

GROVE CITY HIGH SCHOOL SHOW CHOIRS



2021-2022

Directors:

Ann Johnson, Director

Austin Hamilton, Assistant/Combo Director

Shane Coe, Choreographer

April James, Choreographer

David Jarrell, Technical Director

STUDENT HANDBOOK

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

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.

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. *With this packet, you will find a tentative SHOW CHOIR schedule for the 2020-2021 school year. Please begin putting these dates on your personal calendar.*

This schedule is subject to change due to the unpredictable future during the current pandemic! 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 performances 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.*

Touch of Class Rehearses every Monday 2:30-4:30pm and

Class Act 4:30-6:30pm

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!***

A. REHEARSALS

The only excuses for missing rehearsals are as follows: Family emergency, personal illness, or extenuating circumstances as deemed 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***. 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, they must notify, ***in writing***, 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. 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 for their spot back. They may not challenge for their spot back until one performance has taken place.

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 schedule 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 led by the dance captains/student leaders
5. When asking a question, please raise your hand and wait quietly until called upon.
6. Masks and Health assessments are MANDATORY for all in-person rehearsals until further notice.
7. Dress in appropriate dancing attire for rehearsal (shorts/sweats, comfortable shirt, dance shoes). ***NO FLIP FLOPS, CROCS, SLIP ON SHOES OR JEANS!!***
8. Take special care of your costume items and props!! Garments should be hung up properly and props placed in their appropriate bin.
9. ALL STUDENTS need to help in the set-up/teardown of the set and props for rehearsals. Designated jobs will be assigned to individuals.
10. 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.

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.

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

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 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. At this time, the 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 payable to Grove City High School Choir Boosters.*

*For the 2021-2022 season it will cost \$885.00 to be a singer-dancer
\$1380.00 for women in both show choirs. This
includes the \$30.00 fee for each students required
concert choir and the \$5.00 Choir Booster
Membership*

\$150.00 to participate in the combo band or crew.

This year the fee schedule includes the cost of dance camp, clinics, costumes, music and choreography. 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, warmups 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.***

This year, 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 two payments must be received to participate in Dance Camp. **All fees must be paid in full by December 15th to participate in Show Choir contests beginning in January. ALL PAYMENTS WILL BE MADE THROUGH CHARMS. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Joanna Kinner gchscbtreasurer@gmail.com** The most important thing is to keep the lines of communication open in regards to payments.

Payment #1	\$150	DUE MAY 15
Payment #2	\$100	DUE JUNE 15
Payment #2	\$100	DUE JULY 15
Payment #3	\$135	DUE AUGUST 15
Payment #4	\$100	DUE SEPTEMBER 15
Payment #5	\$100 (combo & crew \$50)	DUE OCTOBER 15
Payment #6	\$100 (combo & crew \$50)	DUE NOVEMBER 15
Payment #7	\$100 (combo & crew \$50)	DUE DECEMBER 15

***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.

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” google form by 11:59pm the Thursday before an event.*** This form can be found on the GCHS Choir Website.

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 25 & 26, 2022. 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 4 hour shift on Saturday, February 26, 2021.**

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