

Greenwood High School Choral Handbook- 2021-2022

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The following handbook is provided to ensure a successful semester for each individual student as well as for the entire choral program. The choral program at GHS provides an opportunity for singers to study and perform high caliber choral music, study proper vocal techniques and musical skills, and share their vocal talents with our community. All students who have a sincere interest in singing are invited to participate. Discipline, dedication and professionalism will be encouraged in order to reach the highest degree of musical success. These standards are carried through to rehearsals, attendance and performances.

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CHORAL PHILOSOPHY:

- To provide a well- rounded music education for all chorus students
- To instill a love of Chorus music that will last a lifetime
- To develop the individual voice and an understanding of its relationship to a choral ensemble
- To increase music literacy, musicianship skills and knowledge
- To provide a source of enjoyment and enhance the quality of life
- To assist each student in representing themselves and their school with the highest standards of musical performance through individual behavior and performing to the best of each singer’s ability
- To prepare the student for experiences available in higher education and to encourage future musical leaders
- To instill the value of effort, sacrifice, cooperation, conformity, fellowship, self-discipline and dedication
- To contribute to a balanced program of cooperation, respect, discipline, dedication and responsibility
- To always strive to best serve the interests of the student, school and community

REMIND: Each student is required to register and Parents are encouraged to.

Parent info: Text @ infochorus to 81010 or send email to infochorus@mail.remind.com

Women’s Chorus: Text @ghswc21-22 to 81010 or send email to ghswc21-22@mail.remind.com

Freshman Singers: Text ghsfs21-22 to 81010 or send email to ghsfs21-22@mail.remind.com

Concert Choir: Text @ghscc21-22 to 81010 or send email to ghscc21-22@mail.remind.com

Eagle Singers: Text @ghses21-22 to 81010 or send email to ghses21-22@mail.remind.com

Google Classroom: Each student is required to join their classroom with the codes below.

Advanced Women’s Chorus 2021-2022: 7vqkmqy

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MzcxMjOyMDMwNjk4?cjc=7vqkmqy>

Concert Choir 2021-2022: zxkwldn

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MzcxMjOzMjc3MTQy?cjc=zxkwldn>

Eagle Singers 2020-2021- lnc44de

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MzcxMjOyMDMwNjk4?cjc=lnz44de>

Freshman Singers 2021-2022- aht14yq

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MzcxMjOzMjc3MTMx?cjc=aht14yq>

*Students will need to check their REMIND and Google Classroom accounts regularly.

Discipline and Class Procedures:

Conduct: All students are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior at all times. Each member must display self control and self discipline to promote cohesiveness of the ensemble.

Expectations:

1. Arrive on time and be prepared to start class: All students are to have their music ready, pencil in hand, read board for rehearsal plan and prepare any supplies needed. All book bags are to be stored under their assigned seat or designated area. Students are to be sitting in their assigned seat and ready to begin rehearsal.
2. Not allowed in classroom: Gum, food or drinks in the chorus room. (Clear water bottle with a top is the only exception)/ Putting on makeup, brushing hair and other personal grooming./ Horse playing, wrestling, or goofing off./ Cell Phone use/ when red sign is up
3. Clean Up: Put all choir supplies back where they belong: notebook, folder, equipment, chairs. KEEP THE CHORUS ROOM CLEAN!!!
4. Rehearsals: Talking is not permitted when the director or any other person is addressing the chorus./Disruptive behavior will NOT be tolerated./ ALWAYS have your music and a PENCIL in class. Mark your music appropriately during rehearsal./ Participate fully in all class rehearsals. Students are expected to provide positive participation.
5. Off Limits: Piano and sound equipment. DO NOT TOUCH without director's permission./ Thermostat - DO NOT TOUCH without director's permission. / Director's offices. No student is allowed in the director's office without permission./ Unsupervised Chorus room. Students may not be in the chorus room without a teacher, administrator or substitute. The Chorus room will be closed during lunch and after school unless otherwise notified.
6. Restroom Policy: Students do not have to ask to go to the Restroom, however they are only allowed to use the restroom one time during class time (this includes getting water, tissue, etc.) / Student must put their ID on the Hook on the door./ Only one student waiting at door at anytime. This includes before the bell rings./ Failure to follow restroom policy will result in loss of restroom privileges.
7. GHS Rules: Adhere to all school-wide rules as stated in the student handbook.

Consequences: Based on weekly behavior / not daily

1st consequence –Verbal warning by teacher, 2 pts deducted from grade.

2nd consequence –2nd verbal warning by teacher, 5 pts deducted from grade, parent contact

3rd consequence –Conference with teacher after class, 10 pts deducted from grade, parent contact, morning or after school detention.

4th consequence –Referral written , after class conference, parent contact, 15 pts deducted from grade.

5th consequence –Referral to Principal, grade of a zero.

Rehearsal and Performance Standards:

Attendance: Attendance at rehearsals and performances outside of the school day are REQUIRED of students enrolled in the GHS choral program. After school performances are for a grade: date and time are given at least two weeks in advance.

1. Class Attendance: Please keep in mind that it is impossible to make-up a missed rehearsal. Any student who misses more than 10 minutes of each class is marked absent.
2. Tardiness: If any student is tardy during the first 10 minutes of class their tardy card will be punched, if no tardy card - they will be issued a tardy notice. (See student handbook for consequences). After 10 minutes, a student must have a pass from the Attendance office. An excused tardy must be verified by a pass.
3. Concert/ Performance attendance: All performances are mandatory. Prior notice will be given. **ALL PERFORMANCES ARE FOR A GRADE!!**

Acceptable excuses for missing a performance: Missing the entire day of school the day of rehearsal or performance due to sickness./ Death in the immediate family. / Compromise with other SCHOOL activities (at least a two week notice must be given and every means of “working it out” exhausted before this excuse will be considered) / Other rare circumstances deemed excusable by the director.

For all performance absences the following procedure must be followed by the student and parent: Failure to follow this procedure will result in a Performance No- Show (zero).

- The director must be notified in advance in writing or email from the Parent or Guardian.
- For illness, a parental note or doctor's excuse must be submitted.
- Follow-up is the sole responsibility of the student! Without notification the student will not be allowed to complete the make up work for the performance.

At the beginning of the semester dates are carefully set with important school activities in mind to minimize conflicts. Should a conflict arise, the director should be contacted **immediately**. It takes dedication from every member of the ensemble to produce a quality performance.

Additional notes about performances:

- Students and parents will be provided with reasonable notice of any additional rehearsals and performances that are not already in this handbook.
- All school rules apply at rehearsals and performances.
- Failure to attend rehearsals, including excessive class absences, may result in removal from performances at the discretion of the director.
- Failure to achieve a reasonable knowledge of performance repertoire can result in removal from the performance at the discretion of the director.
- The director reserves the right to remove any student from a performance for not meeting basic behavioral standards, including, but not limited to, in or out of school suspension from any teacher and repeatedly breaking classroom rules.
- An alternative assignment will be assigned for students not performing. This is an assignment for students who have an acceptable excuse. Students who do not attend a performance without prior notice without an acceptable excuse will receive a zero for a concert grade, and they will not be allowed to complete the make up work. Note: It is not an option for a student to opt-out of the concert.
- Work is never accepted as an excuse to miss a rehearsal or performance. Many students successfully schedule their part-time job hours around choral events.

Attitude: A positive, cooperative attitude is the most important quality for a chorus member to have. It is the basis upon which all fine things will be accomplished. It is the key to excellence. The word carries with it the implication of punctuality, dependability, concentration, conscientious effort, dedication, and open mindedness. This attitude must go beyond the individual; it must become the collective spirit of the chorus.

Care of Music: School owned music is purchased by the school and Booster Club for use by the Choral Department and is loaned to students for use while in Chorus. It is not the property of the student and must be treated as borrowed material or as any other textbook. A fee per missing piece of music will be assessed. Students are to use only PENCIL when writing in their music.

Instructional Materials: The following will be given to each student: Black 3 ring binder, pencil, notebook, mask for singing and paper bag to hold mask. Students will need to purchase: *yellow Highlighter, *colored pencils- erasable preferred- Blue, Red, Green, Orange, Yellow , Purple *quality eraser (If students are having trouble purchasing these items they are to speak to Mrs. Jolly.)

Each choral rehearsal involves preparing the mind and body, working on proper choral breathing (breathing motion/ steady airflow), working on proper voice/tone production (tall unified vowels, clear, crisp consonants, resonance, placement, registration), blending voices for proper choral tone (listening and adjusting, group conformity), learning to read music (rhythm, tonal, melodies), and learning basic musicianship skills (dictation, composition, error detection, aural skills).

Grading Procedures:

A student's nine weeks grade will be determined using the following categories and percentages:
Rehearsal / Ensemble Skills- 45%, Written/ Oral Class work- 15%, Performances- 40%

Rehearsal /Ensemble Skills – 45%

Upon entering class daily, students can earn up to 20 points. At the end of every 5 days, these points are added to equal up to 100 and will be called a “weekly participation grade.” At the end of the 9 weeks, they will be averaged to equal 40% of the student's nine weeks grade. Below is the breakdown for earning these points on a daily basis. (Please refer to *Consequences* mentioned above.)

Rehearsal Etiquette/Attitude: 8 points/ Participation in sight-reading/singing: 7 points/ Class Preparation: 5 points
TOTAL: 20 points per day/ 100 points per week.

Rehearsal Etiquette/Attitude- The student is actively involved and is participating in the rehearsal. The student does not talk excessively and does not disrupt the rehearsal process. The student employs a positive attitude throughout the rehearsal.

Participation in sight-reading/singing- The student is actively participating in the day's sight-singing exercises. The student utilizes correct solfege, Curwen hand signs, and takadimi syllables.

Class preparation- The student is sitting in their assigned seat with music and pencil in hand when the tardy bell rings. Students have all music and/or worksheets ready to go.

Being in class and at extra rehearsals is very important. Music is the only art that exists in time, and if the student is not there to experience what we are doing as a group, it is very difficult to make up. Therefore, if a student is absent from class the student will need to make up the missed rehearsal by completing sight-reading exercises within one week of the class missed. This will allow the student to be eligible for the full 20 points in their daily grade. Below is the maximum number of points allowed for a daily rehearsal grade correlating with the time the student is out of the classroom. The chart provides the amount of time missed and the amount of work required to achieve the maximum number of points

Written/ Oral Class work (Assignments, Quizzes, Tests, etc.) 15%

Written and singing assignments are given. Most of these assignments will be announced in advance. Singing tests *may* consist of singing using tape recorders or live, in quartets, octets, individual, etc. They could also include sight-reading or singing music being prepared for the concert. Daily worksheets or notebook work in the area of music theory and vocal technique will be given, and will be graded.

Performances – 40%

All performances will be worth 100 points each and will count as 50% of the student's nine-week grade. Unexcused absences from performances may not be made up. If the excuse is deemed 'acceptable,' the student must request to receive an assignment from Mrs. Jolly, and the work must be completed by a given deadline in order for credit to be given.

Semester Classes: 1st 9-Weeks or 3rd 9 weeks– 40% / 2nd 9-Weeks or 4th 9 weeks – 40%/ Semester Exam- 20%
Grading Scale: A 90-100/ B 80-89/ C 70-79/ D 60-69/ F below 60

Extra Credit Opportunities: Students may earn extra credit participation points for various activities throughout the school year. Check with Mrs. Jolly for approval. Appropriate documentation must be provided to Mrs. Jolly. Examples of opportunities may be, attend a GHS Band Concert, attend a college performance, attend or participate in a live musical production, etc.

General Information:

Parent Conference: If a parent/guardian wishes to schedule a conference, they may contact Mrs. Jolly via email (jollyg@gwd50.org), by office phone (864-941-5643), by cell phone text (864-993-9374) or by sending a note to school with your child. Mrs. Jolly will respond to your requests at the earliest possible convenience.

Solos: Several decisions go into selecting an appropriate soloist: tone quality, size of voice, expressiveness of voice and face, stage presence, intonation, the ability to ‘sell’ a song, etc. Solos are not chosen based on seniority. The goal is to select the soloist who is best fit for the song. Soloist must also fulfill the same requirements as Eligibility to participate in Chorus Trips.

Eligibility Requirements for Chorus Trips: In order to participate in choral events such as State Choral Festival, Region Chorus, Chorus sponsored spring Trips, and All-State Chorus, students must meet these requirements: 1. All financial obligations (Uniform, fundraisers, etc.) must be paid a minimum of three weeks prior to the event. 2. Display appropriate behavior in the chorus room as well as in the school. 3. Not have excessive absences, including medically excused absences (if you are not here, you can’t learn music) 4. Musically accomplish the required selections. 5. Abide by the Schools Conduct and Code Book 6. Attend all concerts and performances.

All State Chorus: It is the expectation that a student who auditions for a choir and is accepted attends the event. Before auditioning, students should check their calendar and make sure that they are available to attend the event. Dates: March 7-9, 2019. Auditions for SC All State Chorus occur in November each year. Any student wishing to audition must meet the following qualifications: 1. Current in 10 -12 Grade (Freshmen are not permitted to audition per state regulations) 2. Enrolled in a choral ensemble *ALL YEAR* 3. Attend preparation rehearsals held outside of class 4. Sing your part *a cappella* in quintets 5. Perform sight-reading 6. Travel to Columbia for the audition with other choir members (official date TBA) 7. Pay the audition fee 8. *Students who audition and are accepted into All State MUST participate in All State Chorus.*

All State Chorus is an auditioned ensemble of the strongest singers in South Carolina. Therefore, any student who is interested in auditioning for this ensemble must be willing to practice outside of class and work independently on their vocal line and sight-reading skills. All auditions occur in quintets assigned by the director. The Chorus director reserves the right to deny a student the opportunity to audition if that student is not prepared for auditions.

Parent’s Responsibility to Chorus: How can parents help?

- Join Remind: enter 81010 on your cell phone and text @infochorus or you can go to this link: <https://www.remind.com/join/infochorus>
- Review the policies in the Choral Handbook and return forms.
- Take care of their instrument! Eat healthy, rest and stay hydrated.
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time each rehearsal or performance.
- **Faithful attendance to all chorus activities important!** Display correct concert Etiquette at Concerts/Events
- Buy your child a personal planner for marking important dates.
- Notify directors if the student is to be absent for rehearsals.
- Attend Booster meetings, concerts, and special events.
- JOIN the GHS CHORUS BOOSTER CLUB ☺ (Form on-line)
- Visit the chorus website frequently to be informed of current events. <http://www.gwd50.org/Domain/373>

Concert Attire:

Chorus Students are not required to purchase Concert Attire. Students have an option to use an outfit on loan from the GHS Choral Department. Students also have the OPTION to purchase their own attire. Students who are in Early Bird Chorus and Show Choir are required to purchase performance attire. (Costs for these auditioned groups vary). Outfits will be measured and ordered during September. The students will be able to use fundraising money to help cover the cost.

Chorus Women: \$60- NEW Laurel Formal Black Chorus dress from Southeastern Apparel

Chorus Men: \$60- Black tux pants, white tux shirt, black tie, and Cumberbund.

Uniform Guidelines:

1. All students are responsible for keeping their outfits clean and looking their best for ALL performances. Shirts and dresses need to be wrinkle-free for the performances.
2. Students and parents are responsible for minor repairs on outfits if needed (ex. replacing a button). The jackets are to be turned in as they were checked out.
3. Students and parents are responsible for hemming the black pants and dresses if necessary.
4. Students will be responsible for providing black dress shoes (and black socks for guys) for the concert. Sandals, clogs, and tennis shoes are not permissible.
5. No Jewelry. (small stud earrings are fine)

It is essential that everyone in a performing group dress and groom themselves uniformly. Jewelry, makeup, clothing, and hairstyle need to not call attention on one individual. If a student cuts their hair or colors their hair in a style that will call attention to themselves they should not expect to sing on the concert. All hair should be styled so that it is not in your eyes. Ultimately, the group image is more important than individuals. Students' concert dress is a portion of their performance grade.

Fundraising:

The Choral Booster Club will hold several fundraisers throughout the course of the school year. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in Fundraising that can go towards their chorus attire, Chorus trips, etc. A large portion of the money raised from fundraising will benefit the entire choral program of GHS. Fundraising is one of the facets that help make this program one of the strongest in the state. GHS Concerts that are not ticketed events are a recommended \$2.00 donation at the door.

Why is fundraising necessary for Chorus? The money pays for things such as; Choral Music, Accompanists for performances, Choreographer, Professional musicians during performances, Copying, Classroom Supplies and Teaching Materials, Piano Tuning, Festivals and Trips, Guest Clinicians,

The choral program is extremely fortunate to have supportive parents and students who fundraise. Please observe all fundraiser turn-in dates carefully. Parent volunteers handle all features of fundraisers, including money handling. If a student is late turning in money/forms/orders, it puts a strain on those handling the logistics. For certain fundraisers, orders may not be able to be met if orders are turned in late.

Student Accounts: Through fundraising and sponsorships, student may raise points specifically to go into their "student account". This account may be used for chorus trips, chorus attire, or any extra chorus fee required. *If a student graduates without using the point balance in their account, the money will be assumed into the general chorus booster operating fund. However, if the graduating senior has a younger sibling, the points may be transferred to their account.

Awards:

1. Outstanding Musician -awarded to student(s), who have exhibited outstanding achievement, attitude, work ethic, citizenship, and cooperation. Must meet the requirements listed below. **Selected by Classmates.** 2. Director's Choice Award- awarded to one student per chorus ensemble who exhibited outstanding achievement, attitude, work ethic, citizenship, cooperation, and leadership. Must meet the requirements listed below. **Selected by director.**

*Eligibility for Awards: No unexcused absences from a chorus performance, concert, after-school rehearsal, or Festival. Complete follow-through on all commitments. "A" average for the year in Chorus. Abided by all Conduct rules. Must have paid all financial obligations (Uniforms, fair-share, fund-raisers, etc.)

GHS Chorus Concerts and Events for 2021-2022 school year:

Eagle Singers Retreat Eagle Singers Only	August 6th- August 8th,	Main Street Methodist Church
Coffee House Performance All classes- required	September 13th, 7:00pm	Piedmont Technical College
All State Auditions 10th- 12th-optional	November 2nd-5th, TBD	Columbia, SC
Winter Concert All Classes- required	December 14th, 7:00pm	Greenwood Performing Arts Center

Region Choir 9th-12th optional	January 27-28	Newberry College
Lander Choral Festival Eagle Singers & Women's Choir	February- TBD	Lander University
Solo and Ensemble 9th-12th optional	February 19th	Greenwood Performing Arts Center
All State Chorus Weekend Selected students	March 3-5th	Winthrop University
Winter's End Concert All classes- required	March 15th, 7:00pm	TBD
SCMEA Choral Performance Assessment Eagle Singers only	April 4-7	Lowcountry- TBD
GHS Spring Chorus Concert All classes- required	May 17, 7:00pm	Greenwood Performing Arts Center

