

Grass Lake Choral Handbook



2016-2017

Mrs. Stevens

6-12 Choir Director

Dear Grass Lake Choir Parents and Students,

Welcome to choir! I am looking forward to a wonderful year as a group, to learning a lot about each other and learning about the beautiful art of singing. This year will be an exciting year filled with more concerts, combined choir activities, and a Musical Theatre experience as we go on a trip to see a Broadway Musical! We will also be participating in our District Choral Festival, Jackson Area Choir Invitational, and entering soloists and small groups in the District Solo & Ensemble competition, and hopefully advancing some singers to State Festival and Solo & Ensemble! I want to thank all of you for being a part of our Vocal Music Program at Grass Lake, and for supporting the performing arts. If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I believe the key to a great relationship is communication. I always want to be available to help, encourage, and problem-solve whenever it is needed. We are going to have a great year!

Mrs. Stevens

6-12 Choral Director

School phone number: 517-867-5616

E-mail: Kristi.Stevens@grasslakeschools.com

Course Materials

All music and sight-reading materials will be provided by Mrs. Stevens. EVERY student must bring their own pencil and choir folder, that will stay in the choir room for the year. You will be assigned a cubby to keep your choir materials in.

Grading Policy

Your grade in choir will NOT be based off of your ability to sing. Rather, it will be based upon your participation, attitude, and your personal growth as a singer and musician. You are given 50 participation points per week and 10 points for your graded bell work. Bell work is done at the beginning of class, and is strictly graded on your effort to do the work, not the accuracy of your answers. Points will be deducted daily for lack of participation, failing to do your daily bell work, tardiness to choir class, excessive talking during rehearsal time, or poor attitude. Your overall grade will be based on 60% daily participation and bell work points, 40% concert attendance and behavior. **CONCERT GRADES WILL BE LOWERED FOR POOR BEHAVIOR OR NOT FOLLOWING DRESS CODE AT CONCERTS AND FESTIVALS!**

Exams

An exam will be given at the end of each semester. You are expected to participate in this, and it is required to pass the class. Each exam will be different, based on a combination of sight-reading, tonal memory, and a small group or solo performance prepared by the student.

Concert Attendance

You are required to attend ALL choir concerts and Choral Festival dates. A concert is a test in which a student must demonstrate what has been learned in class. It shows their commitment to the choir, and you are all needed to make a successful performance. If you are unable to attend a concert for emergency purposes, please notify me as soon as possible. Remember, choir is a part of your academic day. Only absences due to severe illness or family emergencies will be excused. If you do have an excused absence from a concert, you will be assigned a 3-5 page paper written on the composer of my choice. This must be turned in no later than 1 week after the concert date.

REHEARSAL RUBRIC

The following rubric provides the expectations for choral rehearsals will aide in your success in the choir and grading.

A

- The student always has a helpful and pleasant attitude in class.
- The student always participates in classroom activities.
- The student never talks out or intentionally disrupts the class.
- The student is always attentive and cooperative.
- The student has all required rehearsal materials.
- The student always applies his/her best effort to the music.

B

- The student sometimes has a helpful and pleasant attitude in class.
- The student usually participates in classroom activities.
- The student almost never talks out or intentionally disrupts class.
- The student is usually attentive and cooperative.
- The student has all required rehearsal materials most of the time.
- The student usually applies his/her best effort to the music.

C

- The student occasionally has a helpful and pleasant attitude in class.
- The student participates about 50% of the time.
- The student talks or disrupts the class about 50% of the time.
- The student is attentive and cooperative about half the time.
- The student has all required rehearsal materials about half the time.
- The student applies his/her best effort about half the time.

D

- The student rarely has a helpful and pleasant attitude in class.
- The student rarely participates in classroom activities.
- The student often talks or disrupts class.
- The student is rarely attentive or cooperative.
- The student rarely has all required rehearsal materials.
- The student rarely applies his/her best effort.

E

- The student virtually never has a helpful and pleasant attitude in class.
- The student virtually never participates in classroom activities.
- The student is frequently noisy and disruptive.
- The student is virtually never attentive and cooperative.
- The student virtually never has all required rehearsal materials.
- The student is making little or no effort to learn music.

Classroom Rules

- Students are expected to care for and maintain all school properties, choral texts, Grass Lake choir materials, music department equipment, and furnishings in an appropriate manner. Any lost or damaged music will be the responsibility of the student at the replacement cost. Any copied sheets are substantiated by purchased originals and are to be discarded after educational use.
- The director's office, desk and surrounding area is off-limits to students.
- HS practice rooms are not to be used without director approval. Anyone caught vandalizing, loitering or using the practice rooms or practice hallway in any inappropriate way will be issued, at minimum an after school detention.
- Garbage and trash belong in the appropriate receptacles. Anyone caught discarding trash in the classroom or music department hallways, may be required to return for after-school custodial clean up at the director's discretion.
- **NO FOOD OR GUM** is allowed in the choir room! Choir is a time for learning and musical growth, not snack time. **ONLY** water or decaffeinated tea are acceptable drinks. No pop, coffee, Gatorade, etc. is allowed.

Important Dates

- **Select Choir: National Anthem at Homecoming: Friday, September 30th, report at 6:00 p.m.**
- **Select Choir: Broadway Show: TBD**
- **High School COMBINED CHOIR & BAND Winter Concert: Thursday, December 8, 7:00 p.m.**
- **Middle School Winter Concert: Thursday, December 15, 7:30 p.m.**
- **High School District Solo & Ensemble: January 13-14, 2017, Western High Schools**
- **Middle School District Solo & Ensemble (optional): May 6, 2017, Northwest HS**
- **High School Choral Festival: Feb 22-23, 2017 Holt High School**
- **7-12 Jackson Area Choir Invitational: Date TBD, Grass Lake High School**
- **Middle School Choral Festival: March 22-23, 2017 Holt High School**
- **Select Choir: Baccalaureate: Wednesday, May 31, 7:00 p.m. Location TBA**

- **Middle and High School Spring Concert: Tuesday, May 16, 6:00 p.m.**

Choir Uniforms

****Please address this now, as it is often difficult to find things at the last minute.**

Middle School Choirs: Solid white tops, black dress pants (or length-appropriate black skirts for girls) and black shoes.

High School Mixed Choir: Ladies will need black dress shoes, and men will need black dress pants and shoes, and black dress socks. Choir robes will be assigned to you.

High School Select Choir: Formal dresses and tuxes will be assigned to you. Ladies will also need silver dress shoes. Gentlemen will need black dress shoes and black socks.

To Do list: Due by Friday, October 7, 2016

- Fill out online “Choir Student Information Form” by going to this link. <https://goo.gl/forms/vpYmDAMK8tsmetwgl> This will help me create an e-mail list to send home important information. If you don't have email, please make sure your choir student always knows to bring a paper copy home.
 - Students and parents BOTH sign up for “Remind”, this is a program that text and/or email you information depending on how you setup your account. I will use this primarily for short quick reminders about events or things happening in class. This is a two way communication method so replies will go directly to my phone if you have questions.
 - HS Select: <https://www.remind.com/join/glselect>
 - HS Mixed: <https://www.remind.com/join/glmixed>
 - 8th Grade: <https://www.remind.com/join/glchoirs8>
 - 7th Grade: <https://www.remind.com/join/glchoirs7>
 - 6th Grade: <https://www.remind.com/join/glchoirs6>
- ** If you already have a Remind account sign in and use these class codes:**
- HS Select: glselect
 - HS Mixed: glmixed
 - 8th Grade: glchoirs8

- 7th Grade: glchoirs7
- 6th Grade: glchoirs6

**Please sign and return this page by Friday,
October 7, 2016.**

We have read over the handbook together, and understand the requirements of Vocal Music at Grass Lake Schools.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____