

Green High School



Choral Handbook & Syllabus

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

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.

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 by September 1st

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 by Audition Only

1. Open to students grades 10-12
2. Special permission at director's discretion

B. Performances may include

1. School and community events
2. Yuletide Feaste
3. OMEA Contest
4. Other performances as deemed appropriate by director

2. Treble Choir

A. Membership

1. Any treble singer/student grades 9-12

B. Performances may include

1. School and community events
2. OMEA Contest
3. Other performances as deemed appropriate by director

3. Tenor-Bass Choir

A. Membership

1. Any tenor-bass singer/student in grades 9-12 may participate in this ensemble

B. Performances may include

1. School and community events
2. OMEA Contest
3. Other performances as deemed appropriate by director

4. *GHS A Cappella Ensemble*

A. Membership

1. The choir is a select ensemble from GHS Choirs that is auditioned by the director.
2. Inclusive of all a cappella groups - SATB; SSA(A); TT(B)
3. The number of students selected is left to the discretion of the director
4. Students must be dual enrolled in Ensemble and a Concert Choir
5. Rehearsals and performances are mandatory, unless prior permission is granted by the director. Rehearsals are held exclusively outside of school, Mondays from 6-9pm

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. Other performances as deemed appropriate by director

5. *Special Ensembles* may be created at the director's discretion. Any student run/directed ensemble is not sanctioned or endorsed by the GHS Choral Music Department.

D. Officers

Officers will be elected the first weeks 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 planning, 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
- C. Introduction to Solo Literature
- D. Music History/Culture
- E. Music Appreciation/Analysis

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
- Other Assessments as determined

20% will be Academic Practice

- Daily Class Participation
- Singing Quizzes
- Written Quizzes
- Attendance at Sectionals
- Other Assessments as determined

1. Classroom Participation and Conduct

You can earn up to 6 points each day in rehearsal, which fall into the following categories: Preparation, Performance, Leadership. 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.**

2. Attendance at Performances & Rehearsals

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.

Rehearsals are necessary for the performance to display the level of excellence we seek. Therefore, if any scheduled rehearsals that take place outside of class time are required. Please plan accordingly.

You can earn full credit for **EACH** performance/outside rehearsal 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, Green 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
 - e. GLS Choir Shirt
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
 - d. GLS Choir Shirt
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
 - f. GLS Choir Shirt

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.
2. Students must provide their own:
 - a. Choir binder for this school year. The binder should be a standard three ring binder, minimum thickness of ½ inch. Color/style is optional.
 - b. Pencil and eraser for making music. Color/style is optional. NO PENS, MARKERS, ETC.

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.

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.

Participation/Positive Contribution Rehearsal Rubric

<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">A</h2> <p>(30-27pts/Week)</p>	<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).
<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">B</h2> <p>(24-26pts/Week)</p>	<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.
<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">C</h2> <p>(21-23pts/Week)</p>	<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.
<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">D</h2> <p>(18-20pts/Week)</p>	<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.
<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">F</h2> <p>(0-17pts/Week)</p>	<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.
- 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*

Think about it like this.....

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

	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