

Garner Magnet High School

Choral Music Handbook



2014 – 2015

Director: Ms. Leah Godfrey

Office Phone: (919) 662-5600

Email: lgodfrey@wcpss.net

Website: <http://www.gmhschorus.org/>

Welcome to the GMHS chorus! I am very excited to work with you all. It promises to be a fantastic year full of making music together. We will have such fun refining our talents and skills as individuals and as a team!

Throughout the year we will study various types of music. We will learn how healthy vocal technique can be transferred across any and every genre. We will strengthen our abilities to read music so that we become independent musicians. Our goal will be to include basic knowledge of music history, music theory, and an understanding of conducting in order to perform to the best of our ability. I cannot wait to hear the music you will make!

If there are ever any questions, do not hesitate to get in touch with me! Students: see you in rehearsal! ☺

Ensemble Policies

1. GOALS: Most importantly, we will come up with our own goals as a group. Here are some examples:
 - Enjoy singing
 - Always participate
 - Allow your soul a rest from the day's drama
 - Maintain vocal health
 - Sing a wide variety of music
 - Focus
 - Have patience
 - Work as a team
 - Extend vocal range
 - Improve at sight-reading

This just barely touches the surface of the expectations you should have for yourself in order to be successful and proud of your work in chorus!

2. Ms. Godfrey's Expectations:
 - You should be in class and **in your assigned seat by the time the bell rings with your folder (which includes paper and pencil)**. Backpacks and other belongings should be left on the left side of the room as you enter.
 - We will follow the attendance policies designated by the school. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period. If you are late, you will need to walk around to the back door to be admitted to class. After three unexcused tardies you will face the consequences set in place by GMHS. **You are considered tardy if you are not in your seat on the risers when the bell rings.**
 - Food, drink, and gum will NOT be allowed in the chorus room. We want to keep the room we are so blessed with in great condition for all choral students. This rule is implemented for the sake of rehearsing in a healthy manner without distractions. Water bottles are certainly allowed and strongly encouraged.
 - I trust that you all can take care of personal business before class time. **The restrooms will not be used during rehearsals** with the exception of emergencies (which will be at the discretion of the director).
 - Absences from concerts will only be excused by the following:
 - Medical emergency
 - Family emergencyA parent will need to communicate these situations to Ms. Godfrey **BEFORE** the concert.
 - **ALWAYS** be respectful to yourself, your classmates, and the director.

Choral Music Objectives

Throughout the course of the school year, choral students will strengthen their skills in the following areas:

1. Count and perform rhythms in simple and compound meters
2. Identify notes on the staff in treble and bass clefs
3. Identify solfege syllables in an exercise when given “do”
4. Perform a major scale using solfege syllables & hand signs and with numbers
5. Perform sight reading exercises with others (in unison, in 2 parts, etc.)
6. Perform a variety of music in a historically and stylistically correct manner
7. Have a working musical vocabulary including, but not limited to vocabulary related to rhythm, notation, dynamics, and tempo
8. Exemplify proper choral technique with regard to posture and vocal production

Assessments (formal and informal) will be given throughout the year in order to see how students are growing.

Formal assessments:

Mid-term exam (written)
Final exam (solo performance)
Winter and Spring concerts

Informal assessments:

Small group sightreading quizzes
Folder checks
Music critiques in class (written)

Grading Policy

Students will be graded on the following:

- Classwork (50%) – positive engagement, exemplifying learned skills, working collaboratively, informal assessments, etc.
- Performances (20%) – two formal concerts, one school day field trip in spring (more information to come at a later date)
- Tests (20%) – formal assessments
- Homework (10%) – signed parent forms

Concert Attire

The GMHS Choral Department has been seen as a formal fine arts department for many decades. Students are asked to sing collegiate level music and therefore deserve to feel as though they are performing at the collegiate level. Our concert attire is **required** so that all students performing together feel a part of our successful groups.

Ladies:

Ladies' dresses will be ordered for incoming freshman, new members, or current members who need to purchase a new dress. Each choral ensemble will have the same dress so that a student may keep her dress throughout her four years in the program. The dresses are black, floor length and washable. The cost is **\$80.00, which includes hemming**. If in need of financial support, please see Ms. Godfrey *privately*. There are a *few* used dresses being sold at a discounted price.

Ladies' shoes should be very plain, low heel (no more than 1.5 in. heel) black shoes. No open toes, no sandals, no straps, no laces, no buckles, nothing shiny, etc.

Performance jewelry policy: for all formal performances students will wear only the jewelry required as part of the chorus outfit. **Die Meistersingers ladies are required to purchase the pearl/earring necklace set through the dress company for \$12.00.** I will send home more information on this soon. Ladies and gentlemen may wear stud earrings – no hoops. Ladies should not wear wristwatches or bracelets.

Gentlemen:

Die Meistersingers will continue to wear the traditional tuxedos. **Beginning Ensemble** and **Intermediate Ensemble** will have the same tuxedos, **minus** the jackets. New gentlemen will receive information regarding purchasing this attire. Uniforms for beginning men are **\$78.00** and tux coats for DM are **\$80.00**. The tuxedo company we work with, *Savvi Formalwear*, offers free alterations every year for our male chorus members. Therefore, if you grow from one year to the next, your tuxedo will be altered free of charge! Gentlemen, you **MUST** wear black socks and black dress shoes!

Obligation/Fair Share

The 2014-2015 choral music Obligation/Fair Share is the amount per student it takes to meet the Choral Booster Budget for the entire school year. The state does not fully fund our needs as a fine arts department and therefore this budget is necessary in order to provide quality experiences for every choral student at GMHS. This year's Fair Share is **\$80.00** per student. This budget goes towards needs such as: bus drivers, activity buses, music copies, folders, equipment, professional development for the director, space rental for concerts, accompanist fees, etc.

Thankfully, students are offered MANY opportunities to earn their entire obligation through fundraisers, or they may pay it all at the beginning of the year. Students will be credited all of their individual profits from each fundraiser in which they choose to participate until they have reached \$80.00 and their balance is \$0.00.

Once students have fulfilled their obligations, they may continue to fundraise if they wish. These funds can help toward individual trips (Intermediate and Die Meistersingers, or future trips for Beginning students). For students continuing in the Choral Program year to year, student account balances will carry over from year to year.

Our fundraisers for the school year are:

- Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at Aversboro Restaurant (students sell tickets)
- Fruit Fundraiser
- Christmas Tree/Wreaths Fundraiser

*Information will be sent home with students at the kick-off of EACH fundraiser.

Students should be responsible for meeting their own obligations. This program is designed so that no student should have to pay out of his or her own pockets, nor should parents have to financially subsidize their child's choral experience. No fundraiser is mandatory. A student or parent may pay an obligation.

The best way to accumulate the most profit is through PATRONS. Students will receive 100% of patron monies toward the fulfillment of their obligations. Attached you will find one patron form for your use. Extras are made available at the student's request. All patron donations are tax deductible.

Obligation/Fair Share accounts for every student should be fulfilled by December 5, 2014.

All transactions through the Booster Club should be made by check so that there is a traceable record of every transaction. Please always write your child's name in the "memo line" of your checks. Checks should always be made payable to: GMHS Choral Boosters.

GMHS Choral Department 2014-2015 Calendar
Die Meistersingers

August

- 16- Die Meistersingers Fall Retreat 11:30am – 3:30pm @ Holland's United Methodist Church
- 25- First day of school
- 27 – Pancake Fundraiser Kick-off

September

- 1- Labor Day (No School)
- 3 -Welcome Back Picnic @ Lake Benson 3:30-6pm *Council Set Up @ 3:00 (Everyone invited)
- 4 – Fall GMHS Open House, 6:30pm for Main Campus 10th – 12th grade *Parents please come*
- 5 – Early Release Day 11:55am
- 9 – Beginning Ensemble Parent Meeting, chorus classroom, 7pm
- 11, 12, 18, 19 – Ladies get measured for choral dresses in class
- 17, 18 - Tuxedo Measuring in Class (Men Only)
- 19 – Pancake Fundraiser closes - \$ Due!
- 25- Teacher Workday
- 27 – Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser @ Aversboro Restaurant, 7am – 11am
- 27 - Honors Chorus Auditions @ Meredith College (Select Students)

***Uniform Money due Soon**

October

- 3 – Fruit Fundraiser Kickoff
- 3 – Uniform Money Due (dress, tux, pearls – all students)**
- 7 – Die Meistersinger Trip Parent Meeting, chorus classroom, 7pm
- 16 – 1st DM Payment Due for Trip - \$250.00
- 17- Early Release Day 11:55 am
- 19 – Die Meisters sing at First Presbyterian Church, Raleigh 8:30am and 11:00am services
- 20 – Fruit Fundraiser Closes - \$ Due!
- 29 – Teacher Workday
- 31 – Christmas Tree Fundraiser Kickoff

November

- 4 – Intermediate Informance in chorus classroom, 7pm – all Intermediate parents invited
- 7 – Early Release 11:55am
- 8, 9 - NC Honors Chorus/NCMEA Convention, Winston-Salem, NC (select students)
- 11- Holiday
- 12 – Die Meistersingers Tri-High Dress Rehearsal, Middle Creek High School, 3:30 – 6:00pm
- 13 – Die Meistersingers Tri-High Performance, Middle Creek High School, 7:00pm
- 17 - Christmas Tree \$ & Orders DUE!
- 24 – Uniform Check!
- 26-28 - Thanksgiving Break

December

2, 3, 4 – Spring Musical Auditions

4 – Fruit Delivery

5 – Obligation Money Due

5 – Christmas Tree Delivery

6 - Die Meistersingers perform at Raleigh Moravian Tea Ceremony – TBA

9, 10, 11 – Ticket Sales (in class)

13 – Die Meistersingers perform at State Capitol Building – 3:00pm (call time TBA)

16 - Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal 2:30-5:30pm @ Aversboro Baptist (all students)

16 – 2nd DM Trip Payment Due - \$250.00

18- WINTER CONCERT @ Aversboro Baptist, 7:30pm (all students)

22 –Winter Vacation Begins

January

1 - Holiday

2 - Teacher Workday

5 – First Day Back to School

TBD – Die Meistersingers sing at Garner’s MLK Celebration

TBD – Exams

19 - Holiday (No School)

20 - Teacher Workday

Musical Rehearsals TBD

February

5, 6, 9, 10 – Singing Valentines Ticket Sales

12 - Singing Valentines

13 – Early Release 11:55am

16 – Final DM Trip Payment Due – balance TBD

Musical Rehearsals TBD

March

6 – Early Release 11:55am

9 and 10 - NCMEA Large Ensemble Festival at Meredith College (all students)

11 - SPRING MUSICAL Patron Night, 7 pm, GMHS Auditorium

12, 13, 14 - SPRING MUSICAL, 7 pm, GMHS Auditorium

16 – 1st Payment Due for Intermediate Trip - \$60.00

16 – Point Totals due (all students)

17, 18, 19 – Auditions for GMHS choral ensembles for 2015 – 2016 (in class and after school)

23 - Teacher Workday

TBA – Stars on Stage performance for Die Meistersingers

23-27 - Spring Break

30 – First day back to school

April

3 – Holiday

7 – Die Meistersingers Trip Final Parent Meeting, chorus classroom, 7pm

16 – Final Payment Due for Intermediate Trip – balance TBD

17 - Early Release Day 11:55 am

16 – 19 Die Meistersingers' Trip

24 – Garner Relay for Life, Die Meistersingers perform

May

1, 2 – All State Chorus – Raleigh, NC (select students)

12, 13, 14 - Spring Concert Ticket Sales (in class)

16 - Intermediate Trip to Busch Gardens for Music in the Parks Festival

19 - Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal 2:30-5:50pm @ Aversboro Baptist (all students)

21 - SPRING CHORAL CONCERT @ Aversboro Baptist, 7:30pm (all students)

TBA - DMs sing at Baccalaureate Ceremony at Aversboro, 3:00 (call TBA)

25 – Holiday (No School)

26 - Choral Awards Banquet – First Baptist Church CLC, 6:30pm (*Tentative date*)

June

TBD - Exams

8 - Graduation @ Raleigh Convention Center, 12:00pm (Mandatory for 2015-2016 DM)

Parent/Student Agreement

To the entire choral department – every ensemble, each student, each guardian:

It's 2014. At times these days our world can seem to just be filled with news stories depicting tragedies, struggles, loss, and grief. It is my firm belief that these fabulous young people I have the privilege of working with daily can create real change. They have within each of them a great power that grows daily based on their creativity and budding maturity. It is my biggest hope that, in our classroom, each student will feel empowered and encouraged to use that power today and on their individual paths in the future. The arts can be a great place to start to see the gifts they have and learn how to use them. In life, our students will be asked to collaborate in positive, healthy manners, express themselves clearly even when vulnerable, work with rigor even when challenged or impatient, all the while realizing their uniqueness and what strengths they can contribute to tasks. We do these things daily in rehearsals.

As their director, I can assure you I will do all in my power to help each individual student and to encourage them as they encourage me by the use of their beautiful voices – be it spoken or sung. I am blessed to have the opportunity to work with young people and look forward to it daily. They'll learn one day how wonderful it is to be able to say how much joy work can bring! Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to work with them.

Please read the bottom portion carefully and have your student detach it and return to Ms. Godfrey, signed by both parties, no later than **September 5th, 2014**.

I, _____ (print student's name), have received the 2014-2015 Choral Music Handbook. I have read through it with my parent/guardian and understand that it is my responsibility to keep track of its components. I understand that I can always ask Ms. Godfrey or another choral student for clarification if I am confused about any part of it. I vow to do my best to contribute to my ensemble and to the department in a mature, healthy, and positive manner. I understand that I am responsible for communicating upcoming events and due dates to my parent/guardian.

(Student signature)

(Date)

I, _____ (parent/guardian's name), have received the 2014-2015 Choral Music Handbook. I have read through it and understand that I may be in touch with Ms. Godfrey at any time with any questions. I am aware that the students are required to have a choral uniform and are required to pay an obligation/fair share. I plan to help Ms. Godfrey in her quest to teach the students the importance of accountability in obtaining the things they need. I know that fundraising is important for my child to participate in so that no money has to come out of my pocket. I know that my student is responsible for being present at each of the formal choral concerts during the year.

(Parent/Guardian signature)

(Date)

(Email address)