



Gettysburg Choir Handbook

Mrs. Callie Girodat

K-12 Vocal Music Director



Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Welcome back! I am very excited to begin working with you and getting to know you throughout the months and years to come! I hope you are ready and willing to jump into this year of learning and fun with positive and ready to learn attitudes!

This handbook is to be used as a guideline and reference for this year and the years to come. It may be tweaked in certain areas from year to year, but our overall goals and expectations will be largely the same. This handbook includes information about all of the workings, requirements, performances, and fundraisers we will be running this year. If other information becomes available, I will pass it on to the students and to parents as soon as I can.

I kindly ask that you read through this handbook and take note of everything included. At the end of the handbook you will find a signature form that must be signed by both the student and the parent/guardian. Signing this form will ensure that we are all under the same understanding of what is expected of students in our 7-12 Vocal Program for the year. Please have this form turned in by the date given on the form.

Thank you for your cooperation and dedication to the music department at Gettysburg. I look forward to getting to know and work with you all this year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Callie Girodat

Expectations

1. Be on time and ready to work hard until the end of the period
2. Listen and follow directions
3. Participate – give your best effort
4. Raise your hand and keep talking to a minimum
5. Check your character. Show respect to others, equipment, and yourself
6. Assume responsibility to improve one's own musical skills to the best potential for himself/herself and for the group
7. Please leave your gum, food, and drinks outside of the music classroom. Water is accepted.
8. Please get a drink and use the restroom before the bell rings. Check with Mrs. Girodat for permission if the bell has already rang.

Be respectful; Be responsible; Be safe; Be kind

This is an easy way to earn daily points. Failure to observe these criteria will result in loss of points.

Discipline Policy

All students are expected to do their best to meet classroom expectations – failure to do so will result in consequences to be determined by the teacher. Substitute teachers are also considered the classroom teacher for that day and may choose to give consequences to students not meeting classroom expectations.

Grading

Performances – 50%

Daily Participation – 20%

In-Class Projects and Assignments – 20%

Lessons – 10%

The semester test will still be the Christmas Concert (fall semester) and Spring Concert (spring semester). You will be graded on your performance, but also on your concert etiquette throughout the evening. I will be stressing concert etiquette with the students, so they can provide a proper example for the other audience members.

Lettering in Choir

In order for students to letter in choir, they will need to accomplish no less than three of the following six requirements.

1. Be an All State Chorus Participant.
2. Audition for Honor Choir.
3. Take a vocal solo to small group contest.
4. Be a part of a duet, trio, quartet, or small group number at small group contest.
5. Sing the national anthem for a home sporting event.
6. Perform at the musical fun afternoon in the spring.

Lesson Information

Lessons are highly encouraged for all students! Each student is required to come in for two-30 minute lessons per semester. These lessons will be used to ensure that each student is understanding all aspects of the music and is being a productive member of the singing group. A lesson sign-up sheet will be posted in the music room each week for students to sign up. Each lesson will be worth 50 points. If a student fails to show up for the lesson, there will be a 5 point deduction. Lessons will be required periodically for those that will be attending All State Chorus, Honor Choir, and who will be taking ensembles or solos to Small Group Music Contest.

Auditions and Individual Performances

All students in grades 9-12 are welcome and encouraged to audition for All State Chorus and Honor Choir. All State Chorus auditions will be held very early on in the year as the actual festival is in October. Honor Choir auditions are a live audition in front of a judge in the spring. Each student will be made aware of the All State Chorus audition requirements as they become available.

All students are encouraged to sign up to sing the National Anthem at our local sporting events! If a student wishes to sing, they may sign up on the sign-up sheet provided in the music room. The student will first need to sing for Mrs. Girodat to ensure the student's success! Some individuals may be asked to sing in a group for a national anthem performance also. Please see Mrs. Girodat if you have any questions!

Fundraising

The band and vocal departments will be doing at least two fundraisers this year. The first will be a cookbook fundraiser and the second will be a musical fun afternoon where student groups will perform their contest pieces. Students will be provided information for these fundraisers as soon as possible.

The goal for the cookbook fundraiser is to raise money to purchase brand new red polo shirts for every member of the band and choir in grades 7-12. These red polo shirts will be worn for concerts, contests, and other performances. Judges look very highly upon matching group attire such as these polos and we hope to look like and sound as professional as possible at all our performances!

Music Contest

Small Group Music Contest is an excellent way for students to perform and show their talent! It is not required that all students participate, but is highly encouraged! It is also an easy way to earn extra points! Students can be involved in large groups, solos, duets, trios, and quartets. Sign up for contest will occur in October so that students can have as much time as possible to be practicing their pieces. Times will be made available for students to schedule lessons with Mrs. Girodat as the date grows nearer. Times will also need to be arranged outside the school day to work with their accompanists.

Performance Requirements

Performances are a large portion of each student's grade and attendance is expected. Performances include, but are not limited to concerts and music contest. Each member of the ensemble is extremely important and responsible for their own part in making the ensemble a success. Absences due to serious illness or personal/family emergency may be "excused" at the discretion of the director. In order for the absence to be "excused", the director should be notified by the student AND parent/guardian two weeks prior to the absence if possible. Sending a note or email are usually the easiest way to do this.

Any unexcused absence will result in a 0% grade for the performance. The student will need to make up half credit for the performance missed, so they will write a paper determined by

the director. This paper will be due no later than one week following the performance. Students will complete this paper in ICU time if not finished within the week following the performance.

Concert Etiquette:

- Arriving on time, staying through the completion and assisted with tear down
- Not talking in between songs or at other inappropriate times
- Listening quietly and paying attention while other groups are performing
- No cell phones
- Wearing the appropriate concert attire

Performance Attire

Students will be asked to wear their assigned red polo, black pants/skirt, and black shoes for performances. Leggings worn as pants will not be permitted for performance attire. Seniors will be asked to dress up for the spring concert so they can be recognized! Ladies may wear their prom/snow queen dresses and men may wear suits or tuxes.

Important Dates and Performances

- Friday, September 16 - Gettysburg Homecoming
- Thursday, September 29 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Friday, October 28 - Sunday, October 30 - All State Chorus @ Sioux Falls
- TBA - Veteran's Day Program Performance
- TBA - Christmas Concert
- TBA - Caroling at the nursing home
- Wednesday, February 15 - Small Group Contest @ Mobridge
- TBA - Musical Fun Afternoon - Small group contest performers will be performing their pieces for the public.
- Wednesday, April 12 - Large Group Contest @ Mobridge
- TBA - Spring Concert
- TBA - Graduation Performance

**THIS SIGNED FORM NEEDS TO BE SIGNED AND RETURNED TO MRS.GIRODAT
NO LATER THAN FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2016.**

Student:

I, _____, have read and understand all of the requirements for High School Choir class. I also understand that all school handbook rules apply when participating in a choir event outside of the school building. I also have a complete understanding of what is meant by concert attire, and agree to have the proper attire to include SOLID black dress pants and assigned shirt, with appropriate dress shoes.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent:

I, _____, the parent of _____, have read the requirements for my child's participation in High School Choir class.

- I would be interested in chaperoning Small Group Contest Wednesday February 15, 2017.
- I would be interested in chaperoning Large Group Contest Wednesday April 12, 2017.
- I would be interested in being a Music Booster Parent.

Signature: _____ Date: _____