



**WARNER ROBINS HIGH SCHOOL
CHORAL DEPARTMENT**

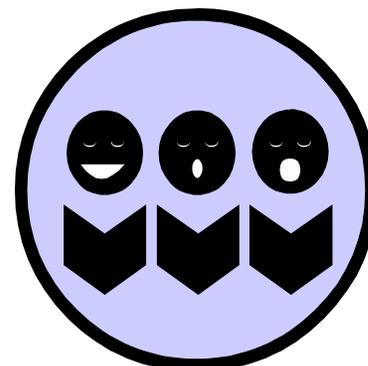
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401 S. Davis Dr.
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WRHS Chorus

HANDBOOK

Choraliers
Concordia
Concert Choir
Bella Voce
Piano Class



Goals and Description

To learn teamwork, commitment, self-discipline, dependability and respect...not only for this choir, but also for future life endeavors.

To learn basic music theory for application to the choral ensemble, including a characteristic choral tone.

To learn and appreciate music of all styles.

To meet our potential as an ensemble.

(From time to time, I will incorporate music from a variety of religious backgrounds and different languages, which covers a diversity of ethnic cultures. Concert music WILL also include BOTH secular and sacred music.)

Classroom Rules

Be Respectful Be Responsible Be Self-Motivated!

ALL SCHOOL RULES STILL APPLY!!!

No gum, candy, food, drinks, or foreign objects are to be in your mouth in the Chorus room.

[A foreign substance (gum, candy, food, pen caps, etc.) in the mouth while singing can be very dangerous.]

Raise your hand and wait to be recognized before you speak.

The behavior stops if: It disturbs the teacher, it disturbs someone else, or if it is destructive to school property.

Stay in your assigned seat unless you have permission to leave.

Be courteous, positive, and supportive of fellow choir members.
(Positive attitudes produce success.)

Chorus Boosters

Purpose—to support the activities of the WRHS Chorus through active participation in fundraisers, chaperoning, and being helpful when at all possible. The secondary purpose is to serve as a vehicle for direct communication between the director and parents.

Activities

- Meetings—We will meet monthly. Please check the calendar in Charms for dates
- Meetings begin with a report from the director on recent and upcoming activities.
- Meetings conclude with an opportunity for parents to present ideas, or discuss issues pertaining to the choir program.
- Chaperoning— Members of the Boosters are usually the first ones called upon to chaperone various events, including the performance trip.
- Setting up, and Cleaning up—The boosters help out tremendously doing all of the things that wouldn't get done, otherwise, such as helping to set up food for show choir events and the Spring Awards night, and making sure that everything is cleaned up afterwards.
- Handing out programs, etc.—Prior to performances, the director is with students. Therefore, we count on parent help to get programs handed out, as well as to take up donations at the end of performances when we do so.
- Running independent fundraisers—In past years, our boosters have taken on several fundraising efforts. It has been a great boon to our program, and is greatly appreciated!
- Community Contacts—Our boosters know people in the community. People who can provide performance opportunities, and people who can donate to our chorus program. We appreciate their help in letting the community know what we are all about!

There are no fees or dues to join the WRHS Chorus Boosters. Just come to the meetings. You will be more involved in your child's life, more knowledgeable about the chorus events they are involved in, and will show how much you support their artistic endeavors in choir. The support of the boosters is something that is never taken for granted, and is ALWAYS greatly appreciated!!!

Major Events

Fall Concert—Takes place in the school theater in the evening and involves Choraliers, Concordia, Concert Choir, and Bella Voce

Recitals —Takes place in the chorus room. They are required performances for students in the piano class only.

All-State Choir Auditions—This is a highly rigorous audition process. Students work after-school to train for it. The auditions take place on Saturday, November 14th, at Crisp County High school in Cordele.

District Honor Choir—Students are nominated by the director to participate in this event. It takes place on a Monday evening, and Tuesday. The performance is held on the Tuesday evening.

Holiday Concert—This will take place in our school theater, and will involve all of the chorus classes.

Winter Concert—This concert prepares students for the rigorous judging that will take place at Large Group Performance Evaluation (LGPE). It will take place in the school theater and will involve the Choraliers, Concordia, Men's Choir, and Bella Voce.

Large Group Performance Evaluation (LGPE) - Formerly known as "Festival" this event is like our End-of-course Test. Our top choirs will perform for three judges and be given a rating. They will then be ushered into another room where they will be judged on their sight-reading abilities.

Literary Competition—This annual competition with our GHSA rivals includes boy's solo, girl's solo, boys' quartet, and girls' trio. The team will be assembled by audition in the fall, and will practice after school to prepare.

Performance Trip—This year, we head to Walt Disney World! We will be performing in the Candlelight Processional at Epcot.

Spring Concert—Takes place in the school theater in the evening and involves Choraliers, Concordia, Concert Choir, and Bella Voce.

Graduation—EVERY CHORUS STUDENT IN CHORALIER'S CONCORDIA, AND CONCERT CHOIR IS REQUIRED TO PERFORM AT GRADUATION. Arrangements are made with students who have family travel plans. Otherwise, students are expected to be at this event.

Choir Class Financial Requirements

1. Students are required to be in the concert uniform designated for their group when they perform.

Dresses and pants must be hemmed properly, and shoe/sock/hosiery standards met, or students will not be allowed to perform.

UNIFORMS ARE A ONE-TIME EXPENSE THAT SHOULD SEE MOST STUDENTS THROUGH 4 YEARS OF SCHOOL.

Uniforms are \$70. (For detailed information, see p. 5)

2. Students are required to pay Chorus Dues each semester. (for more information, see p. 4)

Dues are \$40 per semester, or \$75 for the year (if they are paid in full during the Fall Semester)

ALL CHORUS EXPENSES, INCLUDING DUES AND UNIFORMS, MAY BE COVERED WITH ACTIVE, INVOLVED PARTICIPATION IN THE FUNDRAISERS PROVIDED.

3. Students who participate in individual activities may be required to pay registration fees.

These activities are optional and are not required for the student's grade.

Individual activities incurring registration fees include but are not limited to: All-State Chorus, District Honor Choir, Trips, College high school choral Days, etc.

Students will receive information sheets that will include information about registration fees, prior to students signing up.

Chorus Dues

WRHS Chorus is a non-profit organization. We do not keep or accumulate money for personal or private use. We zero out our accounts at the end of each year. Every cent of this money goes back into your child's music education. None of it is kept for profit.

Chorus Dues are used to pay for expenses incurred by the chorus as a whole, rather than paying for individual student expenses.

Group expenses may include, but are not limited to: LGPE registration, accompanist bills, piano tunings, chorus t-shirts, some bus transportation, music expenses, equipment expenses, etc.

We do receive a small amount of money from the Board, but it is a fraction of the amount we need to pay for all of the expenses we incur in the course of a year, running a very active chorus program.

It is vital that EVERY chorus student do their part to cover the expenses of the group so that we can always cover our expenses.

It is NOT the intention of this policy to keep students from performing, but we must have some real consequence for students who do not meet this obligation. **Therefore, students who do not pay their dues, will not be allowed to perform until they have met this obligation.** Such students will be given a make-up assignment to complete for their performance grade.

IF YOU HATE FUNDRAISING, once your child's uniform is paid for, and their dues are paid, you will not be asked to pay for any other expense this school year, unless your child participates in something extra, such as the Spring trip, All-State chorus auditions, etc.

Finally, as part of the dues that they pay, your child will receive a choral department t-shirt AT NO ADDED EXPENSE. They may through the year be asked to wear this shirt for certain performances.

Charms Office

Charms is an online service to which the chorus subscribes. It is used by most of the music programs in the county. Charms has several components that help us. They include:

- A Calendar
- Up-to-date financial information for each student including:
 - How much they made from fundraisers
 - What bills they have paid
 - What bills they need to pay
 - What they have turned in money for
 - Printable receipts (These are the only receipts we use)
- A recording studio for students to record assignments
- Document sharing (The director can upload documents that were also distributed in class)
- Announcements

To access your child's Charm's account, go to:

- <https://www.charmsoffice.com/>
- On the right hand side of the screen, where it says "parent / student login" Type in the following school code :
warnerrobinshsc
- Click on "Enter Charms"
- When the next screen comes up, type in your child's student ID / lunch number, including the four zeros that precede it.
- For example:
If your child's number is 12345, type in: 000012345
This should bring up your child's information
Please click on "Personal Information" and make any needed changes to your family's contact information.

You will be prompted to change your password once you are logged in the first time. PLEASE change it to something you can remember.

New students—will not have an account set up until the 4th week of the semester due to possible class changes.

Please check out the Charmsoffice app! It's free!

Piano Class

The purpose of this class is to introduce students to the study of piano, or to allow students who have already studied piano the opportunity to continue that study and improve their skills.

This class will cover everything from posture at the piano to music theory and keyboard skills. Students who master the piano to any degree have a great advantage in the music world moving forward in life.

Students will be given a diagnostic exam at the beginning of the year to determine their skill and knowledge level. Everyone will work from the same curriculum, but based upon the student's prior knowledge, not all students will start at the beginning of the book. They will be expected to complete units and performance quizzes on a regular basis no matter the skill level at which they are working.

Students will need to provide the following materials for this class:

- A set of headphones or standard ear buds to be used daily.
- A three ring binder for assignments
- A pencil

This class is considered a separate entity from the choir program as a large group. They therefore have the following modifications:

- Piano students pay only \$25 per semester in instrument rental fees, as they do not incur as many expenses as the other choir classes, which will help cover the wear and tear to the instrument they will use on a daily basis. Students who choose to take both a chorus class and a piano class must pay BOTH choir dues and the instrument rental fee.
- They do not have to purchase a chorus uniform. They do, however, need to have dressy, semi-formal clothes appropriate for a recital. Formal prom-type attire is not necessary.

Uniforms

Ladies: This black formal gown is ordered through the Chorus from Southeastern Performance Apparel. It must be hemmed to floor length after you receive it. The cost is \$70.00 including shipping.

- The dress must have a proper hem. If you don't know someone who sews, budget \$30 to take care of having it done by a professional.
- **Black, closed-toe dress shoes**, or open-toe dress shoes with black hose. Ladies must provide their own shoes. Flats are preferred.
- No necklaces, bracelets, or large earrings are permitted. Rings are optional as long as they are not distracting.

Men: Uniform package includes: Tuxedo shirt, necktie, black vest, and tuxedo trousers for \$70 from Southeastern Performance Apparel.

- The pants must have a proper hem. If you don't know someone who sews, budget \$30 to take care of having it done by a professional.
- **Black socks and dress shoes are to be provided by the student.**

Choraliers

Ladies: On regular concerts, we will be wearing the standard chorus dress, but we will add to it a string of pearls to distinguish yourselves as a group. See above for standard chorus dress.

Men: On regular concerts, men will be wearing the standard chorus uniform, except that they will wear a different tie from the men's choir. See above for standard chorus uniform

All Chorus Students

Students who fail to purchase the appropriate uniform through either payment, or by fundraising, will not be allowed to perform onstage. They will be excused from performances, but will have to do written make-up work in order to avoid receiving zeros for their performance grades.

Grading Policies

Marking Period Grades:

45%	Major Grades—Performances / Rehearsals
20%	Minor Grades—Classwork, Theory Work
15%	Daily Grades—Daily Participation Grades
+ 20%	Final Exam— Final
100%	

Late Work Policy:

A student is permitted 5 days to submit work when they are absent for any reason.

It is the responsibility OF THE STUDENT to make sure they are current on their grades.

After the allowed 5 days, I will continue to accept make-up work with a penalty of 5% taken from the grade for each day it is late.

As per school policy, no late work will be accepted after the three week progress reports go home.

Hall Passes

Students will be issued one hall pass per semester.

The hall pass may be used 3 times during the semester. Each time it is used, it will get a hole punch.

When it has 3 hole punches in it, it can no longer be used.

Students should save these passes for emergency trips to the bathroom.

Once their hall pass is used up, students are allowed to use one of their friends' hole punches.

Students who take multiple choir classes will receive one hall pass per class.

These policies ensure that our classes are interrupted as little as possible.

Chorus Descriptions

Bella Voce - Open to any girl in the school without an audition, this class teaches students how to sight-read, the basics of music theory, and the basics of good tone production. It is our Beginning women's chorus.

Concert Choir —This class is a mix of our Beginning Men, and our Intermediate Women. It is open to any guy who wants to sign up, but girls must go through an audition process first. The goal of this class is to quickly move the gentlemen from a beginning chorus level to a level on par with the ladies, and to perform quality mixed-choir repertoire on concerts. Membership is open to all men. Membership for ladies is by audition.

Concordia—Concordia is our advanced women's chorus. Placement in this class is based on a sight-reading audition. They work on complex music with 3-4 part harmony. This class primarily sight-reads their music. The repertoire is challenging, but the reward in the sound of rich harmonies is wonderful. Membership in this class is by audition only.

Choraliers—Choraliers, the most advanced chorus at WRHS, will be performing complex choral arrangements of popular and show tunes, in addition to traditional choral repertoire. Singers must be proficient sight-readers with a history in the chorus program. Choraliers is a long-standing tradition at WRHS. They are known for their challenging harmonies and rhythms. Membership in this class is by audition only.

Diploma Seals

Seniors may be eligible to receive a Fine Arts seal on their diploma. They must meet the following criteria:

- Have completed 4 years of chorus
- Have documented 20 hours of community service related to their chorus experience
- Complete a senior project
- Complete application by the given date.

More detailed information will be disseminated in a separate document.

Overnight Travel

There are some years when we take trips that involve overnight travel. Below, you will find information about those trips.

We travel with a travel company. We do this to ensure that we have adequate preparation ahead of time, and have trip liability insurance.

These trips cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000 each year. Because of the amount of money involved, we have developed some strict rules to make certain that there is never a short-fall.

- Once students make the 1st payment, they are committed to going on the trip and are expected to finish paying for the trip in full. It is considered a financial obligation to the school.
- **ALL PAYMENTS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.** We do not keep the money. We send it on to the travel company throughout the year.
- If a student must drop from the trip, the **ONLY** way their money can be refunded is if they have purchased the optional trip insurance. This is the student's responsibility, not the teacher's.
- Students are placed into rooms in groups of four when at all possible to help reduce expenses. Double and triple rooms are inevitable at times, but we do quads as much as we can.
- We will make every effort to fill up the tour bus in order to cut down on expenses.

Travelling with the chorus is a privilege, not a right. The director reserves the right to ban students based on poor classroom behavior. Students must prove they are trustworthy in class, before they will be trusted to be away from the school.

Travelling with the chorus creates memories that last a lifetime. Students are strongly encouraged to save up so that they can go with us. We never fail to have a good time, and we get to see things, and perform in places, where few other students have. Friendships are bonded to lifetime status, and the memories last forever.

Class Academic Requirements

1. Performance

- **Students who are members of a performing group such as chorus, are required to perform in concerts that may not occur during the school day.**
- Performances are 45% (almost half) of a student's final grade.
- The calendar is given at the beginning of the semester, and changes are given with at least one month's notice.
- If a student misses a performance for any reason, they will then have the opportunity to do written make-up work consisting of a six page report on three composers for their grade. This work will be due within two weeks of being assigned.
- **If a student is absent from a concert for any reason and fails to complete the assigned make-up work, they will receive zeros for that major grade.**

2. After-School Rehearsal

- The 3 after-school rehearsals prior to each performance are considered "major grades."
- If a student misses one of these rehearsals for any reason, they will be given a singing assignment in Charms Office. They can use the app on a cell phone to record the given assignment. Arrangements will be made for students who do not have access to a cell phone.

3. Classwork

- Students will have some written work to complete. This may include, but is not limited to: written theory quizzes, some sight-singing quizzes, and brief writing assignments regularly.
- Any assignment given by a substitute WILL be collected for a grade.

4. Daily participation grades

- Students will receive a weekly grade based on their daily active participation. This grade is based on the premise that because chorus is a performing group, students must perform well during every rehearsal in order to be adequately prepared for concerts.
- Students have the opportunity to earn 20 points per day toward their Daily Participation Grade for that week.
- The 20 points per day will add up to a weekly test grade of 100.

5. Theory Work

Students will be assigned a music theory workbook to help them with their understanding of notation. Students will be graded based on their completion of the assigned pages.

6. Final Exam

Each class will be given a cumulative final exam at the end of each semester. It is worth 20% of the overall grade.

Sick Days

There are no sick days permitted in choir. If a student is well enough to be in school, then they *should* be well enough to rehearse. However, that is not always the case. Therefore, a student may, at the discretion of the teacher, be asked to sit to the side and complete a written activity rather than sing. If so, they are expected to complete the assignment as much as possible, and turn it in at the end of the class. Failure to do so will result in the loss of all daily participation points for that day.

Vocal Assessments

Students will sing a vocal assessment at the beginning of each year. The purpose of these assessments is to place students as accurately as possible into sections, and to balance the choir.

Vocal assessments are done in class, in groups of 2-4 students. Students sing a warm-up exercise, and “My Country ‘Tis of thee” in various registers.

While I take notes that I personally use on each student, these assessments are NOT graded.

Chorus Awards

At the end of each school year, the chorus hosts our annual awards night. Recognition will be given to students who perform well at the following functions:

Solo & Ensemble Festival
GMEA District II Honor Choir
Literary Participants
All-State Chorus recognition
College Choral Day
Large Group Performance Evaluation

Students will also be recognized for the amount of time and energy they have invested in the chorus program at WRHS.:

4 Semesters = Letter
Every 2 semesters beyond your letter = Service pin
Seniors with at least 8 semesters = “Singing Demon” plaque

4 students will be recognized by the director. These awards are totally at the discretion of the director. They are:

Most Improved
Most Outstanding
Distinguished Service
Director’s Award

Other awards will be given that night, including peer awards, and recognition of students participating in special events that year.

WRHS Music Honor Cords

Honor Cords will be given to seniors who accumulate a total of 75 points in Charms. Points will be awarded for the following:

Each semester in chorus = 5 pts.
Extra single day performance event = 5 pts.
Extra multiple day performance event = 10 pts.
Literary Team—5 pts. Per year
Concert tech crew—2 pts. Per concert
Choral Volunteer work—2 pts.
All – State auditions = 5 pts.

The top point earning student in the senior class will receive a plaque of recognition.

White Honor Cords will be presented to students who have completed the chorus academic pathway. Students will either receive the white honor cord, or the cord for points accumulation, but not both as those who earn at least 75 points are assumed to have completed the pathway. Pathway completers may be asked to purchase their honor cords as part of their academic regalia.