

Grant Public Schools Choir Handbook

2014-2015



Grant Public Schools Choral Handbook

Dear Choir Members and Parents:

First of all, I would like to say the I am extremely excited to have you (or your child) in choir and looking forward to a fantastic year! This handbook is designed to inform you and your parents of pertinent information about being a member of the choir, such as grading criteria, uniforms, performance responsibilities, a calendar of events, and expected behavior. I encourage students and parents to sit down together and read this handbook so we are all on the same page.

I would also like to invite you to become a part of the Grant Music Boosters. The Music Boosters is a group that promotes quality music education, helps raise funds for your student's musical experiences, and encourages the Fine Arts of Grant Public Schools.

The Boosters help to provide funding for music, trip expenses, scholarship money, and uniforms to name a few. Grant's music ensembles have thrived and continue to grow with a strong Booster program. Monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at 6:00 PM in the High School Band Room. The more people get involved, the stronger we will become to give our students a fantastic musical experience. There can always be more support, especially from Choir parents. Please join us and help the music programs continue to build and grow.

If any questions arise, please feel free to contact me at Grant High School.

Grant High School: (231) 834-5622 x493
Grant Middle School: (231) 834-5910 x369

I am looking forward to a great year!!

Cordially,

Lukas Sweers,
Vocal Music Teacher

General Guidelines

Rules & Rehearsals

1. **Respect** - Interact with people, property , and yourself with the utmost amount of respect at all times.
 - a. **Raise Your Hand** - If you need to ask a question or get my attention, please raise your hand. Chaos erupts when everyone talks at their leisure.
 - b. **Be on Time** - This means in the room and ready to go. Walking in when the bell rings does not cut it, and you will be marked tardy. Have your music ready and be prepared to jump right in.
2. **THROW OUT YOUR GUM** - Absolutely no gum chewing while you are in choir. It is dangerous to sing with gum in your mouth due to the possibility of choking.
3. **Have a Pencil** - As a choir, we will be marking out music with pencil, **not pen**. You will need a pencil so you do not miss rehearsal information.
4. **Do Your Personal Best** - I can't ask for more than your best. If everyone strives to do their best then choir will be a rewarding experience.

Grading Criteria

1. **Tests and Quizzes (various points per test)**
2. **Performances (40 Points per performance)**
 - a. Attendance
 - i. on time for warm-ups
 - ii. Proper uniform
 - iii. Music is learned and memorized
 - iv. **Students must stay for the entire concert to receive full credit.**
 - b. Absences: *In order to be excused, excuses must be submitted to the director two weeks in advance of the concert, in writing. Exceptions are honored at the director's discretion.*
3. **Participation (3 points per day)**
 - a. Everyone starts with an A. If you receive 2 points on a day you will lose 1 point from your A. If you receive a 1 then you lose 2 points.
 - b. Preparation
 - i. Choir Folder/Music - If unprepared/missing, 1 point is deducted.
 - ii. Gum Chewing - If chewing gum, 2 points are deducted.
 - c. Effort
 - i. Personal Best is expected
 - ii. Classroom Rules and Student Code of Conduct apply at all times
4. **Extra Credit (Various Points)**
 - a. Extra Credit is available. If interested, see the director.

Concert Attire

High School

Men

Black Shoes
Black Socks
White Undershirt
Tuxedo (Provided)
Deodorant yes... Cologne NO!!!

Women

Black Shoes (NO flip flops)
Black Dress (Provided)
Deodorant yes... Perfume NO!!!

Middle School

Men

Black Shoes and Socks
Black Pants
Black, White, or Gray Dress Shirt
Deodorant yes... Cologne NO!!!

Women

Black Shoes (NO flip flops)
Black Pants or Skirt (minimum of knee length)
Black, White, or Gray Dress Shirt
Deodorant yes... Perfume NO!!!

Concert Etiquette

Choir members must realize that they are part of a team, a team which is only as strong as its weakest member. They are encouraged to support one another for the good of the choral program as a whole. An important member of the performance is the audience. It is crucial that they demonstrate the same support and encouragement as the rest of the team members. I would like to make some suggestions which may strengthen this support:

- Please hold your applause until the piece is finished as signaled by the conductor dropping his hands.
- Please do not go to your seat, leave your seat, or return to your seat until there is a break in the program. This break could occur at the end of a piece, or more easily, at the end of a performing group. Excessive movement not only breaks the concentration of the performers, but also disrupts the listeners.
- Please refrain from using flash photography as much as possible, because it is distracting for all.
- Do not bring food or drink into the Fine Arts Center. This will help maintain the beauty and craftsmanship.
- Choirs seated in the audience need to remember these suggestions as well.

Sacred Music

Sacred music will be performed throughout the duration of the school year. Omitting sacred music from the curriculum would create an incomplete choral experience. Teaching of such music will be purely musical and neutrally presented with no influence of spiritual beliefs.