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Address:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Address:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

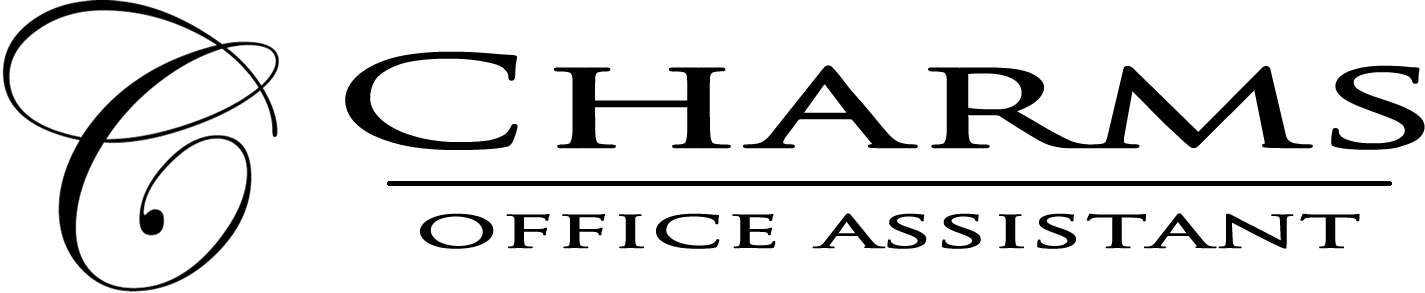
Parent E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Does your child have any allergies? YES/NO

If yes, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Does your child have any medical issues/conditions that would prevent them from participating in choir activities? YES/NO

If yes, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_



**How to access parent/student information in Charms**

* Log on to [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com), and click “ENTER / LOG IN” in the upper right corner.
* Locate the “PARENT/STUDENT/MEMBERS LOGIN” section of the web page.
* Login to your student’s program account using the following School Code:

**PearlSingers**

* This will bring up the main “Public” page. This will allow you to look at the “public” calendar for your organization, event list, and handouts and other “publicly shared” files, as well as a few other options.
* The first time you go here, enter your child’s ID NUMBER (provided by your Director) into the ***Student Area Password*** field. You will be directed to the Change Password screen, to set a personal password different from the ID, for future use. You may also be directed to create both a unique Username and Password for the student. There are also mechanisms to recover/reset a lost Username/Password – when you create your new password, create a “hint” as well.
* Whenever you enter using this Username/password, another more detailed screen appears, with various button options for you to access areas in the Charms account. What appears here is partially up to the Account Administrator or Head Director.
* **Update Personal Information** – you may help make changes to your and your child’s student information page (such as updating phone numbers / cell carriers and email addresses if they change) to help them communicate with you more effectively. You may also be able to indicate which parent volunteer/resource groups you would like to participate in, if this feature is activated. Click ***Update Info*** to save changes.
* The ***Calendar*** may list events, rehearsals, and volunteer/RSVP opportunities.
* Most importantly, the parent page assists both you and the teacher to communicate with each other. Stay up to date on what’s going on with your student!
* You can also download the Charms App to your smartphone – search your App Store for “Charms Parent/Student Portal” (or “Charms Blue”). It’s the way to stay in touch on the go!

Your Director may have other information they wish to share with you – read on, below, if applicable!

**Dragonfly**

Instructions for MHSAA Eligibility Program "DragonFly". All parents/guardians of 7th-12th grade athletes must create an account and complete all forms for athletic eligibility. **Athletes will not be able to compete in contest against another school until all documents are completed.**

1. Go to [www.dragonflymax.com](http://www.dragonflymax.com/)
2. Click on Login/Sign Up
3. Click on Sign Up for Free
4. Enter your First Name, Last Name, Email or Cell #, and a password
5. Check I’m not a Robot
6. Submit
7. A popup asks if you entered your name, click on it’s me
8. A verification code will be sent to the email address or cell # you entered.
9. Enter the code in the Temporary Verification ID box and click on submit
10. Scroll down through the Terms of Use and click on accept
11. Click on to get Started. Get hooked up to a school.
12. Choose Parent
13. Click on Next
14. Enter your school Code: Pearl High School   M49H2V  Pearl Junior High WS8HTU
15. Click on Join a School
16. Click on Add a Child
17. Enter the First Name and Last Name of your child and click on Next
18. Enter the school Code again
19. Select your child’s sport (JV Choir) and click on next
20. Choose Submit paperwork
21. Click on Needs Update in the box showing the school name where the Contact Info is located
22. When adding relatives limit to 3 relatives including parent/guardian
23. Enter N/A if there is no cell phone or email for the relative
24. Complete Insurance, General Info, Heart Health, Bone & Joint, and Medical Questions.
25. When Finished Click on Done
26. If you need to go back to complete the Medical Info, click on Needs Update in your child’s medical info box.
27. Click on get Started
28. You must complete the following forms: Electronic Signature Agreement, Consent to Disclosure and Use of Personal Health Information, Participation and Treatment Consent, MHSAA Student Participation Clearance Form, MHSAA Concussion Information Form, Athletic Health History, Physicals need to be uploaded or if on file it will be uploaded by the school.
29. When you select the form choose Fill out Electronically, Verify all information for accuracy and enter any needed information. Submit.  Be sure to date documents when requested in the signature field.
30. Your child must compete the sportsmanship program. Click on link, select Mississippi, select order course (there is no cost), create username and password, watch video, answer test questions at the end. Once completed a certificate will appear with student name on it, click upload certificate.