

Green Middle School



Choral Handbook 2023-2024

Welcome to the Green Middle School Choral Program!

My name is Samantha Weiskind and I have the honor of being the choir director at GMS for the second year. I am an Ohio State graduate originally from the Cleveland area. Outside of teaching, I love spending time with friends and family, traveling, and attending musical productions. I am incredibly excited for this school year and the potential that this year will have for the Green Middle School Choral Department. I anticipate a year full of excitement, learning, and growth for all.

As your director, I have made a professional and personal commitment to do everything to ensure the success of the Green Middle School Choir Program. I hope that you will encourage your child to also make this commitment. Your child is an integral part of our program, and we want them to share the energy, enthusiasm, and musical excellence of the GMS Choir Program!

The purpose of this handbook is to inform choir students and parents of the “workings” of the choir program at Green Middle School for the 2023-2024 school year. Please read over the handbook with your student and become familiar with this information. We hope that this handbook will answer many of the questions you may have. Please don’t hesitate to contact me via the email or telephone number below if you have any questions. **Please also make sure to click on the google form link at the end of this handbook and fill out the required Choir Commitment Form by September 1st.** The information you provide will allow me to communicate with you efficiently and effectively.

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 below. I look forward to meeting you throughout the school year. Thank you for your support!

All the best,
Miss Samantha Weiskind
GMS Choral Director
weiskindsamantha@greenlocalschools.org
(330) 896-7710 ext. 614117

About this Handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint choir students and parents with all the aspects of membership in the choirs.

GLS Choir Philosophy and Mission

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 & challenges students to reach their greatest musical potential through performance practice, music literacy, and musical expression. 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.

Purpose of Green MS Choirs

1. To promote the highest possible standards of excellence in performance, professionalism, and pride in oneself, the choir, the school, and the community
2. To provide a constructive and beneficial activity for student participation
3. To encourage school spirit and pride

Description of Middle School Choirs

Seventh Grade Choir is composed of seventh grade students with treble, changing, and changed voices. This group will sing unison and two-part music in varying styles and genres.

Eighth Grade Choir is composed of eighth grade students with treble, changing, and changed voices. This group will sing unison, two-part, and three-part music in varying styles and genres. Eighth graders will build upon music literacy skills from seventh grade and will primarily sing in three-part harmony.

A Cappella will meet after school for rehearsals. They will perform at school choir concerts as well as community events. Details will be provided with audition information during the first week of school.

Choir Extras: The following opportunities are offered to students as an additional outlet for singing. None are required to be a part of the school choral program, but are encouraged for singers wanting more involvement.

Select Choir is an opportunity for interested students to extend their involvement in choir. This ensemble is open to any GMS choir student and will meet during 8th period/PAWS to build on music literacy skills and learn additional performance repertoire.

Solo and Ensemble: individual performers or small groups choose repertoire that fits within an approved event list. Students taking solos must take private lessons to prepare their piece.

Drama Club and Musical Theater: Students interested in singing as well as dancing and acting are able to audition for the middle school musical theater production. This selected cast performs in the spring and rehearses outside of the school day. More information will be provided in the first semester of school. There will also be a fall drama club open to any students interested in acting.

Classroom Expectations & Procedures

Students should expect the following during daily rehearsals:

1. Group warm up sequence
2. Sight reading exercises
3. Music Theory skills
4. Repertoire rehearsal
5. Daily announcements

Students are expected to:

1. Be punctual
2. Be prepared with all materials (music folder/binder and pencil)
3. Be respectful toward teacher, other students, and self
4. Refrain from cell phone usage, eating, chewing gum- only water bottles on the risers
5. Maintain a positive and supportive attitude

Students not on task or refusing to follow procedures will receive the following penalties:

1. Verbal warning with clear indication of undesirable behavior
2. Student/teacher conference
3. Call home to parents
4. Detention and/or office referral
5. Removal from class, directly sent to administration

Assessment and Grading Procedures

Student grades will be calculated in accordance with Green Local Schools' 80/20 policy. Students can expect to be graded on the following:

80% of grade: Academic Achievement

Concert Attendance, Group Singing Assessments, Performance Based and Written Assessments

20% of grade: Academic Practice

Daily Class Participation (see pg. 7), Music Checks

Please note that the majority of the quarterly grade is attendance at rehearsals and performances- a full schedule is provided with those dates on the choir website.

Concert Attendance

The public performance of the music we rehearse in class is the "final test" for choir. Everyone is required to attend the full length of their group's concerts both as a performer and audience member. Students may not leave concerts early.

Absences:

Excused: School/Green Local sporting, or family events, family emergency, personal illness, or other extenuating circumstances. Parents/Guardians must email written reports explaining the reason for the absence at least one week in advance. It is the student's responsibility to see the director for a make-up assignment. Upon successful completion of the individual performance evaluation, the student will receive full assessment credit.

Unexcused: Family dinners, transportation, out of district activities. The student must successfully complete an individual performance evaluation as well as an additional alternate assignment to receive full assessment credit.

Audience Etiquette

Students are expected to attend the entire length of each concert and display appropriate audience behavior to receive full credit. We are asking all audience members to participate in the educational experience by following the guidelines below.

- Please do not talk, whisper or make other unnecessary noises during a performance. It is distracting to the performers on stage and other audience members.
- Cell phones, earbuds, airpods, headphones and all electronic devices should be turned off. Text messaging, though silent, is a distraction to the performers and other audience members. Students are not permitted to have cell phones or other electronic devices during the concert.
- Applause (clapping) is the traditional way we show appreciation for our performers. Yelling, shouting out and whistling are not appropriate for a choral concert.
- Applaud only after a song is completely finished. All soloists will receive their recognition separately at the end of each piece. To be safe, only applaud after the director has placed their hands to their sides and turns to face the audience.
- Remain seated during the musical selections and only enter or exit between musical numbers or groups. Students are expected to remain in their seats the entire concert when not performing.
- No food or drink in the auditorium.

Your cooperation in following these guidelines is appreciated. By providing an attentive, quiet audience, we are honoring our student's hard work and teaching them what it is like to perform professionally.

Choir Concert Times

Seventh and Eighth Grade Choirs will perform in various concerts throughout the year. Dates are provided on Canvas and the website on the choir calendar. Please note that every attempt is made to avoid conflicts. In the event that a date needs to be changed, students and parents will be given ample notice.

Choir Concert Attire/Other Expenses

All Green Middle School students are required to purchase a Green Local Schools Choir Shirt to wear at concerts with black dress pants and black shoes. Purchase information will be sent home within the first few weeks of school.

Students will be provided a black ½ inch binder for this class. They are responsible for the care and upkeep of these supplies, and should always have a pencil with them during class.

WE WILL STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO.

WE WILL MAKE CHOIR MEANINGFUL, RELEVANT, and FUN.

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

GMS Participation Rubric

You can earn up to 6 points each day in 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 Rubric below.

| | What it looks like | What it does not look like |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Preparation (2 pts.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Raise your hand to speak -Phone put away -Binder and pencil with you | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Talking out -Phone being used during rehearsal -Forgot materials at home |
| Leadership (2 pts.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Be on time & in place -Water only, no food/gum -Follow directions the first time -Be attentive in rehearsal -Positive rehearsal behavior -Positive Mental Attitude (PMA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Walk around and greet your friends -Coffee or eating in rehearsal -Talking during instruction -Zoning out instead of singing -Not giving your best -Complaining |
| Performance (2 pts.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Correct posture -Using hand signs when asked -Writing markings in music -Completing work -Singing with enthusiasm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Slouching -Hands in pockets -Trusting yourself to just remember -Submitting work late or incomplete -Mumble singing |

You can earn 6 points daily with 2 points per category!

Choir Participation Form

Please click the link below and fill out the Choir Participation Form by **September 1.**

Parents- please double check your preferred email addresses for accuracy when filling out this form, as well as on Progressbook. The addresses you provide are what I use to communicate with you throughout the year. Thank you!

[Information and Commitment Form 23-24](#)