

High School Chorale

Mrs. Kristen Donaldson, Instructor

Course Description:

High School Choraleers is the advanced choral ensemble at the high school level. Students in this choir will sing music consisting of and 3-part and 4-part mixed settings. Students in this choir will be in 9th through 12th Grade.

Course Objectives:

The content of this syllabus is based on the most current Georgia Performance and National Standards for High School Beginning Chorus. This course will include, but not be limited to: fundamentals in music theory, intermediate sight singing, and the learning and performance of repertoire appropriate for a beginning high school mixed choir. Repertoire will include music from the Renaissance through Modern Day and will include music from America and other countries around the world. Students will learn and practice Sight Singing techniques on a daily basis. They will also prepare with Aural Training that will correspond with each week's theory lesson. Students will rehearse within the ensemble and have opportunities for solo and group performance. This course will be taught first and second semester for an hour per day.

Grading:

1. Chorus Concerts (50%) - MANDATORY
2. Daily Attendance and 1 Concert Questionnaire per year (30%)
3. After School Dress Rehearsals (10%)
4. Music Quizzes (10%)

Supply List:

1. 3 Ring Binder (1 inch) for sight reading and music theory materials
2. One package of Mechanical Pencils
3. Water bottle
4. Choir Dress for Women (\$68.00 to GWA) and All Black with Red Tie for Men

Prerequisite:

Middle School Chorus

Primary Texts:

Shaw-Slabbinck, Holly and Slabbinck, Ronald. 2005. *One Minute Theory: Book 1 and 2* San Diego, CA: Kjos Music Press.

Beck, Andy, Lewis, Brian and Surmani, Karen. *Sing at First Sight: Foundations in Choral Sight-Singing*, Level 1 and 2. Van Nuys, CA: Alfred Publishing Co.

Repertoire will vary each year will be appropriate for a 9th through 12th Grade Choir.

Technology Aids:

Ear Training Exercises: www.teoria.com and www.good-ear.com
 Music Theory Examples with Music Files: www.musictheoryexamples.com
 Theory Definitions: www.oxfordmusiconline.com and www.quizlet.com
 Theory Drills: www.emusictheory.com/practice
 Tutorials: www.musictheory.net and www.musictheoryminute.com
 Sight Singing Examples: www.gmea.org
 Worksheets: www.gmajormusictheory.org

Course Planner:

Class periods in High School Beginning Choir will consist of:

- A. Sight singing and rhythmic exercises from *Music for Sight Singing*
- B. Music theory exercises from *One Minute Theory*
- C. Sectionals/Group Rehearsal on assigned repertoire
- D. Choreography/Blocking
- E. Teambuilding Activities
- F. Individual rehearsal time with the director for voice testing and solo work

Course Outline:

Fall Semester:

1. Singing correct pitches in sections
2. Major, Minor, and Chromatic Scale
3. Vocal Pedagogy Basics – Diaphragm, Larynx, Etc.
4. Proper Performance Etiquette and Presentation
5. Intermediate/Advanced Sight Reading Skills
6. Intermediate Music Theory Terms and Concepts
7. Introduction of Asymmetric Meter
8. Solo and Group Performance Skills
9. Dessert Theatre Performance
10. Christmas Concert

Spring Semester:

1. Balance and Blend with SAB and SATB sections
2. Major, Minor, and Chromatic Scale with Curwen Hand Signs
3. Connecting Vocal Pedagogy basics in performance
4. Stage Presence
5. Sight Reading Continued
6. Music Theory Concepts applied to repertoire
7. Divisions of the Beat in all Meters
8. Beginning Conducting
9. Spring Choir Concert

Performance Rule:

Students are not allowed to miss performances, unless there is a family emergency or serious illness. In the event of an emergency, students are allowed to write a paper to make up the performance grade. Guidelines for the paper are on the Home Page of the GWA Choral Webpage.

George Walton Academy Choral Contract
Return with payment to Mrs. D by Monday, August 18th

Student Name: _____

I have received, read, and understand all parts of the GWA Choral Syllabus.

Initial: _____

I understand that Mrs. Donaldson must be notified via e-mail at least a week before a scheduled after school rehearsal if a conflict arises. Any conflicts I know of at this time I have listed below.

Initial: _____

I understand that concerts are mandatory and if an emergency arises, my child must write a paper to make up the equivalent of the exam grade. Initial: _____

I understand that permission slips and e-mail reminders will be sent to me at least a week before an event's date.

Initial: _____

I would like to be added to the parent list to help with ticket sales, costume design and creation, set design and creation, and/or anything else needed for performances.

Initial: _____

Area(s) of Interest for volunteering:

Signed: _____

Date: _____

My E-mail address is: _____

My dates for the school year that conflict with the choral calendar:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

If you did not purchase a Theory Book last year, please enclose \$10 with this contract

If you did not purchase a Women's Choir Dress last year, please also enclose \$68 with this contract. (Make all checks out to GWA)

(Emergency Contact Sheet on Next Page)

Emergency Contact Information (Please Return with Choir Contract)

Student Name: _____

Parents' Names: _____

Primary Emergency Contact: _____

Primary Emergency Phone: _____

Secondary Emergency Contact: _____

Secondary Emergency Phone: _____

Student's Allergies: _____

Additional Comments: _____

High School Choraleers Dates
(*) = Mandatory Rehearsal/Performance

Fall Dates:

Thursday, August 28th All State Chorus Applications due to Mrs. D.

Tuesday, August 26th 3:00 – 5:00pm

Literary Music Team Auditions – See Mrs. D to sign up for a time slot

(*) Thursday, November 6th: 3:00 – 7:00pm, Lower Gym

Disney Dazzle Dessert Theatre Dress Rehearsal and Pizza Party

(*) Saturday, November 8th: 6:00pm Call 7:00pm Performance, Lower Gym

Disney Dazzle Dessert Theatre Performance

(*) Sunday, November 9th: 2:00pm Call 3:00pm Performance, Lower Gym

Disney Dazzle Dessert Theatre Matinee

Tuesday, November 11th: 8am Call, 9am Performance, Nicholson Center

Veteran's Day Program and Performances

Saturday, November 15th: All State Chorus Auditions, Location TBA

(*) Tuesday, November 18th: GWA Fine Arts Night, more info TBA

Friday, December 5th: 8am Call 9am Performance, Nicholson Center, Christmas Tree Pres.

(*) Monday, December 8th: 2:30pm Call (GWA will provide bus transportation to the venue.

Parents responsible for pickup. Dinner Provided.) 6:30pm Performance, Lighthouse World Outreach Center, Christmas Collage Concert

Spring Dates:

Tuesday, February 24th: All Day, Region Literary Meet, Prince Avenue

Thursday, March 5th – Saturday, March 7th: All State Chorus, Athens

Monday, March 9th – Thursday, March 12th Chorus Class Trip – TBA

Saturday, March 14th Literary State Meet, Location TBA

(*) Monday, April 13th: 3:00 – 8:00pm, HS Musical Tech Rehearsal

(*) Tuesday, April 14th: 3:00 – 8:00pm, HS Musical Dress Rehearsal

(*) Wednesday, April 15th: 3:00 – 8:00pm, HS Musical Dress Rehearsal

(*) Friday, April 17th: 8:00am Call 9:30am School Performance, HS Musical

(*) Friday, April 17th: 5:30pm Call 7:00pm Performance, HS Musical

(*) Saturday, April 18th: 5:30pm Call 7:00pm Performance, HS Musical

(*) Sunday, May 3rd: 3:00pm Call 4:00pm Ceremony, Baccalaureate, Snellville UMC

(*) Monday, May 4th: 4:30pm Call 6:30pm Performance Spring Choir Concert, Location TBA