

COUGAR VOICES Chorus Program

2021 - 2022 Course Handbook

All Ensembles are comprised of grades 9 - 12.

With our return to this school year, aspects of our day to day routine could change quickly. As new information is released, the community will be updated as quickly as possible. If there are digital learning days, students are responsible for logging on TEAMS.

CAVATINA

(MASTERY CHORUS - 6TH PERIOD)

This course is for serious musicians. This course is offered to women who are advanced in musicianship, vocal pedagogy & sight singing. Students are placed in this class by vocal audition and skill assessment. The ensemble performs women's music of all genres. This class studies music literature, music theory, vocal performance, sight singing and ensemble singing.

CHAMBER SINGERS

(INTERMEDIATE MIXED CHORUS - 5TH PERIOD)

To be placed in this class, each student must have a vocal audition and skills assessment, choral experience and advanced music reading skills. This class studies music literature, music theory, vocal performance, sight singing and ensemble singing.

All choirs perform actively in the community and every member is expected to be available for all events. At this time, we are unsure of when live events will resume, but will keep you informed of any new developments.

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	\$160.00
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[To pay your fee, please click this sentence.](#) The school only accepts electronic payment. If you would like to set up a payment plan, you may do so by paying a minimum deposit of \$50.

Students will have to pay additionally for All State, Honor Chorus and Field Trips offered throughout the year.

VOCAL MUSIC GRADING SYSTEM

REHEARSAL TECHNIQUES - 25%

Students are expected to be in their seats with music folder and pencil in hand when the bell rings. They are expected to focus, pay attention and contribute to the ensembles 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 ASSESSMENTS - 30%

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 ASSESSMENTS - 45%

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.

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, in order to earn participation points. Music text books 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 in order 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 in order 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!

Jennie Fabianski
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Chattahoochee High School Chorus
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Universal Remote Learning Expectations

1. Always join a meeting muted/video off, just in case.
2. Please wear proper attire to all video meetings.
3. All class chats are for business only.
4. Raise your hand/ask questions in the chat. Don't interrupt.
5. You will need daily access to a device and Group Me.
6. Have room to physically & emotionally work every day.
7. Be present physically & mentally for class each day. Participate fully.
8. Communication is Key! Don't hesitate to ask – send an email, text, chat, DM.
9. “The Power of Positive Thinking” & “The Next Right Thing”. We are in this together.

SINGING AT HOME

TIPS TO HELP CHOIR MEMBERS BE SUCCESSFUL DURING DISTANCE LEARNING

PREPARE TO SING!

Designate a workspace. Help your singer set up a workspace where they can use a computer, sing, and move comfortably. (It may be helpful to have a door you can close!.)

Supplies:



Music will be provided online, but all singers need:

- Paper and a pencil
- Headphones and/or speakers compatible with your laptop/device

MAKE A SAFE SINGING SPACE

DO	DON'T
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Give our choir students space. They may not be ready to share their work!

Offer encouragement and positive feedback!

Monitor sibling responses.

Tease them about their singing.

Draw attention to their singing before they're ready to share.

Offer advice - young singers may be easily embarrassed, especially with family members.

HOW TO RESPOND IF A CHOIR MEMBER SAYS THEY'RE BAD AT SINGING

"What do you not like about what you hear?"

"I hear these good things..."

"You're learning and growing! It's okay not to be perfect!"

Remind them to ask their director questions. We can help!

When they say they can't do it: "yet. You can't do it yet, but you're learning how and I know you can get there!"

REMEMBER...

PEOPLE OUR SINGERS' AGE OFTEN EXPERIENCE VOICE CHANGES. ENCOURAGE THEM TO SING THROUGH THE VOICE CRACKS AND REMIND THEM THAT THIS IS TEMPORARY!

SINGING CAN FEEL VERY PERSONAL AND VULNERABLE. MANY YOUNG SINGERS AREN'T USED TO SINGING ALONE.

BE PATIENT AND KIND!

Cougar Voices Letter Requirements

All points must be documented for the student to be eligible for letter or bar.

Being in Chorus/Musical Theatre
10 points (per class)

Auditioning for anything at School
5 points each

Auditioning for All-State & All-State Reading Chorus
10 points each

Singing the National Anthem at games
5 points for every game

Working Concessions
5 points per shift

Attending games where the national anthem is sang
2 points per game

Taking private lessons
15 points

Attending any music event
5 points per event

Singing/performing in a chorus outside of school
10 points

Participating in the Musical
15 points

Taking AP Theory, Guitar or Piano
10 points

Being Elected to a Choral Office/Class Office
10 points

Participating in Honor Chorus
5 points

Making All-State Chorus or All-State Reading Chorus
15 points

Being asked to participate in any extra chorus or special ensemble during the year
10 points

Students must complete 120 points out of this chart to letter or bar. These items will be presented at the End of the Year Banquet.