

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.

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Letter from Ms. Baltes

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the Green Middle School Choral Program! I am incredibly excited for this school year and everything that is to come from the Green Middle School Choral Department. This will be my first year as the Choir Director at GMS and I am anticipating a year full of excitement, learning, and growth with the exceptional choral students.

This handbook will provide you with all the information you need for the 2019-2020 school year. I will review the entirety of this handbook with all GMS choral students during the first week of school. Please review this handbook with your student as it is your child's tool for success in the classroom. Once you have reviewed this handbook with your student, please fill out the commitment request form at greenlocalchoirs.com **by August 30th**. This is worth 20 points and is vital to assure that you stay informed throughout the school year.

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 cover of this handbook as well as at the end of this letter. I look forward to meeting you throughout the year!

Sincerely,
Ms. Allison Baltes
Choral Director
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Course Description

Seventh Grade Choir: This ensemble is comprised of seventh grade students with treble, changing, and changed voices. This choir is split between two class periods depending on the student's class schedule. This group will sing a mixture of 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. This group will perform at least once in the community of Green during the school year.

Eighth Grade Choir: This ensemble is comprised of eighth grade students with treble, changing, and changed voices. This choir is split between two class periods depending on the student's class schedule. This group will either 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. This group will perform at least once in the community of Green during the school year.

Auditioned Small Ensemble: This is an auditioned group comprised of eighth graders. This ensemble will meet during lunch at least two times a week during the school year after auditions take place. This ensemble will perform their own selection(s) at choir concerts as well as in the community. The auditions will be announced in the beginning of the school year and there will be more information as auditions approach.

Optional:

Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Events: Solo and Ensemble will take place April 18th at Stanton Middle School (1175 Hudson Rd. Kent, Ohio, 44240). Solo and Ensemble allows students to participate in a solo performance or a group performance. More information will be distributed during March.

Honor Choir: Students may be invited to participate in Honor Choir which takes place November 7th and 8th 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.

Required Materials

Each student will be required to purchase a red or white 1/2 inch three-ring binder from the bookstore. The bookstore is located within the school and is open before school to the left of the main office. **The price is \$3.00. Eighth grade students will purchase a white binder and seventh grade students will purchase a red binder.** This will enable every student to have their music neat and protected in a way that two pocket folders do not. **This will be due by September 2nd and is worth 10 points.**

Each student must have a pencil with them everyday! A few pencils will be available to borrow, but it is expected that you bring your own. You will lose points for missing materials if you are using a borrowed pencil.

Section/Student of the Week

Every week, one student and one section of the choir will be selected from each class based on attitude, participation, and going above and beyond what they are expected to do.

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. (Ex. “Change this half note to a quarter note). Student’s music will be assessed occasionally for credit.
- 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.** There are pockets on the wall for storage. Ms. Baltes has provided a charging station for the student’s convenience.
- **Bathrooms should be used before or after class unless it is an emergency.**

Grading/Assessment

Daily Participation Points: Every student will have 5 points when they walk into the room everyday (excused absences are excluded from this). Students will keep their points for the day if the rehearsal expectations are followed. Points will be deducted as expectations are not met. Please see the participation rubric below.

Concert Attendance (100 points)

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 as soon as possible but at least one week before the performance.

Material Checks (10 points)

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.

Quizzes/Tests

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

Music Theory Assignments/Worksheets

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

Participation/Positive Contribution 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*

The letter grade received by students will be a culmination of all of the above criteria. Do not be overwhelmed by the amount of assessment as every student is given tools to be successful in and out of class. Ms. Baltes is committed to seeing that every student is given the tools to succeed in class.

Rewards/Consequences

Rewards

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

Consequences

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

In extreme cases, a student will be removed from class and sent to an administrator.

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.

An unexcused absence from school will result in a loss of participation points for the day.

If you anticipate a conflict with a concert, please let Ms. Baltes know ASAP.

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

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 **at least one week before via the online form**)

Any absence must be communicated with Ms. Baltes at least one week before the performance via the form on greenlocalchoirs.com. If it is an emergency, a message may be left for Ms. Baltes at (330) 896-7710 ext. 614117

Concert Attire

All students must wear the following:

Black Tops

- Shirts must be modest and have a sleeve.

Black Bottoms

- Bottoms must be long enough to cover the legs completely.
- No leggings/sweatpants/jeans are permitted under any circumstances.

Shoes

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

Hair

- 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, Crescendo Choral Boosters is ready and willing to assist you!

The students will wear their choir shirt (more information will be sent home in the first three weeks of school) and jeans for the spring concert.

Concert Etiquette A Friendly Reminder

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

- **Refrain from all 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!