

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

CHORAL MUSIC DIVISION

HANDBOOK

VIDALIA COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL

CHORUS

SHOW CHOIR

2018-2019

John F. Morgan

Director

CLASSROOM POLICY

Sickness/Non-Participation

Chorus and Show Choir are participatory classes and group activities. Choral singing is about 90% attitude and concentration, and the atmosphere must be positive and cooperative. In many cases, singing will improve the way a person feels physically and emotionally. The negative actions (intentional or unintentional) of one person can affect the attitude and performance of the entire group and the director. When a student comes to class, he/she will be expected to participate in all activities as directed by the choral director. Teamwork: All members must be team players all the time (chor-US).

Deal with the drama of everyday life before entering the chorus room (Leave it at the door). Music will help you deal with life if you will let it! If there is a problem, go to the captains. If they don't know the answer, they come to the director.

The following procedures will be followed **when a student chooses to remain at school but will not participate because of sickness (physical or emotional):**

First time: The student will be encouraged to participate by the director and/or peer leadership.

Second time: The student will be given a participation grade of zero (0) for the day and a demerit.

Sore Throat: The student must notify the director at the beginning of class in case of sore throat or sickness. In most cases a round head tone on "ooh" will avoid hurting the throat. If it is too painful to sing, the student will sit up, pay attention, go through all the motions of singing (posture, reading the music, lip synching, hand signals for sight-singing, etc.). If this is not done, then the above rules will be enforced.

REHEARSALS, CONCERTS, PERFORMANCES

Concerts and performances, which are a natural and necessary outgrowth of this class, are considered an application and evaluation of knowledge gained during class. **Therefore, attendance at all concerts and performances are required.** Likewise, after-school rehearsals are necessary at times. These rehearsals are scheduled only when absolutely necessary, and students are given a minimum of a two-week notice to arrange work schedules and other conflicts. In cases where a student has to miss a concert, performance, or rehearsal, the student will receive the assigned demerits (see "Demerit System"). No gum, large jewelry (get director approval), or perfumes/colognes. No hairstyles that draw extraordinary attention to an individual at any concert! All students are expected to have good personal hygiene in rehearsals and at concerts. Use unscented deodorants!

EXPENSES AND FUNDRAISING

Chorus members enjoy privileges that are not offered to non-chorus students. Members of the chorus or show choir may travel to various activities such as All-State Chorus, District Honor Chorus, Festival (now called LGPE), or other places that offer a quality musical and educational activity. Extraordinary performance at LGPE may be a condition for reward trips in the spring.

These activities are expensive, and the money must be raised, or else the student has to pay to participate in these extras. Rental uniforms are also provided at an affordable rate for students who do not wish to purchase a new one. In order for a chorus member to receive benefits from the fundraiser proceeds, he/she and the parents must do a fair amount of fund-raising. Of course, anyone who wishes to make a contribution rather than fund-raise is encouraged to do so.

Students must keep all receipts, and sign for any product or tickets to be sold. Neither the school nor the choral department is responsible for any merchandise or money that is stolen. Students who do not turn in either the product/tickets or the money at the end of the fund-raising time will not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities and will have their report card held. Reports cards will also be withheld for checked out uniforms not returned to the choral department.

The Choral Department is willing to work with students who have special needs. The parents/guardian needs to communicate with the director in these circumstances.

CHORAL FOLDERS AND MUSIC

Folders and music are provided for the student's convenience and choral music education. They are expected to be maintained in good condition and must be returned at the end of the semester. Any damaged or lost folder/music will be charged to the student at the replacement cost plus shipping and handling. Please write your name and folder number on a sticker on the right pocket inside the folder in case your folder is misplaced. At times, with the director's permission, music may be checked out overnight, with a form completed by the director and student to keep track of the checked out music.

Auditions and Audition Exemptions

The Indian Express Show Choir is an auditioned group of singers and dancers who perform several times each year. Any member of the Show Choir who has completed two full years in the ensemble, who has auditioned successfully two times, and who has no more than ten demerits may exempt auditions for the following year. They obtain automatic membership in the next year's group unless they opt out of the group *before* auditions for the next year. Any student who makes and attends GMEA All State Chorus is exempt from the next year's audition automatically if they choose to re-enroll.

DEMERIT SYSTEM

The intent of this policy is to encourage positive behavior through praise and rewards, and discourage negative behavior through varying degrees of consequences. With that goal in mind, the following will apply to all students involved in the VCHS Chorus or Indian Express Show Choir.

1. Rules, regulations, and requirements of the VCHS Guidebook apply at all times, whether in the classroom, on the bus or SUV, or while out of town. All classroom incidents will be reported to administration via the secure electronic system provided by Vidalia City Schools and demerits will be noted on a poster chart locked in the teacher's office.
2. When a student acquires a total of five demerit points, he/she may have to attend extra rehearsals or complete extra work. The parent or guardian will also be notified.
3. When a student acquires a total of ten demerit points, he/she will be suspended from the next performance or trip. The director will contact parents or guardian by phone or Email, and will be available for a parent conference if needed.
4. When a student acquires a total of 15 demerit points, he/she will immediately lose the status of being a part of the performing group, and give up the right to travel with the Chorus or Show Choir.
5. The director reserves the right to designate extra work or duties when demerits occur.

Generally, a student knows when he/she has erred, and should accept the consequences in a mature manner. Again, the goal is to encourage positive behavior and discourage negative behavior. Learning from mistakes and accepting the consequences is part of growing toward being a mature adult.

Students will elect (with director approval) a music captain (must be able to play parts on piano and lead sectionals) and a dance captain (must be able to learn choreography quickly and re-teach it) as special leaders of the group.

Juniors and Seniors with two or more years of experience will serve as leaders and must:

1. Assist the director with reporting demerits privately to the director after class *on the day of the offense* via official school Email or face-to-face conferences.
2. Report any attitude problems that may develop within the group immediately and discreetly.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR POLICY

Specific Conduct & Consequences (Demerits) In addition to the requirements of the VCHS Guidebook

CHORUS ROOM:

Constant talking after class is called to attention per infraction day	1
Flagrant posture violation during singing per infraction day	1
Desk up when no writing assignment has been given per infraction day	1
Interfering with music or participation of others	1
Improperly prepared - no music, pencil, paper – per infraction day	1
Eating/drinking/chewing gum when/where not allowed per infraction day	1
Unexcused tardy – each day	1
Defacing or abusing school property	5
Use of profanity/vulgar language	5
Not fully participating in classroom activities – per infraction day (past verbal warning)	1
Electronic Device Violation / Eyes on something other than music or director during rehearsal – per infraction day	1
VCHS rule infraction <i>in the chorus room (fighting, etc.)</i> – demerits by school punishment: ISS=1 per day, OSS=2 per day	<i>x</i>

CONCERTS, PERFORMANCES, TRIPS, FUNDRAISERS:

Leaving designated area of the group without permission of the director or chaperone	3
Vulgar language or inappropriate attitude	3
Arriving late or leaving (without special permission) before all equipment (rises, keyboards, etc) stored and all concert areas cleaned	1
Improperly dressed (out of uniform or chosen dress)	3
Singing when inappropriate (requires verbal warning first)	1
Unexcused absence from rehearsal, concert, trip, or performance	5
BUS: Loud talking/singing, etc. beyond the threshold of the bus driver or the majority of other students on the bus (requires a verbal warning first)	1
Refusal to obey a request from school administrator, teacher, booster, or chaperone	5
VCHS rule infraction <i>at an official choral activity</i> – demerits by school punishment: ISS=1 per day, OSS=2 per day	<i>x</i>

CHORUS LETTERS

Students may earn a “letter” in chorus, making them eligible to purchase a letterman jacket (Neff) and Letter, with bars for each subsequent year in the VCHS Chorus or Show Choir. Lettering is a distinct honor for students who continually go above and beyond expectations. Letters will be awarded at Spring Concert, at which point order forms will be available to students for jackets, letters, and bars. Students must have less than 5 (five) demerits in the current year. In addition students must meet at least 3 (three) of the following conditions to receive a letter:

1. 95 or higher score on each and every required concert performance and/or 100 average for the first three 9-week terms.
2. Full participation in Large Group Performance Evaluation.
3. Meeting minimum sales goals and/or participation in any chorus fundraisers (2-full-game minimum for Italian Ice Sales).
4. Full participation in District Honor Chorus.
5. Completing the first audition for All State Chorus with a score of 60 or above.
6. Region Literary Meet Group or Solo Winner