

Green Middle School Choirs

The Green Local Schools Choral Program will be a place of respect, excellence, creativity & musicianship of the highest degree. Parents and community members will experience a choral program that inspires and challenges students to reach their greatest musical potential through performance practice, music literacy, and musical expression.



Mission Statement

The mission of the Green Local Schools Choral Program is to provide a superior choral music education in which students gain musical skills and a life-long appreciation of music. Through a continued pursuit of excellence, the Green Local Schools Choral Program will strive to inspire and educate while modeling professionalism and artistry to the public as well as the music education community at large.

Covid Note:

WE WILL DISTANCE OURSELVES PHYSICALLY, NOT SOCIALLY.

WE WILL MAKE CHOIR MEANINGFUL, RELEVANT, and FUN.

WE WILL CONTINUE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD AROUND US.

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Letter from Ms. Baltes

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the Green Middle School Choral Program! My name is Allison Baltes and I have the honor of being the choir director at GMS for the second year. Outside of teaching, I love spending time cooking, hiking, spending time with friends and family, and spending time with my cats, Daisy and Lily and my bunny, Bailey. I am incredibly excited for this school year and the potential that this year will have for the Green Middle School Choral Department. I am anticipating a year full of excitement, learning, and growth with the exceptional choral students.

Covid Note: This school year is obviously different. I believe that music education is much more than just performing pieces on stage. There are so many aspects of music education outside of performing live concerts and I am so excited we have the opportunity to expand upon choir members' musical knowledge this year!

This handbook will provide you with all the information you need for the 2020-2021 school year. I ask that parents please review this handbook with your student as it is your child's tool for success in this classroom. Once you have reviewed this handbook with your student, please fill out the commitment request form at greenlocalchoirs.com **by September 1st.**

If you need to contact me for any reason throughout the year, please do not hesitate to reach me via email or school phone. My information is listed on the first page of this handbook as well as at the end of this letter. I look forward to meeting you this year! Let's make this a fantastic year!

Sincerely,
Ms. Allison Baltes
Choral Director
baltesallison@greenlocalschools.org
(330) 896-7710 ext. 614117

Course Descriptions

Seventh Grade Choir: This ensemble is composed of seventh grade students with treble, changing, and changed voices. Seventh Grade Choir is split between two class periods depending on the student's class schedule. The group will sing two-part or three-part music which will be decided when they complete their voice assessment in the first week of school. It is likely that as the year progresses, the repertoire for this ensemble will consist of more three-part music. *Covid Note:* Performances may be limited and the format in which they are potentially performed is yet to be determined.

Eighth Grade Choir: This ensemble is composed of eighth grade students with treble, changing, and changed voices. Eighth Grade Choir is split between two class periods depending on the student's class schedule. This group will sing two-part or three-part music which will be decided once they complete their voice assessment in the first week of school. It is likely that this group will sing primarily three-part music throughout the school year. *Covid Note:* Performances may be limited and the format in which they are potentially performed is yet to be determined.

Auditioned Small Ensemble(s): This is an auditioned group of singers. This ensemble will meet during lunch during the school year after auditions take place. This ensemble will perform selection(s) at choir concerts as well as in the community. *Covid Note:* Auditions will be announced if they are possible this school year. Performances may be limited and the format in which they are potentially performed is yet to be determined.

Optional:

Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Events: Solo and Ensemble allows students to participate in a solo performance or a group performance. More information will be distributed during March. *Covid Note:* OMEA Adjudicated Events are cancelled for the 2020-2021 school year. There may be a potential of virtual S&E later in the year. More information will be available later.

Honor Choir: Students may be invited to participate in Honor Choir which takes place in November at The College of Wooster. Green Middle School is permitted a small number of students to attend the Honor Choir. More information will be available in September. *Covid Note:* Honor Choir is cancelled for this school year.

Rehearsal Expectations

Students are **expected** to:

- Walk into the room respectfully.
- Discard any gum, candy, mints, food or drinks that are not water upon entering the classroom.
- Place all non-choir belongings in the square marked on the floor.
- Get their materials required for class (choir binder, pencil, and water if desired).
- Take their spot on the risers/chairs as dictated by the information on the board.
- **Students should be in their spots ready to sing 30 seconds after the bell.**

- Stay in their spot unless sharpening a pencil, grabbing a tissue, or allowed by Ms. Baltes
- Write down markings that are given during class.
- Be respectful to yourself, others around you, and your materials. If another person is talking, students should be listening silently.
- Return their materials to the correct spot in the cabinet when directed to.
- Take all their belongings with them when leaving the room.
- **Cell phones are not to be used during class.**
- **Bathrooms should be used before or after class unless it is an emergency.**

Required Materials

Each student will be required to purchase a binder with pockets (no larger than 1 inch) or folder with pockets for the school year. This will enable every student to have their music neat and protected. Each student must have a pencil with them everyday! Students are required to come with their materials every day or they will lose points for missing classroom materials.

Covid Note: This will be required once we are in-person learning.

Grading/Assessment

Daily Participation Points: Every student will begin class with 5 points everyday (excused absences are excluded from this). Class points are based on positive participation and performance, motivation, effort, cooperation, quality of work, self-evaluation, and the following of school and classroom policies and rules. Please see the rubric below for detailed expectations. Points will be deducted as expectations are not met.

Concert Attendance

Students must be at performances on time and dressed in the proper concert attire to receive full credit. Absences will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Any absence should be addressed to Ms. Baltes via email as soon as possible but at least one week before the performance.

Material Checks

Ms. Baltes will be checking student's materials during class at random. If a student is missing materials, they will not receive credit. This also includes markings students were asked to put into their music.

Covid Note: During remote learning these will not be required.

Quizzes/Tests

Given throughout the quarter to assess student's ability to show knowledge learned in class.

Music Theory Assignments

Given throughout the semester to assess a student's ability to show knowledge learned in class.

The letter grade received by students will be a culmination of all of the above criteria.

Participation Rubric

5 points per day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The student’s attention never waivers from the rehearsal. 2) The student exhibits exceptional behavior, providing a model for others. 3) The student shows a continuous effort to master the course objectives. 4) The student is inquisitive, often asking questions out of necessity as well as interest. 5) The student always has required materials in class. 6) The student is always prompt! Always in required seat, materials ready, and listening for directions at the start of class. 7) The student participates in out-of-class enrichment activities (not required).
4 points per day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The student is usually attentive, needing few or no reminders to listen attentively, refrain from talking, and follow rules for participation. 2) The student works consistently to achieve the course objectives. 3) The student sometimes asks questions and participates in classroom discussions. 4) The student occasionally forgets required materials. 5) The student is usually prompt.
3 points per day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The student often needs repeated reminders to pay attention, stop talking, participate in rehearsal and follow the school or classroom rules of behavior. 2) The student often disrupts the rehearsal. 3) The student often forgets required materials. 4) The student rarely participates in classroom discussions. 5) The student is late for class several times throughout the quarter.
2 points per day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The student is off-task most of the time. 2) The student disrupts the rehearsal and has a negative effect on the learning of others. 3) The student shows no attempt to achieve course objectives. 4) The student rarely has required materials. 5) The student is rarely on time for class.
0-1 points per day	<p>A failing grade (F) will be given when the following have taken place:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The student is a detriment to the learning of others. 2) There has been no attempt to master the course objectives or contribute to the rehearsal. 3) Timely parent contact has not had a positive effect on the situation.

- All legal documents of intervention (IEP, 504, etc.) will be observed and followed.

**Adapted from Learwood MS Choral Education Handbook, Mr. Michael Lisi, Director*

Choir Council

Council members will be elected at the beginning of the school year. Interested individuals will be elected to the position by their peers during class. Each choir class will have two officers elected to the choir council. Choir council members will be responsible for the following:

- Taking attendance during class.
 - *Covid Note:* During remote learning, council members will help to the best of their abilities
- Distribute/collect materials.
 - *Covid Note:* Not possible during remote learning
- Assists with fundraisers.

- *Covid Note:* Special consideration will be given to the collection of money and the distribution of other fundraiser materials.
- Coordinates social gatherings .
 - *Covid Note:* In person gatherings must be limited to the number of attendees as deemed appropriate by the all the above: the Centers for Disease Control, the Ohio Department of Education, the Summit County Board of Health, the Green Local School District Board of Education, GHS Administration, and the GHS Choir Director. All activities must meet the standards, guidelines, and recommendations of the entities and persons mentioned above.
- Helps with any planning, organizing, record, paperwork, etc. for choir.
 - *Covid Note:* This will be very limited during remote learning.
- Liaison between the director and choir members.

Rewards/Consequences

Rewards

- Positive recognition
- Positive email/phone call home
- Letters of reference

Consequences

- Verbal warning
- Parent contact
- Detention/Referral to office

Attendance

Students are expected to show up to class on time. They will be given 30 seconds after the bell to get their belongings and find their spot in the room.

If a student is late to class because of another teacher, the student must bring a hall pass from the other teacher in order to be excused.

Absences at Events/Concerts

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES include, but are not limited to:

- sickness without a proper doctor's note
- not having a ride (these can be arranged in advance if brought to Ms. Baltes' attention)

EXCUSED ABSENCES are limited to:

- illness with a proper doctor's note
- death of a family member
- a true emergency (this needs to be communicated with Ms. Baltes)
- conflicts with school sanctioned events (the other teacher/coach/etc. and Ms. Baltes should be informed of the situation **via email**).

If students are given a call time before a concert, make sure you are ready to sing at that time. If you are walking in the building at call time, you will be late.

Any absence must be communicated with Ms. Baltes before the concert via email. If it is an emergency, a message may be left for Ms. Baltes at (330) 896-7710 ext. 614117

Covid Note: Currently, there are no performances scheduled for this school year.

Concert Attire

All students must wear the following:

Black Tops

- Shirts must be modest and have a sleeve (no thin straps).

Black Bottoms

- Bottoms must be long enough to cover the legs completely.
- No sweatpants or jeans are permitted
- No leggings are permitted unless the top worn is long enough.

Shoes

- If you have shoes that require socks, they must be black.
- Shoes must be black and closed toed.

Hair/Jewelry

- Hair should be pulled away from the face to limit distractions while on stage.
- Only simple jewelry is allowed on stage.

If you have any questions about the concert attire, please do not hesitate to reach out to Ms. Baltes. If you need help purchasing concert attire, the Choral Program is willing to assist you!

Concert Etiquette A Friendly Reminder

Choir members and their families are expected to follow these basic expectations for formal concert behavior.

- **Refrain from talking during performances.**
- Remain seated during selections unless an emergency presents itself. Audience members leaving their seats is a big distraction for all performers.
- If you must re-enter the auditorium at any time, please do so between selections.
- Applause is an appropriate form of expressing appreciation for the performing group. **Applause should only happen once the director's hands have been lowered to indicate the completion of the selection.**
- Students and family members are encouraged to leave their cell phones at home. At the very least cell phones should be turned off. Students will store them in Mrs. Pickering's locked office until the completion of the concert.
- Students are not permitted to leave a concert until the end of the concert. This will result in a reduction of the concert attendance grade. Listening to other group's performances is a part of the learning process!

Covid Note: Currently there are no concerts scheduled for this school year.

Covid Notes

Virtual Classroom rules and procedures

1. Join the Google Meet early
2. Be attentive and participate in all activities
3. Keep your mic muted as appropriate
4. Have a POSITIVE attitude

Rewards

1. Positive recognition
2. Positive note/phone call/email home
3. Letters of reference
4. Recognition/awards at end of year

Consequences

1. Verbal/typed warning
2. Email sent to student
3. Phone call/email to parents
4. Removal from Google Meet/office referral

***All GLS/GMS rules of Remote Learning apply and will be enforced**

***Cell Phones:** Phones are a great thing. They can also be a distraction. Cell phones should not be used during the class period unless instructed to do so. If your phone becomes a distraction, it will be handled as a violation of classroom rules/procedures. Challenge yourself to limit your phone usage to between class periods, study hall, lunch, and after remote learning is finished for the day.

Grading

Student grades will be calculated in accordance with the Green Schools' 80/20 policy:

20% will be Academic Practice

- Daily Class Participation (5pts/Day)
- Singing Quizzes (Recorded or Live in class)
- Written Quizzes/Assessments
- Attendance at Sectional Google Meets if applicable

80% will be Academic Achievement

- Singing Tests (Recorded)
- Performance Based Assessments (Recorded or Live)
- Written Assessments

Online Participation and Conduct

You can earn up to 5 points each day in remote rehearsal. Class points are based on positive participation and performance, motivation, effort, cooperation, quality of work, self-evaluation, and the following of school and classroom policies and rules. See the Participation/Positive Contribution Rehearsal Rubric.

Student Conduct - Remote

1. GMS Remote Learning Guidelines apply and must be adhered to at all times.
2. Because we are in a visible position and are representatives of the school and community, please behave in a dignified manner at all times.
3. The Green Middle School Code of Conduct applies to all choir members.

Equipment and Music

1. Whenever possible, please print any music that is distributed. This will allow you to mark your music. If you do not have access to a printer, be sure to have the digital copy of music visible on a device that also allows you to view the Google Meet simultaneously.
2. Provide your own binder or folder. This will be used when in person learning resumes.
3. Provide your own pencil.
4. Provide your own earbuds/headphones. AirPods and wireless earbuds are strongly discouraged as their microphone function is inadequate to record speaking/singing.
5. You will be using your ChromeBook or other device to make recordings/videos. If you need assistance with this please ask!

Final Note

Remote Choir is a new adventure for us all. It's been said that different is not bad; it's just different. This time in history is unique and so is our existence in it. Therefore, we will adapt and adjust, and contribute positively to the world around us as well as our little corner in it. GLS Choirs are committed to making choir Meaningful, Relevant, and Fun for all of our students.

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