

Green Middle School



Choral Handbook 2021-2022

Dear Parent or Guardian,

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 third year. Outside of teaching, I love spending time cooking, hiking, spending time with friends and family, and spending time with my pets. 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.

Last school year was obviously different than any other year we've experienced. We are excited to be back to some semblance of normal this year. 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 2021-2022 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 below. I look forward to meeting you this year! Let's make this another fantastic year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Allison Baltes

Choral Director

baltesallison@greenlocalschools.org

(330) 896-7710 ext. 614117

A. About the Green MS 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 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

C. Middle School Organizations

1. **Seventh Grade Choir-** This ensemble is composed of seventh grade students with treble, changing, and changed voices. The group will sing unison, 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.

2. **Eighth Grade Choir-** This ensemble is composed of eighth grade students with treble, changing, and changed voices. 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.

3. **Auditioned Small Ensemble(s)-** This is an auditioned group of singers. This ensemble will meet after school during the school year once auditions take place. This ensemble will perform selection(s) at choir concerts as well as in the community. Details will be provided once auditions are announced at the beginning of the year.

D. Officers

Choir Officers will be elected the first week of school. Any student who demonstrates extraordinary leadership, cooperation, a positive attitude, and responsibility can be nominated. There will be two representatives from each class period that will serve as choir officers. They will be elected during the beginning of the school year.

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. 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

1. Classroom Participation and Conduct

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 in this handbook.

Please note: NO CELL PHONES PERMITTED IN REHEARSAL AREA.

2. Attendance at Performances

The 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.

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, Green Local sporting, or family event, please email me (baltesallison@greenlocalschools.org) at least a week in advance of the performance. If an emergency illness, accident, or occurrence arises prior to a performance, call the school and leave a voicemail for me at 330-896-7710 ext. 614117. 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 excused. In this case you would not be given an alternate assignment in place of the performance and you would not be able to earn points toward your grade.

H. Concert Attire

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.

I. Care of equipment, music and facilities

Students are responsible for any and all resources distributed to them.

J. Materials

Students are required to purchase a folder or binder and a pencil for this class. Any other materials will be provided for the students.

GMS Participation Rubric

	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!