

# **Green High School**



# **Choral Handbook**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Welcome to the Green High School choir program! My name is Mrs. Pickering and I have the honor of being choir director here.

I believe that music education teaches students far more than notes and lyrics to a catchy tune. Choral music gives our students meaning, joy, and passion to their lives. I love singing, teaching technique, and making music and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to do this alongside your students. Some of my out of school hobbies include cooking, Zumba, spending time with my three children, Caleb, Leah, and Micah, as well as our dog Cosmo, watching TV with my husband, and visiting my big family.

The purpose of this handbook is to give the students and parents a clear understanding of the important role that each member plays in our success. Please read through this handbook and review the performance dates thoroughly. It takes a willingness to work together, positive attitudes, and discipline to make a successful music program.

Finally, communication is one of the key ingredients toward a successful year for your singer. I will communicate with you via email and phone calls. In addition, you will be able to find a wealth of information on our new choir website: [www.greenlocalchoirs.com](http://www.greenlocalchoirs.com)

I welcome your telephone calls, e-mails and scheduled visits, and encourage your suggestions and input throughout the school year. My voice mail number is 330-896-7551. You can also reach me via email at: [pickeringjulie@greenlocalschools.org](mailto:pickeringjulie@greenlocalschools.org).

I am very excited to be your director and I am looking forward to a great year!!!

Sincerely,

Julie A. Pickering  
Green High School Choral Director

P.S. After reading this handbook, please fill out the Information Survey on the website – [www.greenlocalchoirs.com](http://www.greenlocalchoirs.com) – by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **GLS Choir Philosophy**

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.

## **GLS Choir Mission Statement**

The mission of 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.

### **A. About the Green HS Choral Music Handbook**

The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint choir students and parents with all the aspects of membership in the choirs. Read and keep this handbook in your assigned folders. It is my hope that the information included will make participation more enjoyable and rewarding.

### **B. Purpose of Green HS 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

### **C. High School Organizations**

#### *1. Select Choir*

##### A. Membership

1. Open to students grades 11-12
2. Special permission at director's discretion

##### B. Performances may include

1. School and community events
2. OMEA Contest

#### *2. Women's Chorus*

##### A. Membership

1. Any female student grades 9-12
2. Special permission given to students in other grades with schedule conflicts

##### B. Performances may include

1. School and community events
2. OMEA Contest

#### *3. Men's Chorus*

##### A. Membership

1. Any male student in grades 9-12 may participate in this ensemble

##### B. Performances may include

1. School and community events
2. OMEA Contest

#### *4. Ensemble*

- A. Membership
    - 1. The choir is a select ensemble from GHS Choirs that is auditioned by the director
    - 2. The number of students selected is left to the discretion of the director
    - 3. All rehearsals and performances are mandatory, unless prior permission is granted by director
  - B. Performances may include
    - 1. School and community events
    - 2. OMEA Solo and Ensemble Contest
    - 3. Festivals, Competitions, or other special events
    - 4. Spring Ensemble Show
5. *Special Ensembles* may be created at the director's discretion

#### **D. Officers**

Officers will be elected the first week of school. Any student who demonstrates extraordinary leadership, co-operation, a positive attitude, and responsibility can be nominated. Here is a BRIEF description of each office:

- 1. President
  - A. Presides at choir meetings
  - B. Liaison between the choir members and the director
- 2. Vice-President
  - A. Coordinates social gatherings
  - B. Helps with records, paperwork, etc. for the choir
- 3. Treasurer
  - A. Assists with collection of money for fund raisers, etc.
- 4. Secretary
  - A. Distribute and collect materials
  - B. Take attendance

#### **E. Classroom objectives and Syllabus**

- 1. Music literacy
  - A. Read and interpret music
  - B. Sight-singing
  - C. Aural skills
  - D. Music history
- 2. Music literature
  - A. Familiarization with a variety of genres
  - B. Emphasis on standard repertoire
- 3. Vocal technique
  - A. Proper and age appropriate use of vocal mechanism
  - B. Choral tone and singing
  - C. Use of diction - vowels and consonants
  - D. Vocal expression and musical line

## F. Classroom rules and procedures

1. Be punctual and prepared
2. Be attentive in rehearsals
3. Talk about the music in rehearsal
4. Have a POSITIVE attitude

### Rewards

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

### Consequences

1. Verbal warning
2. Student/teacher conference
3. Phone call to parents
4. Detention and/or Office referral

### \* Severe Clause:

Removed from class and sent directly to an administrator

## G. Grading

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

80% will be Academic Achievement

- Concert Attendance
- Singing Tests
- Performance Based Assessments
- Written Assessments

20% will be Academic Practice

- Daily Class Participation
- Singing Quizzes
- Written Quizzes
- Attendance at Sectionals

### 1. Classroom Participation and Conduct

You can earn up to 5 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/Positive Contribution Rehearsal Rubric. **Please note: NO CELL PHONES PERMITTED IN REHEARSAL AREA.** If you have your cell phone in class, you will be asked to hand it in until the end of the class period. After the first offense, you will be issued a Friday school if this policy is violated.

### Attendance at Performances

Public performance of the music we rehearse in class is the "final test" for choir. Therefore, you must participate in ALL performances of the choir in which you are a member. If there is a conflict with the scheduled performance, please see the section below, Absence from a Performance.

You can earn full credit for **EACH** performance during the quarter by:

- ✓ Attending all performances
- ✓ Being prompt for all performances
- ✓ Being well groomed and wearing required concert attire
- ✓ Making a positive contribution to the performance
- ✓ Observing proper concert etiquette

### \* **Absence from a Performance**

While concerts have been planned around the district calendar, unavoidable conflicts will come up. Absences can be excused or unexcused. If you have any concerns or questions about an excused absence, please contact me.

1. Excused - If you have a conflict with a performance, due to a school, Greene Local sporting, or family event, turn in the "ABSENCE REQUEST FORM" three days before the performance. I will notify you the next day if your request is approved. If an emergency illness, accident, or occurrence arises prior to a performance, call the school and leave a voicemail for me at 330-896-7551. Emergencies are excused **only when I am notified by phone IN ADVANCE!** The first time you return to choir after the emergency, bring a written excuse from a parent stating the reason you were absent. Any excused absence will be given an alternate assignment in order to make up the grade missed by the performance absence.
2. Unexcused - Extraordinary circumstances will be handled on an individual basis, but an absence for any other reason is usually not be excused. In this case you could not do an alternate assignment in place of the performance and you would not be able to earn the points toward your grade.

### **H. Student Conduct**

1. Because we are in a visible position and are representatives of the school and community, please behave in a dignified manner at all times
2. The Green High School Code of Conduct applies to all choir members.

### **I. Concert Attire**

1. Select Choir
  - a. Choir Robes (provided)
  - b. ALL black dress slacks (no jeans, yoga pants or sweat pants)
  - c. ALL black, closed toed dress shoes (no tennis shoes/sandals)
  - d. ALL black, full length socks
2. Women's Choir

- a. ALL black dress slacks (no jeans, yoga pants or sweat pants)
  - b. ALL black, closed toed dress shoes (no tennis shoes/sandals)
  - c. ALL black, full length socks
3. Men's Chorus
- a. ALL black dress slacks (no jeans, yoga pants or sweat pants)
  - b. ALL black, dress shoes (no tennis shoes/sandals)
  - c. ALL black, full length socks
  - d. White, long sleeved button up dress shirt
  - e. Tie - provided

**J. Care of equipment, music and facilities**

- 1. Students are responsible for any and all equipment issued to them including folders, music, robes, etc. If damage or loss occurs, the student will be fined.

**K. Safety:**

Students are not to be in the choir room, lobby, auditorium, etc. without the express knowledge and permission of the director. In the same way, parents are not to be in the building during curricular or extra-curricular rehearsals without the knowledge of the director. Students who do not adhere to this policy will be reported to administration via Public Works.

**L. Final Note**

If a student engages in behaviors that are a violation of school policy, seen as harmful to him/herself or others, etc., the student will not be permitted to participate in any rehearsals, trips, performances, or activities that occur outside the regular GHS school day.

# Participation/Positive Contribution Rehearsal Rubric

<p><b>A</b> (23-25pts/Week)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The student's attention never waivers from the rehearsal.</li> <li>2) The student exhibits exceptional behavior, providing a model for others.</li> <li>3) The student shows a continuous effort to master the course objectives.</li> <li>4) The student is inquisitive, often asking questions out of necessity as well as interest.</li> <li>5) The student always has required materials in class.</li> <li>6) The student is always prompt! Always in required seat, materials ready, and listening for directions at the start of class.</li> <li>7) The student participates in out-of-class enrichment activities (not required).</li> </ol>
<p><b>B</b> (20-22pts/Week)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The student is usually attentive, needing few or no reminders to listen attentively, refrain from talking, and follow rules for participation.</li> <li>2) The student works consistently to achieve the course objectives.</li> <li>3) The student sometimes asks questions and participates in classroom discussions.</li> <li>4) The student occasionally forgets required materials.</li> <li>5) The student is usually prompt.</li> </ol>
<p><b>C</b> (18-19pts/Week)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The student often needs repeated reminders to pay attention, stop talking, participate in rehearsal and follow the school or classroom rules of behavior.</li> <li>2) The student often disrupts the rehearsal.</li> <li>3) The student often forgets required materials.</li> <li>4) The student rarely participates in classroom discussions.</li> <li>5) The student is late for class several times throughout the quarter.</li> </ol>
<p><b>D</b> (15-17pts/Week)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The student is off-task most of the time.</li> <li>2) The student disrupts the rehearsal and has a negative effect on the learning of others.</li> <li>3) The student shows no attempt to achieve course objectives.</li> <li>4) The student rarely has required materials.</li> <li>5) The student is rarely on time for class.</li> </ol>
<p><b>F</b> (0-14pts/Week)</p>	<p>A failing grade (F) will be given when the following have taken place:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The student is a detriment to the learning of others.</li> <li>2) There has been no attempt to master the course objectives or contribute to the rehearsal.</li> <li>3) Timely parent contact has not had a positive effect on the situation.</li> </ol>

- All legal documents of intervention (IEP, 504, etc.) will be observed and followed.
- Band and Choir are academic classes and carry the same weight on the grade point average as other classes (math, science, etc.).

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