



# **Choral Department Handbook 2016-2017**

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Please fill out the online form, confirming you have read the handbook and submit it by September 2<sup>nd</sup>, for a grade. To complete the form type in the link below or go to the Griffin MS Choir website and click on the tab "Choir Forms and Remind 101".

<https://goo.gl/forms/ff2k0NdrYnSl37t13>

## **Griffin Middle School Choirs: Curricular**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Girls/Guys – Un-auditioned** ensemble open to sixth grade students. This course series serves as the training choir for upper level choirs. Students enrolled in the course will develop their singing, listening, sight-reading, and music theory skills, as well as develop an understanding for music of different styles and cultures.

**Women's Choir – Un-auditioned** choir open to seventh grade and eighth grade women only and specializes in the performance of treble choir music. Previous enrollment in sixth/seventh grade choir is not required. Women's Choir has the opportunity to travel to UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest as a non-varsity treble choir and has the option to compete in local and regional choral competitions. Membership requires attendance at extra-curricular activities, including concerts, rehearsals, and/or sectionals.

**Men's Choir – Un-auditioned** choir open to seventh grade and eighth grade men only and specializes in the performance of tenor bass choir music. Previous enrollment in sixth/seventh grade choir is not required. Men's Choir has the opportunity to travel to UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest as a non-varsity tenor bass choir and has the option to compete in local and regional choral competitions. Membership requires attendance at extra-curricular activities, including concerts, rehearsals, and/or sectionals.

**Select Women's Choir – Auditioned** choir open to seventh and eighth grade women only and specializes in the performance of treble choir music. Previous enrollment in Sixth Grade Choir or Women's Choir is required. Select Women's Choir travels to UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest each year and has the option to compete in local and regional choral competitions. Membership requires attendance at extra-curricular activities, including concerts, rehearsals, and/or sectionals.

## **Griffin Middle School Choirs: Extra-Curricular**

**Men's Show Choir – Auditioned** premier choral ensemble at GMS and is open to seventh and eighth grade male choir members by audition only. Audition is held the first week of school. Show choir meets during club time and is a year-long club. Students are expected to pass all classes and represent the Griffin Choirs in a positive and professional manner. This group travels throughout the community each year and also competes in the Hurricane Harbor Choir festival. Membership requires attendance at extra-curricular activities, including concerts, rehearsals, and/or sectionals.

**Women's Show Choir - Auditioned** premier choral ensemble at GMS and is open to seventh and eighth grade female choir members by audition only. Audition is held the first week of school. Show choir meets during club time and is a year-long club. Students are expected to pass all classes and represent the Griffin Choirs in a positive and professional manner. This group travels throughout the community each year and also competes in the Hurricane Harbor Choir festival. Membership requires attendance at extra-curricular activities, including concerts, rehearsals, and/or sectionals.

## **Class Fees and Expenses**

Most costs of participating in choir are covered by the GMS Choral Department's budget; however, participation does require some financial commitment.

**To help offset these costs, a \$35 choir fee is due by September 9<sup>th</sup>. This fee includes a t-shirt, music, and basic choir supplies. The fee helps to subsidize costs for transportation, trips, festivals, and other social events.**

Other costs associated with the GMS Choirs are optional and are dependent on the student's participation in **OPTIONAL** events.

*Note: Finances should never affect a student's participation, progress, or potential in choir. In the event that finances become a concern, please contact the director – arrangements can often be made in these situations.*

## **Concert Attendance Policy**

Student attendance is vital for admission free choir concerts. These concerts include the Fall, Winter, Pre-UIL, UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contest (for eligible choir members), and Spring Concerts. Choir concerts are a crucial part of music education, and provide an experience that cannot be replicated in the classroom. For this reason, certain concerts are mandatory, unless there is an excused absence. Below is what qualifies as excused versus unexcused.

### **Excused Absences**

- Family emergency accompanied with a note and proof of emergency
- Illness and did not attend school that day. You must have a doctor's note if this is the case
  - Religious holiday observance

If your student has an excused absence, your student will be given an alternate assignment to make up the grade. The alternate assignment must be turned in within one week of the missed concert.

### **Unexcused Absences**

Any absence that does not qualify as above, and does not have an accompanying note will count as unexcused. **If the absence is unexcused it will result in a grade of a 0 and will not be allowed to be made up.**

### **Conflict with other GMS Extra-Curricular Activities**

If your student has a conflict with a choir concert and another GMS activity such as an athletic game, band concert, orchestra concert, theater production, or any other GMS after school activity your student must notify both teachers involved and try to come to a solution. This is the student's responsibility to initiate communication.

## **Choir Uniforms**

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students will wear their choir T-shirt (included in class fee), jeans, and close-toed shoes to all concerts.

### **7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **Fall, Winter, Pre-UIL, and Spring Concert**

Students will wear their choir T-shirt (included in class fee), jeans, and close-toed shoes to the concerts listed above.

#### **UIL Concert & Sight-Reading**

Men: White button down (provided by choir), black dress pants, and black close-toed shoes.

Women: Black choir dress (supplied by choir), black close-toed shoes

Please supply the articles of clothing that are not provided by the choir by the date of the concert. If the white button down or black choir dress that is provided by the choir is damaged, lost, or not returned there will be a replacement fine to replace the article of clothing. (\$20 for white button down and \$45 for black choir dress).

## **Grading Policy**

### **Minor Grades 60%**

This includes the following

Class/Group work, singing/listening reflections, quizzes, reviews, song markings, rehearsal etiquette.

### **Major Grades 40%**

Choir concert performance and etiquette, content exams, major class projects.

### **Rehearsal and Concert Etiquette Expectations**

During rehearsals and concerts students must be able to demonstrate appropriate etiquette, as required by the state, as an informed, actively involved listener and performer in a variety of settings. Because of this, students will receive rehearsal etiquette grades in class and concert etiquette grades during concerts.

**Concerts are MANDATORY** for your student to attend, as it is the final product of the pieces we have sung in class as well as an evaluation of concert etiquette. Please make arrangements for your student to attend the concerts. On back is the concert schedule.

## **Classroom Expectations**

1. Be Respectful to peers, staff, and guests at all times
2. Be Respectful to all GMS property and the property of others
3. Be on time with all materials, in place, when the bell rings
4. Actively participate in classroom activities
5. No food or drink in the choir room

## **Choir Calendar Dates**

### Cluster Concert

Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup> --- The Colony High School --- 7:00pm --- 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Members

### Fall Choir Concert

Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup> ---Griffin Middle School --- 7:00pm --- ALL Choir Members

### Region Auditions

Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> ---Northwest High School --- Time Slot Given --- Optional 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Members

### Region Clinic and Concert

Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup> --- Denton High School --- All Day --- All-Region Honorees

### Winter Choir Concert

Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup> ---Griffin Middle School --- 7:00pm --- ALL Choir Members

### Pre-UIL Concert

Thursday February 23<sup>rd</sup> --- Griffin Middle School --- 4:30-7:30pm --- 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Members

### UIL Concert and Sight-reading Competition

March 10<sup>th</sup> --- Ryan High School Denton ISD --- Time TBD --- Participating and Eligible 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Members

### District Auditions

February 25<sup>th</sup> --- Shadow Ridge Middle School --- Time Slot Given --- Optional 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Members

### District Clinic and Concert

March 27<sup>th</sup> --- Marcus High School --- 12:30-7:00pm --- All-District Honorees

### Solo and Ensemble Competition

Saturday April TBD --- Lakeview Middle School --- Time Slots Given --- Optional ALL Choir Members

### Spring Choir Concert

Tuesday May 16<sup>th</sup> --- Griffin Middle School --- 7:00pm --- ALL Choir Members

*Spring field trips and dates are chosen mid January. Information on these dates will be given at a later time.*

## **Field Trips**

All students must be passing classes on the given date to participate in school field trips. See "eligibility" for more information. *Important Notes: if a student fails a class or is removed because of behavioral problems after paying the trip cost, no refunds will be issued because monies will have been sent to travel companies to pay for the trip cost.*

## **Optional Competitions**

Choral students have the option to further enhance their choral experience and development through individual competitions. These competitions are an additional cost and time commitment. Students who participate in these optional competitions are expected to be eligible by the specified date given at sign up, as well as maintain good standing with Griffin Middle School (No ISS or DEAP). If the student chooses to no longer participate, becomes ineligible, or receives ISS or DEAP, the additional fee of competition will not be refunded. The optional competitions are as follows...

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir: District Competition  
7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir: Region Competition  
All Choirs: Solo and Ensemble

## **Eligibility**

According to University Interscholastic League (UIL) rules and House Bill 72 (No Pass/No Play), a student must stay academically eligible in order to participate in an extra-curricular activity.

Students are required to participate in all class rehearsals and performances where admission is not charged, regardless of eligibility.

Students who are ineligible will not be allowed to participate in the following:

Any GMS choral concert where admission is charged/ Region and District Choir Auditions & Concert/ Solo and Ensemble Contest/ Concert & Sight-reading Contest/ Choir Field Trips (including Spring Trips)/ any event where we leave campus by means of school transportation.

In order to receive a grade for these situations when ineligible, appropriate written assignments will be given. A student who is ineligible after the nine-week grading period cannot become eligible until the three-week mark or six-week mark of the following grading period, granted that he/she is passing the class failed on the report card. Students cannot lose eligibility at the three-week or six-week mark if they passed their classes on the previous nine-weeks report card.

## **Remind 101**

Remind 101 is used to send out important class information. Please have one parent and the student who is participating in choir follow the information below.

*Everyone texts the number 81010, the message you send is different for each class.*

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls: @mstreacc

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys: @mstreacca

Women's Choir: @mstreaccar

Men's Choir: @867ee

Select Choir: @k9fc6

Men's Show Choir (Auditioned Club): @menssho

Women's Show Choir (Auditioned Club): @83afc

***Disclaimer:*** All information in this handbook was accurate at the time of printing of this document. All dates and times should be considered tentative until the director gives the final word.