

GROVE CITY HIGH SCHOOL SHOW CHOIRS



2024-2025

Directors:

Ann Johnson, Director

Laura Parkinson, Assistant Director

Logan Pelphrey, Combo Director

BJ Craft, Technical Director

Shane Coe, Choreographer

Eric Hayes, Choreographer

Marah Cover, Choreographer

www.grovecitychoirs.org

STUDENT HANDBOOK

STUDENT BEHAVIOR/ETIQUETTE

The Grove City Choirs have a long history of excellence. In order to continue this tradition as well as maintain a safe learning environment, the following policies have and always will be **STRICTLY ENFORCED** while students are participating in **ALL** choir activities:

Smoking, consumption of alcohol, use of illegal substances or being under the influence of these, stealing, and direct insubordination are strictly forbidden at all times in accordance with school board policy. Violation of these while with the choir or at the choir events will result in removal from extra-curricular choral activities.

Use of profanity or public display of affection is not allowed at any time. Violation of this will result in severe disciplinary action by the directors and/or administrator.

Disrespect and rudeness will not be tolerated. If you are rude you will be warned, if you are rude again you will be dismissed from the rehearsal or performance and will face disciplinary action. **TALKING CONSTITUTES RUDENESS!!!**

Gossip and rumors will kill the group. Don't gossip or spread rumors no matter how juicy. This also constitutes social media/phone behavior. Most of the time rumors are false, all of the time they hurt the person involved, and be assured it will get back to the director, and they will be speaking to you.

I expect you will show good character not only in TOC/CA, but in school as well. We expect you will take pride in your work, ask for help when you need it, achieve good grades, and be helpful and friendly.

Do not use your phone during a performance. Do not talk during a performance. It's rude, and you're not a rude person. Do not put your feet on the backs of seats. Do not say anything negative about another group. Do enjoy yourself, watch a good show, and be nice.

FOOD, GUM & TRASH

Newsflash! TOC & CA do not have a maid! The choir room or auditorium are not an extension of your locker or your room at your house. There is to be no food or gum brought to practice unless you are given permission. Water bottles are allowed. Do not leave personal items in the choir room or auditorium. Any leftover items will be placed in the lost and found or given to Goodwill. Please clean up after yourself. Throw away all trash and water bottles after rehearsal.

CELL PHONES

Yes, cell phones are wonderful things, but not in our rehearsal. When you get to rehearsal, turn them off or set them to vibrate. You are not permitted to be on the phone during rehearsal. If your phone rings during rehearsal you will be asked to leave.

SCHEDULE

The GCHS Choral Music Department has a tradition of excellence in performance. We plan to continue this pathway of success with many opportunities to perform in the community and surrounding communities. *Please visit our website where you will find our calendar for the year. Please put these dates in your calendar now so you do not run into any issues later.*

This schedule is subject to change. Updates or changes will attempt to be made at a reasonable time prior to the event so that students and parents may plan accordingly. Call times and performance times will be announced prior to the event as well. ***If you have conflicts with any of these events, please notify a director, as explained above, as soon as possible. Students are required to participate in all competitions.***

Touch of Class Rehearses every Monday 2:30-4:30pm (sometimes until 5:00pm)

Class Act 4:30-6:30pm (sometimes until 7:00pm)

Competition weeks we rehearse Thursdays 6:00-9:30pm in addition to our regular Monday rehearsals

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is crucial for not only the success of the ensemble, but for the development and assessment of student skills and understanding. ***Thus, all rehearsals and performances are mandatory and graded events!***

****Note: Winter sports are prohibited if you are in the show choir. It does not work and will never work. YOU WILL NEED TO CHOOSE!!***

A. REHEARSALS

The only excuses for missing rehearsals are as follows: Family emergency, personal illness, or extenuating circumstances as deemed acceptable by Ms. Johnson. These absences must be ***submitted by a parent or guardian in writing*** to Ms. Johnson ***at least one week prior to the rehearsal if conflict is known.*** Any unexcused absences from rehearsals will result in one or more of the following:

1. Deduction of grade
2. Loss of performance opportunities
3. Removal from leadership responsibilities

B. PERFORMANCES

All Choir members are required to attend all performances. The same policies apply for unexcused absences from performances. If a student has an extenuating circumstance or conflict with a performance, their parent must notify, ***in the student absence form***, Ms. Johnson ***no later than one month before any performance.*** Any unexcused performances will result in one or more of the following:

1. Deduction of grade
2. Loss of performance opportunities
3. Removal from leadership responsibilities
4. THREE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES/TARDIES =

PROBATIONARY STATUS possibly including exclusion from performances.

- I. In the spirit of providing ample opportunities, we take more members than fit on stage. All new members and Swings will potentially be 'out' for a number. However, they are expected to rehearse full time every number in the show, in the event that they need to fill in for a missing member (believe it or not this happens all the time!).

- II. In the case of a “fast transfer” from one sport/activity to show choir, packing a dinner or having food delivered to the student to “eat on the go” may be required. Missing rehearsal to get fast food is NOT PERMITTED. WATER BOTTLES ARE ACCEPTABLE AND ENCOURAGED AT ALL REHEARSALS!!!
- III. The Monday and/or Thursday after school rehearsal before a performance or competition is MANDATORY and cannot be excused. Students will not perform if they are absent from a rehearsal the week of a competition. A swing will go on in their place. More than one absence during class the week of a performance will result in removal from the performance.
- IV. SWINGS may challenge any singer/dancer they feel they may be able to out-perform at any time. The Swing must inform the DIRECTOR of the challenge interest and arrangements will be made for the challenge to occur. Swings MAY NOT approach or discuss the desire to challenge the student they would like to challenge directly. The challenge will be canceled if a swing violates this policy If the Swing wins the challenge they will go in for the singer/dancer at the next performance until that singer/dancer improves and challenges their spot back. They may not challenge for their spot back until one performance has taken place.
- V. SWINGS will perform half of the show and be an alternate for the other half of the show. They will always receive stage time for at least two songs.

C. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES

There are only a few “extenuating circumstances” that will be deemed by Ms. Johnson as an excused absence from a performance. ***Students will be given a written assignment at the time of the absence to be completed in place of their performance grade.***



TARDINESS POLICIES

Students are expected to be punctual for all choir events. For example, if the rehearsal is scheduled for 4:30pm, the students should arrive with adequate time to prepare for the rehearsal to begin at 4:30pm.

Tardiness at a rehearsal or performance may result in temporary suspension from future choir events and/or loss of performance opportunities. It will also result in a lower 9-week grade.

REHEARSALS

During every rehearsal, before/after school, the following policies will be in effect from start time until release from rehearsal:

1. Students are to show respect and attention towards any director, chaperone, dance captain, or section leader.
2. Please be on time to every rehearsal and performance.
3. Be courteous and respectful of others during and after rehearsal and performances.
Remember: We're a team!!
4. Students are to begin rehearsals with stretching/running/conditioning led by the dance captains/student leaders. **A medical excuse must be provided if a physical injury requires a student to modify any physical activity.** This is a portion of their grade and requirement for physical education credit.
5. When asking a question, please raise your hand and wait quietly until called upon.
6. Dress in appropriate dancing attire for rehearsal (shorts/sweats, comfortable shirt, dance shoes). ***NO FLIP FLOPS, CROCS, SLIP ON SHOES, REVEALING CLOTHING OR JEANS!!***
7. Take special care of your costume items and props!! Garments should be hung up properly and props placed in their appropriate bin.
8. ALL STUDENTS need to help in the set-up/teardown of the set and props for rehearsals. Designated jobs will be assigned to individuals.
9. Immediately address any problems with other show choir members, etc., to a director.

GRADES

Students are required to maintain a 2.0 GPA during the competition season to remain eligible. Grades will be checked periodically by the directors to identify students who are falling behind academically. This rule ensures students are taking care of their minimum academic requirements. Parents are strongly encouraged to set stricter guidelines on grades and participation at home. The directors will support these family driven policies when we are made aware of them. If a student is not maintaining their grades they will not perform until their grades improve.

GROOMING AND APPEARANCE

Since appearance is a critical portion of our scoring in a competition setting, group members are expected to conform somewhat to the established “norm” of the show choir world. Any dramatic change in appearance, such as hairstyle/color, may result in non-performance.

A specific look for hair style and make-up will be determined in the fall and expected of all students at competitions in order to maintain a precise appearance throughout the group. Students who do not adhere will not perform.

Glasses are NOT recommended on stage during performances. They fly off, break and are a hazard.

STAGING & SOLOS

All staging and solos will be determined by the director and choreographers. Accept where you are placed. Everyone is important to the group, and everyone is seen no matter where you are placed. If you are trying out for a solo, come prepared for your audition. Remember, to convey the message of the solo and sing in the style of the music. I'm not just looking for the voice, but the whole package. Have your solo memorized. The director will have call-backs for students who are finalists for the solos. The director will then post a list of soloists and their alternates. Alternates will perform the solos if the soloist is not able to perform their solo. It is expected that if you do not receive a solo, or are not placed where you think you belong, you will not pout. You will get over it, like a professional, and realize it's for the good of the group, and you are still an important part of this group. Divisions will only tear us down.

COSTUMES & FEES

Show choir members will be expected to purchase their costumes for the upcoming season which usually consist of two to three different outfits. The directors/boosters will take care of ordering these items. Payment plans will take effect throughout the year to help students pay and/or raise money for these items. The choir booster organization does not have enough reserve funds to purchase costumes for each member so ***it is crucial that every member adheres to these payment plans so that costumes can be ordered at appropriate times. Please be sure to register for [CHARMS](#). You will receive information for how to register via email. If paying by check please make it payable to Grove City High School Choir Boosters.***

***For the 2024-2025 season cost is \$1100.00 to be a singer-dancer
\$1600.00 for students in both show choirs. This
includes the \$50.00 fee for each student's required
concert choir. The \$10.00 booster fee is at the
discretion of each family.***

\$175.00 to participate in the 7C's combo band or crew.

COSTUMES & FEES CONTINUED

This year the fee schedule includes the cost of dance camp, clinics, costumes, music, choreography and transportation. Costumes include the opener outfit, the closer outfit, shoes, and one set of undergarments (undergarment and tights for ladies and undershirt and socks) and any additional item the Director should deem necessary. Additional items a student may wish to purchase such as make-up, a second pair of tights, t-shirts, warmup jackets, warmup pants and polo's are an additional cost. Most likely some upperclassmen will already own some of these items and will not need to repurchase them. *Fundraisers will be made available throughout the year to help defray the cost.*

To aid in the payment of fees, we have come up with a system that will allow parents to make payments over eight months until their child's account is paid off. If you and/or your student participate in fundraising activities or your student is a returning member and has a credit balance coming into the year, this payment plan will be adjusted to reflect this. *Reminder: You must be a member of the GCHS Choir Boosters to participate in fundraising if you wish to receive profit credit.* In this case, the treasurer will inform you of your updated payment schedule. The first THREE payments must be received to participate in Dance Camp. **All fees must be paid in full by December 15th in order to participate in Show Choir competitions beginning in January. ALL PAYMENTS WILL BE MADE THROUGH CHARMS.** *If you have any questions or concerns please contact Lisa Stotz gchscbtreasurer@gmail.com* The most important thing is to keep the lines of communication open in regards to payments.

Student Payment per Month	TOC or CA	TOC/CA	Combo/Crew	Concert Choir
May 31	\$200	\$200		
June 30	\$150	\$200		
July 15	\$150	\$200		
August 15	\$150	\$200		\$50
September 30	\$100	\$200		
October 15	\$100	\$200	\$75	
November 15	\$100	\$200	\$50	
December 15	\$100	\$200	\$50	
TOTAL	\$1050	\$1,600	\$175	\$50

***Fees are NON-REFUNDABLE in the event a student quits or is dismissed from the group. By signing the show choir contract you are adhering to this policy.**

COMPETITIONS

The show choir competition season is from January through March. During this time, TOC and Class Act will have several Saturday competitions. Though the show choirs have performances throughout the entire school year, this time of the year is one of the busiest. Students are expected to be on their best behavior during these competitions as they are representing our groups, Grove City High School, and South-Western City Schools. ***Any violation of the choral department or school rules will result in disciplinary action and/or removal from show choir.***

Competitions and school performances are extremely important and therefore cannot be missed. In an activity that is so TEAM-BASED, it is IMPERATIVE that we have all members present for competitions. If a judge sees a “hole” in our blocking, due to missing members, this affects every member of the group, can potentially affect our overall score, and ultimately our placing at the competition.

Before TOC/CA leaves the homeroom we always partner up and walk down the hallway like professionals. We do not talk, we walk proudly and professionally.

Please remember, we consider you to be a professional. We also expect you to act like it. During rehearsals you are quiet and you pay attention. If the group is working hard you will be given a break. If not, don't expect a break.

IN GENERAL...a team-based ensemble requires 100% commitment 100% of the time, which means planning ahead, balancing a busy schedule, and making sacrifices on occasion. ☺

TRAVEL CONDUCT

When traveling with the show choir, the following rules will be in effect from meeting time until released from the group at the end of the event:

1. All District, School and Choral Music Department policies are in effect.
2. Use moderation in talking (and singing) when traveling on the bus.
3. All regular school bus rules apply.
4. By law, the driver is in control of the bus.
5. By directors' law, the CHAPERONES are in control of the students.
6. Both the front and rear seats will be reserved for the chaperones.
7. Do not board the bus until you are asked to do so.
8. Stay on the bus until you are asked to unload.
9. Handle your performance garments carefully when traveling.
10. BE ON TIME (which means be early) to all events.



It is your responsibility to be on the bus at the designated time, both when leaving and returning to the school. If a member is left behind, parents will be notified as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made to pick up the student.

No Student will be permitted to drive on a school-sponsored field trip. A choir member may be excused from riding home on the bus after the conclusion of the event, if the following guidelines are observed: ***The parent or guardian must complete the [Student Dismissal Form](#) by 11:59pm the Thursday before an event.***

District policy states that a student may only ride with his/her own parents when special permission is granted. Likewise, the parent or designated adult must sign the student out with the head chaperone before leaving.

SOCIAL MEDIA

You are expected to represent this group and school with class and dignity at all times. This includes the world of social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, showchoir.com, blogs, etc.). This means absolutely NO critiques of other groups in any way, and no predictions/rankings. This is not limited to competition season only. Discussion should remain positive and supportive. In addition, videos or photos of our performances are not to be posted without permission from Ms. Johnson.

VOICES IN THE GROVE

Our largest fundraiser is Voices in the Grove (VIG) which this year is scheduled for Friday & Saturday, February 21 & 22, 2025. This is a huge event that cannot happen without the help of our volunteers. **All Touch of Class and Class Act parents (including parents of Combo, Crew and Singer/Dancers) are each required to work a minimum 3 hour shift on Saturday, February 22, 2024.**

Watch your email in November/December for a link to the VIG Volunteer Signup.