GRANGER

Granger Middle School
Chorus Handbook
2017-2018

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After reading the information below, please click the link at the bottom of the last page to complete the Handbook Acknowledgement/Concert Polo Order Form - thank you!

Welcome

Welcome to Chorus at Granger Middle School! The musical experiences students will encounter by participating in Granger Chorus nurture their physical, psychological, and emotional development through positive social interaction. The choral curriculum focuses on development of musicianship and twenty-first century creative thinking skills that are essential for students.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide an awareness and understanding of the curricular goals, philosophy, and classroom expectations of all Granger Chorus members. It is each student's responsibility to share the components of this handbook with their parents/guardians and return the required information. Please review and utilize the handbook as a resource throughout the year.

ALL Granger Choral information will be posted online on the Granger Chorus website (www.grangerchorus.weebly.com). Please use the website as a primary resource, but if questions arise you may also contact Mr. Jeff Haeger, Granger Middle School Chorus Director at jeff_haeger@ipsd.org or 630-375-1010, x8641.

Important Dates 2017-2018 (Performances listed in bold font)

Please mark the following important dates in your family/online calendar*

- September 5-7 (3:30-5pm): Honors Chorus Auditions (all interested students)
- Saturday, September, 30 (Time TBD): ILMEA Auditions @ Yorkville MS (select students nominated by Director)
- **Thursday, October 12 (5:45pm call time; concert @ 6:30pm) - 8th grade Chorus performs during Metea Valley Choir Concert (required for all 8th grade students)**
- Tuesday, November 7 (5:30-7:30pm): Guys Only Sing Night @ Metea Valley HS (all interested male students)
- **Tuesday, November 28 (7pm): Chorus Concert (required for all Chorus students)**
- **Monday, December 18 (7pm): Kaleidoscope Concert (8th grade & Honors Chorus)**
- Thursday, January 18 (6-7:30pm): Diva Night @ Metea Valley HS (all interested female students)
- Saturday, February 17 (Time TBD): Solo & Ensemble Festival **@ Granger MS** (all interested students)
- Saturday, March 10 (Time TBD): IPSD Choral Festival @ Still Middle School **(Honors Chorus only)**
- (*Tentative Spring Musical Dates) - Week of March 19-22*
- **Thursday, April 19 (7pm): Spring Chorus Concert (required for all Chorus students)**
- **Saturday, May 19 (Performance Times TBD): Fine Arts Festival @ Metea Valley HS (required for all Chorus students)**

* *Any additional dates will be communicated via email and the Granger Chorus website.*

Granger Choral Ensembles

Curricular Ensembles

Students may elect to join Chorus in 6th, 7th or 8th grade. Students participate in the Chorus elective receive daily instruction for a 40 minute class period throughout the entire school year. Students may also participate in Band or Orchestra in addition to Chorus as a *combo* student. Students who participate in *combo* receive instruction two or three days per week (e.g. Tuesday, Friday, and alternating Wednesdays). The Choral curriculum builds upon the concepts learned in each year's previous grade and is designed so that students receive comprehensive instruction across the vocal and instrumental music curricula. Students learn musical concepts in units that reflect a collaborative effort within the entire music department to ensure that students receive balanced instruction. Students perform at least three times throughout the year, including the District Fine Arts Festival.

There are currently three curricular chorus classes at Granger: sixth grade chorus, seventh grade chorus, and eighth grade chorus. These ensembles are open to all students wishing to participate in choral singing. Ensemble placement for the sixth, seventh and eighth grade choruses is determined solely by grade level.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Honors Chorus

Honors Chorus is designed for students wishing to broaden their musical development and experiences. Students sing more advanced vocal literature and participate in additional outside performances and field trips. Honors Chorus meets two mornings each week from 6:50AM to 7:50AM. Students may participate in both choral and instrumental morning ensembles. **Vocal placement is determined by audition at the discretion of the Director. Student desire and attitude, musical background, balance of voice parts, and ensemble size are also considered throughout the audition process. Therefore, students may often be placed in a different section than they sing in curricular choir or in private voice lessons.** Honors Chorus meets from September through April. Audition information will be made available at the beginning of the school year.

Illinois Music Educator Association (ILMEA) Festival

The ILMEA District IX Choral Festival is open to all choir members. Students wishing to participate must prepare the required vocal audition selections, and audition in October. Students who are selected must spend additional time at home and in help sessions after school with the Director, to prepare the required festival choral selections. Students who are selected participate in a full Saturday festival with a choral clinician. Students will receive audition information each Spring preceding the festival. Audition and festival packets will also be posted online and distributed at the beginning of the school year.

Illinois Grade School Music Association (IGSMA) Solo and Ensemble Festival

Choir members may perform solo selections at the Illinois Grade School Music Association (IGSMA) Festival in February. This requires rehearsal at home and weekly rehearsals before and/or after school with the Choir Director in December, January, and February. In addition, a Saturday performance commitment is required of all students in front of an adjudicator. All students receive a rating and written

evaluation designed to provide students with feedback for vocal development. Information concerning IGSMA Solo/Ensemble Contest will be made available in November.

Spring Musical

All Granger Middle School students have the opportunity to participate in the Granger Spring Musical. This musical theatre performance is open to all students by audition. Musical parts are assigned based on auditions, choral ensemble background, and previous musical experience. Auditions take place in December.

Classroom Guidelines and Expectations of Conduct

The classroom guidelines and expectations have been established in order to create a positive learning environment that is beneficial and safe for all students. In an environment of mutual respect, Granger students **show respect for self, teacher, fellow students, and chaperones at all times and in all settings (classroom, concert, field trips, etc).** Students who choose to ignore the following guidelines will receive a grade reduction for each infraction and may be removed from participation in music department activities.

1. Arrive to class on time. Students will have warm-up activities to participate in at the start of every class; therefore, students are expected to be present and have their materials prepared at the start of class. Tardies will be handled according to the Granger Middle School Expectations.
2. Each student is assigned a choral section, row, and seat based on a vocal placement. Students may be placed in a different section based on specific literature or vocal development throughout the year. Unless directed otherwise, students are expected to remain in their assigned seats in their assigned section during all classes and performances.
3. Students will be assigned a choral music and folder number at the beginning of the year. Students are responsible for knowing their assigned choir number. All music should be kept in each student's folder and stored in the chorus room folder slot. Students are responsible for storing their music, folder, and materials in their correct numbered slot in class, and having those materials prepared at the start of class every day. Students who do not have their assigned music, folder, and materials every day will lose participation points for every day that they do not have these materials. Lost participation points may result in a grade reduction.
4. Students should mark their music in pencil. Students are responsible for returning music with their assigned choral number on them at the end of the school year. Students who do not return music, or who return music that is damaged, will be charged the replacement cost of the piece(s). Students are welcome to take music home to study; however, students are responsible for returning to class with their music the next day.
5. Student discussion on musical topics will occur frequently during class as part of the music curriculum. Students are expected to demonstrate respect during these conversations and learning activities that so that the ensemble can work cooperatively in a positive learning environment.
6. Students are expected to display correct singing posture and vocal technique as they are taught throughout the year to the best of their ability. These concepts are essential for proper vocal development and ensemble collaboration.
7. Students who struggle with disruptive or disrespectful behavior during class will meet with the Director and work together to develop an acceptable solution. Parents/guardians and/or

administration will also be contacted and appropriate disciplinary consequences will be assigned until the situation is resolved.

8. Gum, eating and drinking is not tolerated in class. Students will lose participation points for each day this occurs.
9. Students are expected to attend pre-concert rehearsals and performances on time and in the required concert uniform. Concert notifications are provided in a timely manner and are discussed several weeks in advance during class. Students who do not attend concerts with the required uniform will receive a grade reduction.
10. Students must provide notice of conflicts to the director in a timely fashion so that makeup assignments and proper attendance can be verified. Absences that are not provided in a timely manner may result in a grade reduction.

Required Supplies

All students must provide the following materials by the second week of class:

1. **Two-pocket folder**
2. **Pencil for marking in music (pen will not be allowed to mark school music)**

Grading

Chorus students receive a grade at the end of each quarter based upon:

1. **Daily participation in rehearsal:** (5 points per day considering each of the following components)
   a. *Arriving to class on time in assigned seat and section with materials in-hand (folder, music, pencil)*
   b. *Participation in warmups using proper technique*
   c. *Positive contributions to group discussions in rehearsals*
   d. *Singing with proper vocal technique to the best of each student's ability*
   e. *Avoiding gum chewing, eating and drinking during class*
      - **A typical week will amount to 25 possible points for non-combo students and 10-15 possible points for combo students**
2. **Concert Reflections** (25 points each)
3. **Unit assessments** (25-50 points each throughout the quarter)
4. **Participation in required performances** (100 points per performance)

All students participating in the Granger Choral Ensembles are expected to put forth their best effort in rehearsals and performances. The success of the entire ensemble is determined by each student's individual attitude and effort and the ability of all members to work together. **Grades will be lowered for unexcused absences, disrespect or disruption during a concert/rehearsal, or lack of effort during a performance.**

Concert Attendance

Students are required to attend all CURRICULAR concerts listed on the Chorus Calendar. Students will meet at least 30 minutes prior to the start of each concert for warm-up and attendance. Students who do not arrive at the required concert call time may be marked absent and consequently may lose participation points. Each concert is worth 100 points.

If, for some reason, a student is unable to attend a concert, written documentation must be provided from a parent or guardian explaining the absence a minimum of two weeks prior to the absence. Students who miss a concert are responsible for the music performed and will be given an alternate assignment based on the music studied in order to earn missed points for their concert GRADE. In order to receive FULL points for the concert, students must complete the assignment according to the guidelines. **Students will earn concert points based on the completion of all portions of the makeup assignment.**

Concert Attire

All Granger Chorus members are required to have the complete Granger Music Department Uniform for all performances. The uniform not only identifies students as members of Granger Chorus, but also as members of the Granger Middle School performing ensembles.

The Granger Music Department uniform consists of the following: **Granger Music Department polo shirt tucked into long black pants, black pants, black socks, and black dress shoes**. These shirts are used in all vocal and instrumental music performances at all grade levels. **The following garments are prohibited as Concert Attire: gym shoes, sandals, flip flops, Capri pants, shorts, blue jeans, and perfumes or colognes.**

Any student who is not dressed in proper concert attire may not be able to perform, and will lose concert participation points.

Field Trips and Permission Slips

In addition to our school concerts and assemblies, students will attend occasional field trips through the Granger Music Department. Students who do not return permission slips for extracurricular events will not be allowed to participate in these special occasions, as per school and district policies.

Fundraising

The music department participates in one fundraiser each year. Its success is necessary for providing students with extra-musical enrichment that is not provided in our curriculum. This can include scholarships, special awards, clinics, guest conductors, and other special activities. While fundraising is important and all students are encouraged to participate, it does not impact a student's grade in Chorus.

Parent Volunteers

Supportive music parents continue to be an important ingredient in the success of our program. Parents show support not only by attending performances and festivals, but also through assistance with fundraising, chaperoning, parties, taking pictures, videotaping, etc. Your time and talents are always needed and appreciated. Thank you for your continued support!

Literature

As part of their choral experience and growth as individuals, students will be exposed to high quality music that is appropriate for the middle school changing voice. Students will be exposed to music that reflects a variety of cultures, genres, and historical periods, including significant musical works that are sacred or spiritual. Works such as these possess an historical significance and are present in our culture as works of art. Such literature is employed in the public schools because of its significance as an artwork and its importance from an historical perspective. For questions or concerns regarding literature selection, please refer to the Indian Prairie School District 204 Literature Selection Policy.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE LINK BELOW ACKNOWLEDGING THAT YOU HAVE READ THE CHOIR HANDBOOK.

THE ORDER FORM FOR THE REQUIRED GRANGER MUSIC SHIRT IS INCLUDED IN THIS LINK:

https://goo.gl/forms/VkPboVQvwJeb2EHA3