



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS

Handbook 2020-2021



<p>Courses Titles and Numbers: Men's Chorus Beginning Women's Chorus Intermediate Women's Chorus Advanced Women's Chorus Advanced Mixed Chorus (combination of Advanced Women and Men's Choruses)</p>	<p>Teacher Name: Ms. Ruthie Phillips</p> <p>Teacher Email Address: ruthie.phillips@carrollcountyschools.com</p>
<p>Brief Course Description: Central High School Chorus participation offers students opportunities to build skills in the following areas of instruction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - overall musicianship - ensemble and solo vocal technique - music theory (music reading/sight-reading, ear training, scales, musical terms and symbols) - singing posture - multi-language diction - ensemble/solo repertoire knowledge and appreciation - concert etiquette - historical and societal significance of music - choreography/movement <p>Participation in chorus also encourages the following qualities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - personal integrity - personal responsibility - personal accountability - the ability to work with a team - a commitment to excellence <p>The skills learned in class will culminate in performances of choral literature appropriate for the voicing and level of each ensemble. Choir members are required to attend all concerts and any after school rehearsal that are deemed necessary.</p>	<p>Extra Help Day(s)/Time: Extra help can be scheduled individually with Miss Phillips. Mornings and afternoons are viable times, and Miss Phillips will work with you to find a time that works with both of our schedules. However, communication is key – let me know in advance when you need help, and we will schedule a time!</p>
<p>Georgia Standards of Excellence in Fine Arts:</p> <p>A. Creating <i>HSIC.CR.1 Generate and conceptualize musical ideas and works.</i> <i>HSIC.CR.2 Organize, develop, and revise musical ideas and works.</i></p> <p>B. Performing <i>HSIC.PR.1 Analyze, interpret, and select musical works for presentation.</i> <i>HSIC.PR.2 Develop and refine musical techniques and works for presentation.</i> <i>HSIC.PR.3 Convey meaning through the presentation of musical works.</i></p>	<p>Departmental Grading & Recovery Policy:</p> <p>Each concert counts as a major test grade. Concert dates are provided in this syllabus on the attached CHS Chorus Calendar. This is provided well ahead of the performance dates so that participants may plan their schedules accordingly. At concerts, students who arrive on time and are appropriately dressed will begin with the grade of 100. Tardiness, inappropriate behavior, leaving before the end of the concert, or any other questionable behavior will result in grade deductions. Students are expected to</p>



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C. Responding

HSIC.RE.1 Perceive, analyze, and interpret meaning in musical works.

HSIC.RE.2 Apply criteria to evaluate musical works.

D. Connecting

HSIC.CN.1 Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make music.

HSIC.CN.2 Relate musical ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

Students will meet these standards through daily practice and performance. **Consistent attendance is so important in chorus because it takes every single person to create music in a choir.** If you are going to be out for a school related absence, please let the director know in advance if possible.

support their fellow classmates by being present for the full concert, not only for the performance of their own choir.

Daily class rehearsals, after school rehearsals, and concerts are live performance activities that cannot be accurately reenacted. Therefore, the maximum grade one can receive on the makeup work is an 80%.

In order to make up a missed concert, the student must see Miss Phillips within five days of the concert to receive the makeup assignment. **The student must also present an appropriate excuse written and signed by a parent or guardian.** If these requirements are not met, the student will not be allowed to makeup the concert.

Other written assignments and tests must be made up within five days of a student's return to school after an excused absence.

Recovery: Students will have the chance to recover or retake an assignment if they score 60 or below on the original task. The original assessment grade and the recovered assessment grade will be averaged together to determine your final grade.

FINAL ASSESSMENTS: All students will take a final assessment each semester. The December final assessment is required for everyone. Students may exempt the May final assessment if they meet the exemption requirements put forth by Central High School.

Formative Assessments are samples of students work before, during, and after instruction that identify students' needs and provide continuous feedback to students. These include daily class rehearsal participation, written/reading assignments, vocal quizzes, theory quizzes, before/after school rehearsals, vocal checks, etc.

Summative/Formal Assessments are major culminating tasks such as concerts, submission of the syllabus signature form, selected written/reading assignments, vocal tests, theory tests, and the final assessment.

Informal Activities: Non-weighted practice opportunities that will assist the student in mastering the standards.



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Major Concerts: (Please see calendar for full list of important dates) These concerts are MANDATORY.

Fall Concert – Virtual Choir Presentation

Christmas Concert – Monday, December 7th, 2020, @CCS Performing Arts Center.

Large Group Performance Evaluations – March 23-25, 2021. Times TBD.

Spring Concert and Awards Ceremony – Tuesday, May 11, 2021, @CCSPAC. Call-time 5:30, Performance 7:00.

Chorus Handbook: Conduct & Work Habit Expectations:

Description of daily class performance: Each day in chorus a student is expected to be in their seat when the bell rings, fully perform during rehearsal, demonstrate correct singing posture, have music, pencil, and any other necessary materials in hand, and avoid anything which hinders class performance (non-engagement, gum, food and drinks other than water, reading books, being off-task, etc.). Going to the bathroom during class should be minimized.

Cell phones are prohibited during rehearsal. Students will be given one warning if they use their cell phones. If a student uses his/her cell phone 2 or more times, the student will be subject to a behavior referral.

IMPORTANT:

- Each concert counts as a major test grade. Concert dates are provided in this syllabus well ahead of the performance dates so that participants may plan their schedules accordingly.
- “Lack of transportation” is not an excused reason for missing a concert. Transportation to and from concerts must be planned ahead of time. For all concerts, bus transportation is available if needed.
- At concerts, students who arrive on time and appropriately dressed will begin with the grade of 100. Students are expected to support their fellow classmates by being present for the full concert, not only for the performance of their own choir.
- Music will be performed from memory unless otherwise specified by Ms. Phillips.
- A student’s behavior in chorus and in any other class will determine eligibility of participation. Inappropriate or adverse behavior will result in a student being prohibited from performing at the discretion of Ms. Phillips and administrators.
- To participate in extra-curricular events, students must have appropriate attendance. See attached Attendance Improvement Program handout.
- Students must be in their choir class on the day of the concert. This is always the last rehearsal before a concert, and it is extremely important that students are in attendance.

Points will be deducted for tardy arrival, departure before the concert ends, inappropriate behavior/dress, and any other questionable issues. It is not difficult to walk away with a perfect score. These expectations are intended to support and enhance the quality of music programs at Central High School and within the county.

Class Tardy Policy: Arrive on time or be counted tardy.

After school rehearsals: The Advanced Mixed Chorus will meet after school before each concert, and those rehearsals will count as quiz grades. Also, any extracurricular ensemble will rehearse after school. Any rehearsals will be announced with ample time for students to arrange for transportation.



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COMMUNICATION

Email: Each Monday, an email is sent to all parents with pertinent information such as upcoming dates, deadlines, information for concerts, etc.

Facebook: Updates and announcements are posted on Facebook regularly.

Instagram: Updates and announcements are posted weekly on our Instagram account. Follow @centralhigh_chorus.

Website: Visit the chorus page on chs.carrollcountyschools.com/chorus for more information, important forms, etc.

Remind: Sign up for reminder texts by texting the number 81010 with the following code:

Central Chorus - @chsc401

Google Classroom: Students will be added to Google Classroom and are expected to check for assignments and announcements daily.

EXTRACURRICULAR EVENTS

Throughout the school year, there will be a variety of events in which students can participate. Some of these include the Georgia All-State Chorus, the GA Governor's Honors Program, local choir festivals, the annual chorus trip, and the GHSA Literary event. Participation in these events is strongly encouraged but is not mandatory. Information regarding each event will be provided well in advance. Typically, practice sessions for these events will occur leading up to each event. Ms. Phillips will provide information regarding practices throughout the school year. **To participate in any extracurricular chorus event, students must be passing all classes, must exhibit appropriate behavior throughout all classes, must pay their chorus fees, and must attend an adequate number of rehearsals before the event.** If a student does not meet the aforementioned criteria, he/she will be prohibited from participating in the event at the discretion of Ms. Phillips and other administration.

CHORUS FEES

\$25 due by September 25, 2020

Chorus fees help to cover the costs incurred by CHS Chorus throughout the school year. These include transportation costs, equipment, music, and additional supplies. Students will also receive a chorus t-shirt and a folder to use during rehearsals. *If you need financial assistance, please contact Ms. Phillips.



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FUNDRAISING

During the school year, we will host many fundraisers. These funds are used throughout the school year to assist the Central Chorus program in all its endeavors. Participation in these fundraisers is strongly encouraged. For a number of fundraisers during the year, students will receive a profit of the funds s/he raises. Students may then use these funds for extracurricular activities: honor choirs, GA All-State Chorus, and select chorus trips.

Parents, if you desire to support the Central Chorus program, you are welcome to become involved in our fundraisers. A portion of what you fundraise may also go toward your child's chorus account. Please email me at ruthie.phillips@carrollcountyschools.com if you are interested.

*Note: Due to the pandemic, fundraisers may not be offered during this school year. If financial assistance is needed to pay chorus fees, please contact Ms. Phillips.

MATERIALS

MUSIC: Choir students are issued choral music and a numbered music binder. Students are to have their chorus binder and a sharpened pencil in hand during class each day. Binders correspond with a numbered cabinet storage slot in the choir room. Students may store their binder in the cabinet or take it home for practice (they must bring it back for the next rehearsal).

- Students are financially responsible for replacing lost or damaged folders/music. The replacement cost of a lost or defaced folder is \$4.00. If a folder with music is lost, the total replacement cost will also include the cost of all music contained in the binder.
- How well we maintain the resources that are provided for us is a sign of our character. Folders and music are not to be mishandled, ripped, drawn on, left out in the rain, etc.
- Students are expected to write score markings in their music during rehearsal to ensure maximum retention. All markings are to be made **ONLY IN PENCIL**. Use of a pen will lead to damage fees.

MUSIC THEORY: Students may want to keep a composition notebook for music theory notes. We will complete music theory lessons each day in class. Students may keep notebook paper in their binders or keep a composition notebook, but they may NOT write theory notes in their music.

CHORAL TEXTBOOKS: Typically, choral textbooks will be used as a class set and not issued to individuals. If a book is issued to an individual student for a period of time, the student is responsible for loss or damage fees.

CHROMEBOOKS: Students will be issued a chromebook for use throughout the school day. Students are responsible for using chromebooks during class if required.



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CHORUS CONCERT ATTIRE:

All Choirs:

- **Girls:** black concert dress and sash, pearl necklace (pearls distributed and collected at each concert). All girls must provide their own black dress shoes.
- **Boys:** Black tuxedo, white wing collar/pleated shirt. All boys must provide their own black dress shoes and socks.

All CHS Students will receive a t-shirt as part of their chorus fees. The t-shirt will be worn at extra-curricular activities and performances. Once purchased, the t-shirt is the student's property forever. If lost or damaged during the school year, the student will need to purchase another t-shirt. Parents and other family members may also purchase a chorus t-shirt for \$10/shirt if desired. Order sheets will be sent home with the syllabus.

FINAL IMPORTANT UNIFORM DETAILS FOR ALL CHORAL STUDENTS:

- Jewelry must be conservative/minimal so as not to draw attention to the individual. No body piercing, fishnet hose, excessively large earrings, flashy hair accessories, etc.
- All ladies must have their hair out of their faces. Remember, choral music is a visual art as well as an aural art. Your audience needs to see your faces!
- No tennis shoes, flip flops, colored shoes, or excessively high heels.

CHORUS VARSITY LETTER AND SENIOR CORDS REQUIREMENTS

To earn the initial Varsity Letter in CHS Chorus, the student must be enrolled and in good standing with the Central Chorus for at least two years.

The definition of "In good standing":

- Attends all four major concerts.
- Attends before/after school rehearsals (if applicable) for their choir.
- Reasonably supports chorus fundraising efforts, by raising the individual "fair share" goal related to that project.
- The student has demonstrated exemplary character and behavior in their choral program involvement. In order to protect the dignity and character that a Varsity Letter represents, the director has the right to deny the awarding of a letter to a student with disciplinary issues, even if all other requirements have been met.
- All financial fines and fees for the program must have been met. If a student owes the choral program fees of any kind, a letter cannot be issued.

After earning the initial varsity letter, students may continue to earn service bars for their third and fourth years of participation if they meet the lettering expectations during those years.

Qualifying for Senior Graduation Cords in Chorus:

The student must have participated in chorus a minimum of three years and be enrolled in chorus during their senior year. During their chorus tenure, they must have been a student in good standing with the program as described under the lettering requirements.



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STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Students will be given opportunities to participate in a variety of leadership roles within the chorus. The following positions will be voted upon at the end of each school year, and students who participate must fulfill the duties of their positions for the entirety of the following school year:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Public Relations
- Music Librarian(s)
- Historian(s)
- Choir Representative(s)

Students may run for an office alone or they may run with a partner to become co-officers for one of the positions. Additionally, every fall, students will vote on choir representatives in each class. These representatives will be responsible for duties that relate specifically to their choirs. Some responsibilities will be taking attendance in class and at rehearsals/concerts, handing out and taking up pearls at concerts, and representing their choirs at officer meetings.

During the school year, students will have the opportunity to apply to be a section leader for their chorus. Section leaders must possess excellent musicianship skills that will allow them to lead effective and productive sectional rehearsals. Students who are chosen to be section leaders will lead small sectionals at Miss Phillips' request.

Plagiarism/Cheating Policy: Cheating and/or plagiarism are regarded as very serious offenses. Copying or paraphrasing material/text from the work of another student, from published sources (i.e.: Cliff Notes, magazines, newspapers, etc.) and/or from the Internet without proper documentation constitutes academic theft which will result in a zero and possibly an administrative referral.



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Central Chorus Student Guidelines and Information

1. Be on time to class and all choral events.
2. Respect the rehearsal room and equipment.
3. When class starts, all food, non-water drinks, candy, and gum must disappear. All evidence of such foods left on the floor will result in food being restricted in the chorus room. Clean up after yourself! Singers are encouraged to have sealed containers of **water** at their seat during rehearsal.
4. Consider the main piano, stereo, office phone, and ensemble room computer unavailable unless given permission.
5. The pianos for the piano laboratory are off-limits. Do not touch those pianos without asking permission first.
6. The ensemble room is a chorus wide space meant to benefit every member of Chorus. Any items left in this room are left at your own risk. Items left for longer than a week will promptly be donated.
7. When you come to class each day: Dispose of your gum, put book bags (NOT purses; purses may be placed under your seat and out of the way) in back of the room, put your cell phone away, get your music and pencil, and be in your **assigned seat when the bell rings**.
 CELL PHONES: per the CHS Handbook policy, cell phones are prohibited during class time. Cell phones will be confiscated if used during class. Subsequent use of a cell phone during class may result in a behavior referral.
8. Come to class ready to **fully perform** daily. **ALL IN, ALL THE TIME!**
 SING, have music/pencil in hand, stand and perform as requested in all class activity. Students lose daily points by talking, being out of seat after the tardy bell, not asking permission to leave seat, poor singing posture, having food/gum/drinks, lacking proper materials, lack of cooperation or showing insubordination, not using/marking choral music, reading or doing other schoolwork, etc.
9. Bring a smile, a positive attitude, and a commitment to excellence each day.
10. During rehearsal, you will often be instructed to write “score notes” in your music. Score notes reinforce the learning skills covered in rehearsal. Mark as instructed and do it in PENCIL. Writing in pen will result in damage fees.
11. Be considerate and respectful of the director and other singers. Raise your hand if you have a question or need to leave your seat. Do not talk during rehearsal. Listen carefully. Good listeners are GREAT performers and musicians!
12. Students are expected to consistently display honorable behavior that reflects favorably upon this school and this chorus. Profanity is **never** acceptable. Show class, dignity, and respect for yourself and others by your character and conduct. Don't settle for less than this in choir or in your life!



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13. Various fundraisers are scheduled throughout the year. All chorus students are encouraged to participate in their fair share of fundraising for the benefit of the Central High School Chorus. Deadlines for these fundraisers are not suggestions, and all fundraiser participants are expected to meet those deadlines.

14. The chorus uniform designated for each choir will be worn at all performances and for other activities as requested. All attire must be clean, neatly pressed and worn in the manner instructed.

15. Membership in any quality organization requires commitment, sacrifice, responsibility and effort. Students who exemplify such qualities are the backbone of the CHS Chorus. Students who demonstrate excellence will earn consideration as an "Outstanding Choral Student" in the spring. Excellence includes outstanding performance, effort, attitude, responsibility, cooperation, attendance and punctuality. These same qualities and abilities are also factors considered when auditioning for special groups, solos, ensembles, All-State Chorus, and other Honor Chorus.



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Acknowledgement and Understanding of the CHS Chorus Handbook

This form and the Attendance Improvement Program form count as grades! Sign and return by **August 28, 2020**.

Student Name _____

Period: _____

Parents and students: Please sign below that you have read, understand, and will support the choral handbook guidelines and expectations, including all mandatory concert dates.

Remember that the chorus uniform fees are also due by **September 25, 2020**. Checks made out to the school and cash are accepted.

IMPORTANT: Parents, please print your email address and cell phone number carefully so that you can be added to the email group for weekly updates and to Remind for text updates.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Name (Print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Cell Phone Number: _____

Best Email Address: _____

Secondary Email Address (optional): _____

T-SHIRT INFORMATION

Your chorus fees are **\$25** due by Friday, September 25th, and they must reflect the appropriate amount. Add \$10 per shirt for any extra t-shirt purchased.

Please indicate which sizes and how many desired:

Youth L _____ Adult S _____ Adult M _____

Adult L _____ Adult XL _____ Adult 2XL (add \$1) _____ Adult 3XL (add \$1) _____

**Payment plans available by request. Email Ms. Phillips at ruthie.phillips@carrollcountyschools.com to request a payment plan.



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Carroll County Schools INSIDE Chorus Rehearsal Guidelines

The following steps and procedures are for all inside chorus rehearsals until further notice. Note: any variations to the written guidelines should be addressed with your principal and Mr. Glen Harding.

- *Chairs should be at a minimum of 6' Horizontal and 6' vertical intervals if possible. Use straight lines instead of traditional rehearsal arcs as well as window seating.
 - Use of larger rehearsals areas (i.e. gym or cafeteria) or outdoor rehearsals are encouraged if necessary.
- *Use of face coverings is expected when entering/leaving the chorus room, speaking in class, and when singing.
- *Use of storage rooms should be limited or not at all if possible.
- *If stands/chairs are used in a class, a minimum of 10 minutes between rehearsals should be used to disinfectant equipment.
- * Students should bring their own water bottles. Water fountains will NOT be available at this time, but the cafeteria will have water refill stations for use during lunch.
- *There should be no sharing of equipment, including but not limited to chairs, stands, binders, music, pencils, or water bottles.
- *Doors should be left open to help with air circulation.
- *Well identified traffic flow and entrance / exits should be used.
- *Assigned seats should be used.
- *Hand Sanitizer should be available at each entrance/exit.
- *Plexiglass partitions or barriers between musicians are not recommended because the room HVAC system cannot properly change the air as designed.



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*Google Classroom should be used every day for virtual, in-person, and distance learning students. Virtual students are expected to participate synchronously through virtual means, such as Google Meets or Zoom.

* All virtual students will be required to have a weekly check-in with Ms. Phillips. Google Sign Up Sheets will be sent out on the Friday of the week before.

*In the event that we move to virtual learning, ALL students will be required to have weekly check-ins with Ms. Phillips via Zoom or another platform.

We will have a fantastic year with lots of new experiences! As always though, students' safety is our number one priority. We all have to work together to provide the safest environment for learning.