

Cougar Voices Choral Program

2024 – 2025 Course Handbook

All Ensembles are comprised of grades 9 – 12

Cavatina

Mastery Women's Chorus 1/2/3/4

6th Period

This course is a treble ensemble for mastery musicians. It is offered to people who are beyond proficient in musicianship, vocal pedagogy & sight singing. Students are placed in this class by vocal audition and skill assessment. The ensemble performs treble music of all genres. This class studies music literature, music theory, vocal performance, sight singing and ensemble singing.

CHAMBER SINGERS

Advanced Mixed Chorus 1/2/3/4

5th Period

This course is a mixed ensemble for advanced musicians. It is offered to people who are proficient in musicianship, vocal pedagogy & sight singing. Students are placed in this class by vocal audition and skill assessment. The ensemble performs SAB music of all genres. This class studies music literature, music theory, vocal performance, sight singing and ensemble singing.

Intro to Voice & Theatre

Intermediate Chorus 1/2/3/4 & Musical Theatre 1

4th Period

This class will learn the best of both worlds. Students will learn the fundamental knowledge of choral singing, while also taking on the challenges of learning theatrical skills of dance & acting. This class studies music literature, music theory, vocal performance, sight singing, ensemble singing, dance & acting techniques.

*All choirs perform actively in the community and every member is expected to be available for all events.

Choral Participation Fee

Annual Dues are a part of how the many programs at the Hooch function & survive.

100% of the funds are spent on students, instruction, and operating costs for the Chorus program.

In Chorus, the fees pay for things such as music, accompanists, equipment, classroom supplies, sight reading books, event entrance fees, chorus uniform, transportation, and spirit wear.

Students that are new to the program will receive a dress/tuxedo for their choral uniform. Students that are returning may continue to use their current attire or switch out for a different size at the beginning of the year.

Student Fee

\$175.00

To pay your fee, please [click here to be taken to OSP](#). The school only accepts electronic payment. If you would like to set up a payment plan, you may do so by emailing fabianski@fultonschools.org.

Students that take the opportunity to audition for [All State](#) & [Honor Chorus](#), as well as go on field trips, will have to pay additionally for these experiences throughout the year.

[All State Registration Link](#) and [Payment Link](#)

VOCAL MUSIC GRADING SYSTEM

Practice Assignments – 10%

Students are expected to be in their seats with a music folder and pencil in hand when the bell rings. They are expected to focus, pay attention, and contribute to the ensemble's time in class until the final bell rings. They will be graded on all aspects of technique, posture and vocal pedagogy, as laid out in the [GA Standards](#) (Pg.134) for our class.

Minor Assignments – 35%

Students will have assignments on SRF every other week, to be completed in class. Students will also have a variety of assignments and tasks for this category, that will be announced.

Major Assignments – 55%

Students will be assessed in many ways throughout the semester, all of which will be announced. The number of performances per grading period will be averaged and graded. If a student misses a required concert performance for any reason other than severe illness (required doctor's note) or a death in the family, they will not earn any credit for that performance. If students without an excused absence would like to go through remediation to earn 80% of the points, they will perform their part of the concert vocally and be assessed.

Students who have a death in the family will be graded on class participation and test scores pre-concert. Students who miss for illness (with a doctor's note), will perform their part of the concert by themselves or with a group of their choosing for 80% credit.

An unexcused absence from a required performance or rehearsal will result in the student becoming ineligible for a music letter or awards. At the time of the absence, the student's status in the ensemble will be considered by the director.

Each class is a performing ensemble and will have at least 2 scheduled concerts per semester. Members of the ensembles are required to participate in each performance and dress rehearsal for a grade.

Recovery & Late Work

Students have one opportunity to recover their grade on each major assignment/assessment if they scored below 75% on the initial attempt. Recovery is not provided for minor or practice assignments.

Students can earn a maximum grade of 75% on the recovered major assignment. Students who earn between 75 – 100 on the recovered assignment will receive a 75%. Students who earn below a 75 on the recovered assignment will receive the grade earned or the original grade, whichever is higher.

If an assignment is turned in past the due date but prior to the end of the unit within which it was assigned, teachers will deduct 15% of the assignment grade. This will be calculated by multiplying the actual grade earned by 0.85. For example, if the student earned a 90% but the assignment was turned in late, the student would receive a 77% (90 x 0.85).

If an assignment is turned in past the due date but after the end of the unit within which it was assigned, teachers will deduct 25% of the assignment grade (actual grade earned x 0.75) and the student will not be eligible for recovery on that assignment.

Academic Integrity

In our ever-changing world, the need for academic integrity is crucial. At Chattahoochee, we take this commitment very seriously and adhere to the following guidelines.

- a. Academic integrity is a commitment by teachers, students, and all members of the academic community to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Even under difficult circumstances or pressures related to grades/time, it is imperative that all members of the community avoid any action that may result in creating an unfair academic advantage for themselves or for any other member of the school community. Examples of academic dishonesty that provide such an advantage include but are not limited to: sharing test questions with others who have not yet taken the test, misrepresentation of data, consultation of outside resources (including AI) without permission, unauthorized collaboration, and plagiarism.
- b. Violations may result in severe consequences including but not limited to: a zero on the assignment, Saturday school, suspension from extracurriculars, loss of parking pass, removal from honors societies, and possible required reporting on college applications which may affect student admission into certain colleges and universities.
- c. Each student is expected to maintain and support academic integrity by:
 - i. Completing all assigned work, activities, and tests in an honorable way that avoids all cheating, lying, and stealing,
 - ii. Clarifying with the instructor anything that may be unclear about an assignment, with respect to how the Academic Integrity Policy/Honor Code may apply to it,
 - iii. Maintain records of research notes, outlines, rough drafts and reference works to validate individual effort,

- iv. Seek supplemental assistance from teachers, parents, or peers to understand lessons and assignments within the parameters established by the teacher.

Limited AI Use with Teacher Permission:

In this course, the use of generative AI tools is permitted only with explicit teacher approval for specific assignments. AI can serve as an aid to enhance understanding and interaction with course content, within the boundaries of academic integrity. If

AI tools are used, all AI-generated content must be accurately cited, and students are responsible for the integrity and correctness of their submissions, including any content derived from AI tools. It is essential to critically evaluate AI outputs to ensure they meet academic standards. Unauthorized use of generative AI, without proper citation, is considered a violation of the Fulton County Schools Code of Conduct and may result in disciplinary action.

MUSIC & THE VOCAL INSTRUMENT

Students will be given a folder to keep in the room, as well as sight-singing text and sheet music to study for each performance and musical learning. Students must leave their chorus folder in the room but are welcome to take home music to study. To receive their participation grade, they must participate and contribute to the rehearsal. Students will also be required to use a pencil to mark the music with comments from the director and section leaders, to earn participation points. Music textbooks and sheet music must be turned in by the end of each semester or be replaced at the expense of the student.

The singing or speaking voice is a wonderful instrument that we carry around without much thought at times. It is a delicate instrument that needs careful care to work well when we want to sing or speak. As a vocal musician, it becomes our responsibility to use our voice carefully; going to the doctor when we are sick, drinking lots of water, and protecting our voice by holding back when we have the urge to scream about something exciting (i.e., athletic games or concerts). If you are unable to sing during a rehearsal, you will need to listen to the rehearsal and follow along in the music to keep up with the ensemble while you are healing. If you come to school tired or ill, you will be expected to participate with the class in all activities.

Students must come to after-school rehearsals and warm-ups on time. If you are not on time, you will be missing precious time that will be used warming up your instrument and rehearsing with your ensemble. For every minute, a student is late to any rehearsal, 5 points will be docked from their grade. Students are allowed to stay after school on concert and rehearsal days.

Keeping up with the program!

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To Acknowledge you have received and understand this handbook and the responsibilities of your child in the chorus program, please complete [this form](#) by August 23, 2024.

If you would like to be involved in planning for our concerts and events this year, please fill out [this parent volunteer form](#).