

# NGHS Chorus Syllabus 2010-11

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## Chorus Classes

**1<sup>st</sup> period: Men's Chorus** is a non-auditioned men's chorus made up of boys in grades 9-12 who are new to chorus at North Gwinnett. This choir sings two, three, and four part men's music in addition to combining with a women's choir to sing some mixed music. All ninth grade male students and first year chorus males must register for this course. Instruction in this course will be based on the Academic Knowledge and Skills for the Intermediate Chorus student.

**1<sup>st</sup> period: Advanced Men's Chorus** is a highly selective auditioned men's ensemble made up of male students in grades 10-12. This choir was formed two years ago, and we continue to have high expectations for their performances in the future. Instruction in this course will be based on the Academic Knowledge and Skills for the Advanced Ensemble student.

**2<sup>nd</sup> period: Camerata Women** is an auditioned women's choir made up of students in grades 10-12. This choir will combine with Adv. Men to sing mixed repertoire on occasion. Many of the students in the choir audition for All-State Chorus and attend Honor Chorus. Instruction in this course will be based on the Academic Knowledge and Skills for the Advanced Ensemble student.

**2<sup>nd</sup> period: Advanced Women's Chorus** is an auditioned large group chorus at NGHS. This group is made up of experienced singers from grades 10-12. Some students in this choir audition for All-State Chorus. Instruction in this course will be based on the Academic Knowledge and Skills for the Advanced Chorus student.

**3<sup>rd</sup> period: Chorale** is a highly selective auditioned women's ensemble made up of female students in grades 10-12. This choir was chosen to perform at the 2002 GMEA conference in Savannah and has consistently received superior ratings at GMEA Choral LGPE. Instruction in this course will be based on the Academic Knowledge and Skills for the Advanced Ensemble student.

**6<sup>th</sup> period: La Belle Musique** is a non-auditioned women's chorus made up of mostly ninth grade girls and other beginning female students in grades 10-12. This choir has earned superior or excellent ratings at LGPE for the last 10 years. All ninth grade female students and first year chorus females must register for this course. Instruction in this course will be based on the Academic Knowledge and Skills for the Intermediate Chorus student.

**Course Content:** Instruction in this course will be based on the Academic Knowledge and Skills. These countywide standards range from performance skills to the knowledge of music theory concepts as presented through choral literature and other class instruction. Note: Because performance skills are assessed in this course, each student will be graded on some after school performances.

## **Folder/ Music Assignments:**

Each choir member is required to keep a chorus notebook or folder. A numbered black folder will be assigned to each student. The student is responsible for keeping their **music, notebook paper, this copy of the syllabus, and two pencils** in the folder at all times. Folders are to be kept in the choral folio cabinet located in the chorus room. Periodically folders may be checked for theory work, pencils, etc. Students will be held accountable for missing or damaged folders and music (\$6 per folder/music).

## **GRADING:**

The chorus grades will follow the adopted Gwinnett County grading scale.

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 74-79%

D = 70-73%

F = Below 70%

Grades will be figured as follows:

*30%: Class Participation*

*25%: Performances/ Rehearsals*

*25%: Written and Performance Quizzes*

*20%: Final Exam*

**CLASS PARTICIPATION (30%):** Every student will receive a participation grade every 4 ½ weeks (with every progress report). This grade will be determined by the number of points out of total possible points the student has earned for each daily rehearsal. Points will be assigned for each of the rehearsal guidelines already outlined on the first page (TGRTP).

*1 point* On **TIME** to rehearsal (in chair with music when the first bell rings—please see the tardy policy on page 3)

*1 point* No **GUM, CANDY, FOOD, DRINKS** (water bottles are acceptable)

*1 point* Being prepared with music, pencil, other materials (**RESPONSIBLE**)

*1 point* Being on task, focused, and attentive in rehearsal (no **TALKING**)

*1 point* Demonstrating good **POSTURE** when singing in rehearsal.

**\*\*\*Students who are ill should notify the director before class begins, but are expected to participate mentally and mark their music.**

Bonus points: Students can earn bonus points for demonstrating exceptional rehearsal behavior or knowledge at the teacher's discretion.

**\*\*\*The total points for the 4 ½ week grading period will always include 5 bonus points. (Total points= number of days X 5 points a day + 5 bonus points)**

Students with an excused absence will have an opportunity to make up the 5 points they missed on an individual basis with Mrs. Wearne or Mrs. Varner.

Students with an unexcused absence will receive 0 points for the day.

## **PERFORMANCES/ REHEARSALS (25%):**

**\*Required out of class activities, as stipulated by the teacher, will determine a portion of the student's grade.**

\*Each student will be assigned a grade for each event based on his/her collective participation with the other members of the choir.

\*Individual deductions may be made for violations of TGRTP.

### **Excused absences**

**Personal illness, or death in the family.** No deductions will be made for excused absences with an accompanying written excuse from a parent (received prior to the performance if possible) and a makeup assignment. The students will earn a score of "80" percent until a make-up assignment has been submitted at which time the students has an opportunity to earn up to "100" on the test grade.

**Varsity Region game or match/ Region Tournament game or match** No deductions will be made for excused absences. Students must submit a written excused two weeks prior to the event. The student will receive a score of a "0" percent until a make-up assignment has been submitted at which time the student has an opportunity to earn up to "100" on the test grade.

### **Unexcused absences**

**Lack of a ride, working, and any other excuses not outlined above.** Students who are unexcused from concerts will receive a "0" percent on their test grade. These students will be given the opportunity to earn a maximum of a "70" percent if a make-up assignment is completed.

**Tardies to Concerts and Dress Rehearsal** Early is on time, and on time is late. Students are required to check in with their attendance keeper and be inside the performance space by the time designated on the syllabus. Grading for timeliness will be determined by the following chart:

0-10 minutes late -5 points

11-20 minutes late -10 points

21-30 minutes late -15 points

31-40 minutes late -20 points

41-50 minutes late -25 points

51-60 minutes late -30 points

**\*\*\*The course guidelines for High School Performing Arts adopted by the Gwinnett County Board of Education state that "teachers may grade students on their attendance and work during out-of-class activities."**

### Make –up Assignment

**Missing ONE dress rehearsal or concert** The student will be required to record themselves singing their voice part on each of the songs that their choir is performing. The students individual performances will be graded on the following elements: breathing, pitch accuracy, rhythm accuracy, attacks and releases, vowels, consonants, tone quality, phrasing, dynamic interpretation, concentration, memorization. The recorded make-up assignment is due **no more than 2 weeks following the absence** from the event.

**Missing BOTH the dress rehearsal and the concert** On the RARE occasion that a student misses both the Dress Rehearsal and the Concert a secondary make-up assignment is available. The student will be required to read an article and write a 2 page paper on a musical topic. The topic needs to be on a research based article and not popular culture. The paper is to be 10 pt font, double spaced, 1 inch margins. Mrs. Varner and Mrs. Wearne have an abundance of articles in their music library. The students can feel free to come and borrow a magazine.

The written make-up assignment is due **no more than 2 weeks following the absence** from the event.

\*\*\* The course guidelines for high school performing arts adopted by the Gwinnett County Board of Education states that “ teacher may grade students on their attendance and work during out of class activities”

**Written and Performance Quizzes ( 25% ):** During this semester students will complete written and performance quizzes in order to demonstrate their knowledge of the choral AKS. In addition, in order to support the schoolwide emphasis on literacy, students will also complete some reading/writing assignments throughout the year.

**Final Exam ( 20% ):** At the end of each semester, every student (excluding exempted seniors) must take a performance and written final examination in chorus. The performance and written portions will each count 10%.

#### **Tardy Policy:**

Students who are not *in their seat* when the instruction bell rings will be counted tardy to class. Warm up exercises begin immediately following the instruction bell, and students who come in late are missing participatory activities. Therefore, for each unexcused tardy (without a note from a teacher), students will lose one daily participation point. Student must sign the tardy log when they come into class and sit in the tardy seats until the director permit them to join rehearsal. The tardy consequences will follow the school-wide policy for tardies.

Tardy 1: Warning, recorded by student aid.

Tardy 2: Second warning, recorded by student aid.

Tardy 3: Student detention, parent contact, and recorded

Tardy 4: Student detention, parent contact, and recorded

Tardy 5+: Administrative referral, parent contact, and recorded.

#### **Restroom Policy:**

Students will be permitted to leave rehearsal three times a semester to use the restroom. Students will sign out with the student aid and take the chorus hall pass with them as they leave class. In emergency situations in excess to their 3 passes, students will be permitted to leave but will lose a participation point if they have already used their three restroom passes. Please email Mrs. Varner or Mrs. Wearne if your student has a condition that requires more restroom passes.