

**Granbury Middle School  
Choir Handbook  
2023– 2024**



**GMS Choir**

**One choir. One voice. One sound.**

## **Welcome to GMS Choir**

Dear Students and Parents,

We are excited to have you all be a part of the GMS choir program. We hope that you will find this handbook informative. This year will be focused on becoming better musicians while also striving to create a thriving team that is safe for all students.

Granbury Middle School strives to maintain high standards of excellence. In addition to maintaining high academic standards for each of our students, we adhere to a strict code of conduct. This ensures our students will develop character, self-esteem, ethics, and provides them with a safe environment in which to learn.

Students enrolled in the choir program are expected to follow the GISD student code of conduct both inside and outside of school. Student membership in choir is a privilege, not a requirement. As a member of the choir, you are responsible for knowing the class rules, grading policy, procedures, and expectations contained in this handbook.

Thank you in advance for the opportunity to serve this community as educators. Your continued support is vital to our success. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at school. We will be happy to visit with you or set up an appointment.

Sincerely,

Dawn Crnkovic  
817-408-4875 choir office  
[dawn.crnkovic@granburyisd.org](mailto:dawn.crnkovic@granburyisd.org)

Noah McGuire  
817-408-4875 choir office  
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## **I. CLASS RULES**

1. Be in your assigned seat with all your materials (choir binder, music, pencil) when the bell rings.
2. Respect the music learning process
3. No gum, candy, food, or beverages are allowed on the choir risers (water is an exception).
4. Have a positive attitude --- Try your best always! :)

## **II. MATERIALS**

1. Pencils
2. Yellow Highlighter
3. OPTIONAL: Kleenex box (bring one for extra credit!)
4. OPTIONAL: Container of Germ-X (bring one for extra credit!)

## **III. GRADING:**

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 1. Minor Grades: Daily Participation, singing and written tests, material checks | 70 %       |
| 2. Major Grades: Concerts/Public Performances (see grading policy below)         | <u>30%</u> |
| Total:   | 100%       |

## **IV. APPROVED CONCERT DRESS**

### **6<sup>th</sup> grade:**

- Choir T-shirt
- Jeans – no holes!
- Closed-toe shoes

### **7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade Tenor Bass & Treble :**

Treble Choir members will be provided with a black choir dress to be borrowed for the school year. You must provide closed-toed black dress flats.

Tenor/Bass Choir members will be provided with black dress pants, a black long sleeve dress shirt and a purple tie. You must provide an undershirt, black dress socks, and black dress shoes.

## **V. Choir Activity Fee, Choir T-Shirt and Other Costs:**

Students participating in the GMS Choir will be asked to pay an annual fee of **\$30.00**. This fee may seem like a lot of money for a choir class, but this fee is essential for continued success and stability of the choir program throughout the school year.

The **\$30.00** activity fee will pay for the following:

1. Choir T-Shirt: With payment of activity fee choir students will be given a choir t-shirt that they may keep. They will also wear these as their uniform for other performances (pep rallies, festivals, field trips, on campus events, etc).
2. Choir Room Supplies: Choir activity fees will also help cover all student's classroom supplies including the purchase of music and other classroom materials that the students will need throughout the school year.
3. Formal Concert Attire: The activity fee pays for dry cleaning, alterations, and maintenance of the formal concert attire that students must wear for choir concerts.

- The Choir Activity Fee is due no later than **Monday, October 2nd , 2023.**
- The fee will be **\$30.00.**
- Please make all checks and money orders payable to **GMS Choir.**
- Please also write your student's name and a phone number on the check.
- If sending cash please send the exact amount—I am unable to make change.

***If you are unable to make the payment all at once  
please communicate that with Mrs. C or Mr. McGuire and set up payments.***

## **VI. PUBLIC PERFORMANCE POLICY**

***The concert consists of five parts. Each part is worth 20 points - it is a test grade!***

- A. Warm-up: You are to be at the concerts at the time designated in order to warm-up and run through your music. If you do not show up on time or misbehave during the warm-up, you will lose points.
- B. Etiquette: Audience skills. It is unacceptable to talk while another group is performing. It is also unacceptable to cheer and yell for your school like you are at a rock concert or pep rally. The most appropriate way of showing your appreciation is simply through applause.
- C. Attendance: You must be present to receive these points. Our concerts last about one hour. In order to receive full attendance points one must stay for the whole concert. Please show your support by staying for the entire concert, so your student can hear other performing groups.

- D. Memorization: Students must demonstrate they know the music to receive credit for this portion of the grade.
- E. Execution: This portion of the grade deals with your performance and behavior while on stage. The music faculty and assigned critics will judge this portion of the concert. A way to lose points in this area is to talk while on stage or sing poorly.

## **VII. MISSING A CONCERT**

In the event that you must be absent from a concert, it will be evaluated in two ways – **EXCUSED** or **UNEXCUSED**.

- **EXCUSED ABSENCE:**

Examples: You are absent due to illness that day, you are in ISS, an immediate family member dies, or you or an immediate family member is in an accident. All other excuses will be handled on a case by case basis.

If you know in advance that there is a conflict on one of the concert dates, let us know so we can work towards a solution. Please do not come to us the week of the concert, or after you've already missed the concert, and expect the absence to be excused.

- **UNEXCUSED ABSENCE:**

Examples: You forgot, you couldn't get a ride, you forgot where the concert was, or you have another non-school activity. You may earn only a maximum of 40 points by singing off the music. **Having an unexcused absence for any required concert makes you ineligible for participation in our Spring Reward Trip.**

## **VIII. CELL PHONE POLICY**

Per GMS policy no cell phones will be allowed during the school day. If students are found using a cell phone in class the phone will be confiscated and turned into the office.

## **IX. FUNDRAISING POLICY**

Your student will have the opportunity to participate in two fundraisers this school year. This income goes directly to spring trips, contest fees and classroom needs. If you and your student choose not to participate in the fundraiser then you will be asked to cover these expenses out of pocket. The spring trip will depend solely on how much was fundraised.

## **X. Choir Trips:**

1. Buses must leave on time, therefore please be on time to avoid getting left behind.
2. Students will behave appropriately at all times on the bus and remain seated.
3. Students will act respectfully toward all sponsors, volunteers, chaperones and bus drivers and must follow directives given. School and district rules apply on any field trips. Students who are unable to behave may be sent back to school and will be disciplined accordingly. Students unable to behave appropriately may not be allowed to travel with the choir and may lose their privilege to travel with other GMS organizations.
4. Students must remember that they represent not only themselves and their families, but also the GMS Choir Program, Granbury Middle School, Granbury Independent School District and their Choir Teachers.
5. Parents/guardians need to make arrangements for their children to be picked up at school or performance locations when the choir returns from a field trip. If you need to make different arrangements please contact Mrs C. or Mr. McGuire as soon as possible before the trip.

## **XI. Eligibility:**

The state of Texas and the University Interscholastic League require that students pass all their classes with a grade of 70 or above in every subject during a 3 Week grading period before and extracurricular event (i.e., All-Region Choir auditions and participation in Clinic/Concert, UIL Concert/Sightreading Contest, Solo/Ensemble, music festivals, field trips). Students who do not pass will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities until they have regained eligibility. Once a student regains eligibility, they have a one week probationary period before they can participate in extracurricular events.

All students participating in the GMS Choir may take part in all competitions.

All-Region Choir auditions and participation in the Clinic/Concert are only open to students actually enrolled on a choir classroom roster—in compliance with the rules set by the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA).

*Students are expected to keep a close check on their grades at all times and to take advantage of tutorials and turn in all their work in all of their classes.*

**\*\*Special Note: Music Is A Universal Language...\*\***

...therefore, it is one of the most effective ways to learn about diverse cultures and historical periods. We will make every effort to teach music that represents diverse genres and styles from various time periods and cultures from around the world. Music is chosen for its educational value, not for its secular or sacred text. Concerts and performances are designed around the conscious effort to showcase your choir student's talent, brilliance, creativity, teamwork and musicianship and to improve their confidence while entertaining you as the audience member.

In choosing appropriate musical song choices and concert themes for your students We understand that these selections and themes may conflict with your personal beliefs and those of your student's. Please be mindful that as the choir director concert selections, themes and song choices are picked by us and based solely on the educational value of our classroom learning objectives and the best judgment of your student's abilities as an individual singer and as a collective choir.

If you should feel differently and care to communicate that with us, please be respectful and send us an email after a concert/performance is over, not in person immediately after it has concluded.

# GMS Choir Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Time
9/15/2023	6th Grade Choir Social	GMS	4:30-6:30PM
9/19/2023	Century Resources Kick Off	GMS	All Day
10/2/2023	Beginning Fall Concert	GMS	5:30 PM
10/7/2023	Region Workshop	AMS	9:00 AM
10/9/2023	District Region Concert (Fall)	GHS Auditorium	7:30 PM
10/21/2023	Region Auditions	Timber Creek	All Day
11/4/2023	Region Concert/Clinic	Weatherford High School	All Day
November	JV/Varsity Choir Social	TBD	
12/4/2023	JV/V Christmas Concert	First Baptist	7:00 PM
12/7/2023	Christmas Tour	District	All Day
12/8/2023	Beginning Christmas Concert	GMS	5:30 PM
2/7-10/2024	TMEA	San Antonio	
2/19/2024	Varsity Choir Clinic (Kendra)	GHS Auditorium	Half Day (PM)
2/20/2024	Beginning Festival	GHS Auditorium	Morning 9:00 AM
2/22/2024	Pre UIL Concert	GHS Auditorium	Morning 9:00 AM
3/6-7/2024	UIL	Aledo High School	TBD
3/18/2024	Sucker Fundraiser Kickoff	GMS	
4/6/2024	Solo and Ensemble	TBS	All Day
5/7/2024	Beginning Choir Trip (Epic Waters)		9:00 AM
5/13/2024	Spring Concert	GHS Auditorium	6:30 PM
	JV/Varsity Choir Trip TBD		

\*\*\* Although it is never our intention all dates are subject to change. If there is a date change we will give you ample notice, and send home parent notes.

\*\*\* Not all dates apply to every student.



## **GMS Parent Involvement Form**

Parent involvement is an integral part of the GMS choir program. We could not be so successful without your selfless volunteering and support. We strongly believe that students' success is closely tied to parent involvement and we strive to set the example of that here at GMS. That being said, we understand that you all have busy schedules, so we will give you various opportunities to support your child throughout the year with differing levels of commitment.

Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to receive more information about volunteering**

*Please Initial by a volunteering opportunity*

   Choir Field Trip Sponsors

   Dress Fittings

   Concert Assistance (Croud Control)

   Concert Refreshments

   Choir Socials

   Other

*(If interested please return this form by September 5th)*

# GMS Choir Contract

Student Name (please print):

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Parent name (please print):

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Parent signature:

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Parent email address:

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- I have read and understood the class rules.
- I understand the choir's policy on concert attire and choir shirts.
- I understand that if a child does not have his or her choir binder for whatever reason, points can be taken off of their grade.
- I understand that my child's name and photo may be used on the GISD website and for press releases.
- I understand the attendance policy for concerts.
- I have carefully looked over the list of dates and know to contact the teacher as soon as I know of a conflict.
- I understand that if my child misses a concert the grade must be made up

*(Please return this page by September 5th)*

