

Gatesville ISD Hornet Choirs

2018-2019 School Year

Mrs. Cherith Wells, GISD Choral Director
cwells@gatesvilleisd.org

Ms. Robbie Sparkman, GJH & GHS Assistant Director
rsparkma@gatesvilleisd.org
GHS/GJH Choir Room: 254-865-8281 x. 5233

Mrs. Katelyn McCutcheon, GIS Music Director
kmccutcheon@gatesvilleisd.org
GIS Choir Room: 254-865-2526 x. 4428

Choir Schedule

1st period: 6th Grade Choir
3rd period: High School Women's Choir
4th period: High School Varsity Mixed Choir
5th period: Conference
6th period: Junior High Boys' & High School Men's Combined Choir
7th period: Junior High Advanced Girls' Choir
8th period: Junior High Girls' Choir

Membership Costs

- **All Choir students** are required to purchase a uniform t-shirt for \$15.00 on or before Friday September 14th. Students are welcome to wear them to school, but will also be required to wear them as a uniform for various events and performances.
- Only Choir students that need a new pair of uniform shoes will need to purchase them for \$18.00 on or before Friday October 12th.
- These fees can be paid all at one time, or in installments, as long as it's paid by the deadline. Also, a fundraiser will be completed before these are due, so those proceeds can cover the fees, if needed.
- Various additional fees may apply throughout the year, if the choir student chooses to participate in some of the optional events that are offered.

Turning in Money

- Please don't try to hand a Director money, especially cash!
- Send it with your Choir student in a labeled envelope or baggie
 - Student's first and last name
 - The amount
 - What it's for
- Students will drop it in the Choir deposit box hanging in our office

Random Drug Testing

Students participating in the Gatesville High School Choir program will be required to submit for random drug testing.

Classroom Expectations

- Be on time
 - To class, tardies count
 - To rehearsals and performances, it's part of your grade
- Be prepared
 - Put ALL of your stuff in a cubby
 - Get your folder and pencil
 - Get to your seat ASAP and start on the bell ringer
 - Follow rehearsal cues: sit, sit tall, stand, etc.
- Be respectful
 - Respect the Directors
 - Respect your peers
 - Respect the facility and equipment
 - Remember the Golden Rule!
- Be hydrated
 - Water is OK on the risers, in a sealable container
 - NO OTHER food, drink, candy, or gum is ever allowed
- Be unplugged
 - NO CELL PHONES at any time, leave them in the cubbies or on the charging station
 - No headphones/earbuds
- Be excellent!
 - Positive attitudes only!
 - Give your best effort!
 - Expect to grow!

>>>Students will be given a verbal warning, and if the noncompliance continues, they will be asked to sign the clipboard. If a student repeatedly signs the clipboard, we will notify parents. If the noncompliance still continues, an office referral will be written.

Placement in GISD Choirs

Selection of students for each level of Choir are the sole decision of the Directors. Each student is assessed on an individual basis, and on 4 main criteria.

- a) Vocal ability – Range, Timbre, Vocal Development/Maturity, Voice Part, etc.
- b) Musical Knowledge – Student's individual ability with Solfege, Sight Reading, Musical Terminology, Music Theory, etc.
- c) Attitude – Student's ability to show proper behavior in many settings: rehearsals, performances, contests, etc. Also, the student's daily interaction with the Directors and other students in a respectful manner.
- d) Academic Standing – In order for a student to remain in a Varsity or Junior Varsity level choir, they must remain in good academic standing, in accordance to the "No Pass, No Play" rules mentioned above. If a student consistently fails classes, and remains ineligible, they can be moved, demoted or removed permanently from ANY choir. Ex. If a student is placed at the Varsity level, and remains ineligible for any length of time during the 1st Semester, at the Director's preference he/she may be moved down to the JV or Non-Varsity level.

Grading

The choir grade is generally made up of DAILY GRADES (75%) and PERFORMANCE GRADES (25%).

Daily Grades consist of overall class participation, sight-reading, and knowledge of music.

- A+ (96-100) Student consistently meets all expectations every day (including demonstrating good posture and proper vowel formation when singing) AND demonstrates exceptional effort beyond what is required.
- A (90-95) Student consistently meets all expectations every day (including demonstrating good posture and proper vowel formation when singing).
- B (80-89) Student often meets most expectations, but is not consistent.
- C (70-79) Student has many days when he/she makes a minimal effort to meet expectations.
- F (below 70) Student fails to meet basic expectations on a regular basis.

Conduct Grade: As a performing organization, the highest standards of conduct are demanded in order to achieve excellence.

Conduct grades reflect observed behavior and adherence to stated choir expectations. Unsatisfactory conduct grades (N or U) affect exemption status for final exams.

Performance Grades are based on attendance and participation during choir performances, as well as the following criteria.

1. Be ON TIME for “call time”. (That means IN YOUR SPOT, IN FULL UNIFORM at the specified time.)
2. Have on all parts of uniform, cleaned and pressed. Long pants are not allowed underneath formal uniforms. Only uniform shoes are allowed as a part of formal women’s uniforms. Women are to wear sheer black hose and boys are to wear black socks. No other footwear is acceptable.
3. Wear only jewelry that is part of the uniform (i.e. pearls) and nothing else. NO necklaces, bracelets or earrings (visible from the audience) are allowed. There are no exceptions to the jewelry requirement, and students will be required to take off extra jewelry if they wear it into pre-concert rehearsal. Please DO NOT even show up with extra jewelry on, it just robs our rehearsal time, and affects your grade.
4. Follow directions and focus immediately on the warm-up prior to concert.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of music being performed, as well as performance skills on stage.
6. Concert etiquette is also taken into consideration as part of this grade. Students are expected to sit in the auditorium and listen quietly and respectfully to all other choirs’ performances. Clapping between songs is appropriate, but yelling (at any time), moving around or talking during performances is unacceptable. Inappropriate behavior by students in the audience may be dealt with from the stage or by principals, if necessary. Choir members are expected to be the examples of good concert behavior each time we perform.

Performances

- All concert and rehearsal dates listed in the choir calendar in **bold** are MANDATORY for ALL Choir members. ******(see attached GISD Choir Calendar)******
- “Call” means what time the students are to arrive, not what time the performance starts. Students should be fully dressed in the required attire, have already used the restroom, and be in their assigned location BEFORE the listed call time.
- Since performances are the culmination of all preparation and rehearsal, it is imperative that students attend. The experience of a performance cannot be replaced by make-up work. Concerts are co-curricular and therefore are mandatory. However, just being at the performance does not constitute full credit: etiquette, conduct and proper performance attire will factor in.
- **Any absence from a performance must be approved by a Director, 5 days prior to the performance.**
- An excused absence consists of personal illness, unavoidable school related obligation or unforeseen family emergency. A Director will determine the validity of the excuse and assign appropriate make-up assignment. The parent must contact a Director PRIOR TO THE PERFORMANCE via email or phone. (254-865-8281 x. 5233, leave a message if no one answers)
- Students who are absent from school more than one half day on the day of a performance *are not* allowed to perform, unless pre-approved by the Principal.
- Any unexcused absence will result in an automatic zero and no make-up option will be given. Unexcused absences are things like lack of transportation, scheduled to work, practice for another activity, doctor appointment, etc. Concerts are considered a major grade, therefore a zero on a concert can possibly result in a failing grade for the nine weeks.

INELIGIBILITY rules are set at state level and are not negotiable at the local level. “UIL no pass, no play”

- Students must have passed all classes the previous nine weeks (or be passing all subjects at the three or six weeks point following) in order to perform for UIL events or concerts for which tickets are sold. Students who are ineligible to perform with the choir for UIL competition will not perform on the Pre-UIL concert, if eligibility is known at the time of concert.
- Ineligible students must do make up work to receive a grade for the concert. They may choose to attend the concert and turn in a written report about the concert; or they may request an alternate make-up assignment to be determined by the Directors. ***In either case, it will be due by the day following the concert and 10 points will be deducted each day it is not turned in.***
- Students who fail to make up a concert in the stated manner within one week of the concert date, will receive a zero for the concert grade.

UNIFORMS

Each student will have an informal and a formal uniform. Directors will instruct students as to which uniform will be worn. Students must abide by the stipulations set forth by the Directors.

INFORMAL UNIFORM

All students: Choir t-shirt, dark jeans, and closed-toe shoes. Informal uniforms will be worn for some concerts and all extra-curricular performances and auditions.

FORMAL UNIFORM

HS MEN: White tux shirt, black tux jacket and tux pants, vest, and bowtie, all of which are provided by the school.

JH BOYS: White tux shirt, black trousers, black vest and bowtie, all of which are provided by the school.

(uniforms, cont.)

HS and JH WOMEN: All female choir students wear formal dresses which the school provides. No long pants or other clothing underneath that causes the uniform to fit poorly will be allowed. No undergarments are to be visible with the uniform. Sheer black hose are to be worn with the uniform shoes, **no bare feet**.

SHOES: The uniform also includes uniform black shoes that are ordered through the school, but paid for by the students. **Please try on your shoes ASAP and determine if a new pair is needed.** When the uniform is worn in public, all parts should be in place and give a professional appearance.

Hemming: All dresses and pants will be marked at school for hemming while the student is wearing the uniform shoes so that all uniforms will be the same length, then sent to a professional seamstress for alterations and hemming. No alterations should be made without approval.

Cleaning: Uniforms will be clean when issued. When another cleaning is necessary, bring the entire uniform to the choir directors and we will take them to the cleaners in groups; **DO NOT** wait until the week before they are needed, or you will need to take it at your own expense. **PLAN AHEAD!**

>>>Make sure your uniform is cleaned and pressed for each performance. The uniform should not have to be taken to cleaners for each wearing if you are careful to hang it up immediately; however, the shirt may need to be washed. Note: If only the shirt is dirty, it may be machine washed AND ironed. Collars tend to get dirty, and will need to be sprayed with pre-wash spray before washing. Be sure to iron them after washing.

>>>Girls wear PEARL NECKLACES, provided by the school. **No other jewelry is to be worn.** (Exception: very small, non-dangling earrings may be worn as long as they are not visible from the audience.)

No cologne or perfume may be worn during performance.

Hair should be clean, well-groomed and out of the eyes. No bows or ornaments are to be worn.

>>>All formal uniforms are to be returned at the end of the school year. If for some reason the uniform is not returned, is damaged or is in unusable condition, the student will be required to **reimburse the school the entire cost of the uniform.** The student's grades will be held until the fees are received. For the men, if a bowtie or any piece of the tux is not received, you will have to replace or pay for the missing part.

Replacement Prices are as follows:

Varsity Girls Dress: \$78.00

Women's Choir Dress: \$55.00

JH Girls Dress: \$68.00

HS Tux Pants: \$24.00

HS Tux Jacket: \$56.00

HS Tux Vest: \$38.00

HS/JH Tux Shirt: \$14.00

JH Boys Trousers: \$18.00

JH Boys Vest: \$45.00

Bowties: \$5.00

CHOIR STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ADHERE TO EACH OF THE SPECIFICATIONS REGARDING UNIFORMS AND CLEANING. The appearance of the whole choir is dependent on EVERY member being responsible for having on a clean, freshly pressed, sharp-looking uniform with appropriate jewelry.

NOTE: If these guidelines are not followed, up to 20 points can be deducted from a concert grade.

Formal Uniforms are property of GISD and should not be used for any other purpose than GISD Choir functions without permission of the Directors.

Choir Letter Jacket Point System

Student Name _____

Letter Jackets (for high school only) are earned on this point system. A student must earn 15 points in one school year in order to letter in choir. Points will not carry over from year to year. The Choir pays for the jacket and the "G" patch, you will purchase any additional decorative patches.

Summer Music Camp Helper <i>(full week participation)</i>	5 pts.	_____
Attend Summer All-State Prep Camp	5 pts	_____
Audition at Region Choir	3 pts.	_____
Earn spot in Region Choir	2 pts.	_____
Audition at Pre-Area	2 pts.	_____
Audition at Area	2 pts.	_____
Perform in All-State Choir	4 pts.	_____
Compete at UIL Solo/Ensemble	3 pts.	_____
Received a "1" on my solo at UIL	2 pts.	_____
Received a "2" on my solo at UIL	1 pt.	_____
Elected and serve as an Executive Officer	2 pts.	_____
Elected and serve as a Class Representative	1 pt.	_____
Varsity Mixed <i>(full year participation)</i>	3 pts.	_____
Men's or Women's Choir <i>(full year participation)</i>	2 pts.	_____
Attend an outside concert <i>(Must be High School, College or Professional Fine Arts organization. Must be documented and approved by director, limit of 2)</i>	1 pt. ea.	_____
Outside Performances <i>(Student takes full initiative to attend the performance/competition. Must be documented and approved by director, limit of 2)</i>	1 pt. ea.	_____
Lead Role in Musical	3 pts.	_____
Supporting Role in Musical <i>(As determined by the Theatre Director)</i>	2 pts.	_____
Private Voice Lessons	2 pts.	_____
Private Instrument/Piano Lessons <i>(Full school year. This will be verified with your private teacher)</i>	1 pt.	_____
TOTAL		_____

If a student is enrolled in and participates in any Choir at Gatesville High School for all 8 semesters of their tenure at GHS, they too will qualify for a letter jacket. This is, however, at the discretion of the Directors.

Students/Parents are responsible for keeping track of their points and turning the form in when they have reached the goal, in order to be considered for a letter jacket.

Directors do not track letter points.

>>>If a student feels that they have qualified for a letter jacket under the 2017-2018 criteria, please contact the Directors. A determination will be made on an individual basis.

Please sign up to receive text reminders from Mrs. Wells about Choir happenings!

SEND A TEXT TO 81010 (as the phone number)

The body of the message should be the “class code” exactly as it appears below:

1st period 6th Grade Choir: @gis6th

3rd period HS Women’s Choir: @ghs3rd

4th period HS Varsity Choir: @ghs4th

6th period JH Boys/HS Men: @ghs6th

7th period JH Girls: @ghs7th

You’ll get a welcome text from Remind, it may also ask if you are a parent, teacher or student and it may ask for your name, if you are new to Remind.

Thank you for helping us keep you in the loop!

Choir Student/Parent Acknowledgement

I have carefully read, understand, and agree to abide by the information found in the GISD Choir Handbook.

Student Email _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/ Guardian Email _____

Parent/ Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

- Please sign and return this page by **Wednesday September 5th**.
- Please also sign front and back (both student and parent/guardian) and return the Drug Testing Consent form (required for all participants in high school extracurricular activities).
- You may also send payment(s) for uniform shoes (\$18) and shirts (\$15 each) at the same time, if you wish.

Please keep the remainder of the Choir Handbook for your reference during the year.

**We are looking forward to an amazing year in Choir,
thank you for being a part!**