

Grass Lake Choral Handbook



2022-2023

Mrs. Stevens

6-12 Choir Director

Dear Grass Lake Choir Students and Parents,

Welcome to choir! I am looking forward to a wonderful year as a group, to learning a lot about each other and developing our vocal performance and pedagogy skills. 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 **open communication**. I always want to be available to help, encourage, and problem-solve whenever it is needed. I am always on your team and am here to help! 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

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Course Materials

All music and sight-reading materials will be provided by Mrs. Stevens. **EVERY student must bring their own pencil, highlighter 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 on 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. 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.
- **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.
- 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. A concert 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 and skipping a concert will result in a ZERO for the concert!**
- 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

A

- The student always has a helpful and pleasant attitude in class.
- The student always participates and works hard in class.
- The student hardly ever talks out or intentionally disrupts the class.
- The student is always attentive and cooperative.
- The student has all required rehearsal materials.

B

- The student sometimes has a helpful and pleasant attitude in class.
- The student usually participates and works hard in class.
- 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.

C

- The student occasionally has a helpful and pleasant attitude in class.
- The student participates/applies themselves 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.

D

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

E

- The student virtually never has a helpful and pleasant attitude in class.
- The student virtually never participates/applies themselves in class.
- The student is frequently noisy and disruptive.
- The student is virtually never attentive and cooperative.
- The student virtually never has all required rehearsal materials.

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! ONLY water or decaffeinated tea are acceptable drinks. No pop, coffee, Gatorade, etc. is allowed.
- Field trips are open to all choir students that are IN GOOD STANDING with the choir program. Leadership grades, academic standing and behavior in choir will all be considered.

Important Dates – Please see updated Handbook on Schoology for correct dates!

- **High School Choirs: National Anthem at Homecoming: Friday, September 30, report to the HS choir room at 6:15 p.m.**
- **Select Choir: Broadway Show: Thursday, October 20 at 6:00 p.m.**
- **COMBINED MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL Choirs Winter Concert: TBD**
- **High School District Solo & Ensemble: January 27 & 28, 2023 @TBA**
- **High School Choral Festival: Feb 15 & 16, 2023 @ Charlotte HS**
- **Middle School Choral Festival: March 17 & 22, 2023 @ GLHS**
- **Middle School Solo & Ensemble (optional): April 29, 2023 @ TBA**
- **Select Choir: Baccalaureate: Wednesday, May 31 at 7:00 p.m. Location TBA**
- **High School COMBINED CHOIR & BAND Spring Concert: TBA**
- **Middle School COMBINED CHOIR & BAND Spring Concert: TBA**

****TBA Winter and Spring concert dates: A date will be chosen to avoid or minimize any athletic conflicts. Once these dates are set they will not be changed even if an athletic event is added to the calendar at a later time.**

Choir Uniforms - items listed are what YOU are responsible for having

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

Middle School Choirs: Black dress pants (or length-appropriate black skirts for ladies) 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 or nude dress shoes. Gentlemen will need black dress shoes and black socks.

To Do list: Due by Friday, September 16, 2022

- Students and parents should BOTH be registered through Schoology. I send messages and updates frequently and it's best to keep everyone informed!

**Please copy this statement and send it through a
SCHOLOGY message by Friday, September 16:**

We, (parent/guardian and student name) have read the handbook together, and understand the requirements of Vocal Music at Grass Lake Schools.