

Grassfield High School

Choral Department



2010-2011 Handbook
Joey Parrish, Director

GRASSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL CALENDAR 2010-2011



September	7	First Day of School
	9	Uniform Fitting (During Class Time)
	13	Handbook Contracts Due
	15	Honors Choir Audition fee and application due
	TBA	CPA Mixer 5:00-9:00 at 531 Las Gaviotas Blvd
	27	CPA Open House 7:00 pm (all parents are encouraged to attend)
October	2	Honors Choir Auditions (Longwood University)
	TBA	GFHS CPA Rock-A-Thon 6:00 pm
	12	Varsity Singers/ Freshmen Choir Fall Concert 7:00 pm
	14	Benefit Concert (Auditorium) 7:00 pm: Chamber Singers
	30	Chorus Department Halloween Party 7:00 pm
November	13	District Chorus Auditions TBA
	18-20	Honors Choir: Norfolk, VA
December	9	Chamber Singers Performance (Auditorium) 7:00 pm
	14	Chorus Winter Concert (Auditorium) 7:30 pm
	27- Jan 2	Winter Concert Tour
January	10/11	Variety Show Auditions
	21	Chorus Bowling Night
February	11-12	District IV Chorus (Western Branch High School)
	16	Virginia All-State Chorus Auditions (Deep Creek High)
	19	Variety Show Dinner/ Performance/ Auction
March	TBA	GFHS CPA Rock-A-Thon
	9-11	ACDA National Honors Choir: Chicago, IL
	12	District IV Festival-Chamber (Grassfield High School)
	26	Chesapeake Choral Festival (Oscar Smith High)
April	28-30	Virginia All-State Choir (Virginia Beach)
May	17	Spring Concert (Auditorium) 7:30 pm
June	7	End of the Year Chorus Banquet 6:30 pm

Please note the following color coordination:

RED: STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND

BLUE: STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

GREEN: STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND



Greetings and welcome to the Grassfield High School Chorus Department. I know you share in my excitement at the possibilities that this year presents. In the past three years we have seen unbelievable growth in our choirs. And with this growth we have seen exciting changes begin to take shape in our program. We have also seen our choirs accomplish great things over these past three years and we now have the opportunities to showcase our program as one of the finest in the state.

This year we welcome 36 new freshmen and 20 new members into the Varsity Singers. I challenge each of you to become involved right away and allow the chorus department to serve as your family while here at school. My goal is for each of you to walk through this door each day feeling like you are coming home, and face each day in chorus with an excitement that only comes with taking ownership in your program.

A major goal this year for our Chorus Department will be to set the example to the entire student body on how a diverse group of individuals with different backgrounds, talent levels, personalities and goals can come together to form a cohesive family that together can accomplish excellence. Teambuilding will be a major focus throughout the year and will shape many of the experiences we share together. We are Grizzlies, and we will continue to work and perform as one family.

This year you will have many opportunities for success and I encourage you to take advantage of every opportunity that arises. We will take part in Virginia Honors Choir auditions in October, District Chorus auditions as well as ACDA National Honors Choir auditions in November and All-State Choir auditions in February and I know we will do very well in these endeavors. We are pleased to announce that the entire choral department will participate in our bi-annual choral department tour. The dates for this event will take place in late December and more information will be shared shortly. Remember that through each of these events, you will have a chance to help shape the perceptions of Grassfield High School and I already know how hard you will work to make us proud.

Parents and family members are always welcome to become involved in this program. We are working to enhance the Grassfield High School Choral Parents Association and invite all families to become involved with this group. The focus of this organization is to support our choral students in all aspects. They will host a mixer in September at the home of our Steering Officer, Mrs. Kim Strother. I encourage each of you to attend and become involved with this worthwhile organization.

If at any time during this year you have any questions for me, please feel free to call me at school (558-GRIZ) or at home (537-7731). I also encourage you to use email (joey.parrish@cpschools.com) for any questions you might have and I will respond as soon as possible. We will be using our Chorus website more this year and I suggest that each of you bookmark our site www.gfhchorus.com.

Let's have a wonderful year!!! Together we will continue to create a tradition of excellence as well as many memories that we will cherish for years to come. I am so proud to be a Grizzly and a member of this wonderful choral program. Best of luck in all of your endeavors this year and thank you for your support of choral music here at GFHS.

Musically yours,

Joey Parrish, Choral Director Grassfield High School



Welcome Parents to the 2010 -2011 Grassfield High School Choral Parents Association. The Grassfield High School Choral Department is made up of 3 choirs; Freshmen Choir, Varsity Choir, and Chamber Choir as well as various small extra curricular ensembles. They have quickly become one of the finest choral programs in the state and we are excited to offer our support to this incredible group of students. The CPA is made up of the parents/guardians of these students.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and the board that will be serving for this 2010-2011 school year. My name is Kim Strother and I am proud to serve as the Steering Officer for this year. I have served on several committees and I am looking forward to serving as your Steering Officer this year. We have a wonderful board that is eager to assist in any way they can, and I know that with their support, we will have a wonderful year. Here is the full list of officers for this year:

Steering Officer – Kim Strother

Financial Officer – Michelle Gates

Recording Officer – Lisa Heckman

Publicity Officer – Gene Waters

Ways and Means Officer – Helen Elder

Volunteerism Officer – Sarah Watkins

You can find all information relating to the Grassfield High School Choral Department at the following website:

www.gfhchorus.com

Contact information for all board members can be found on GFH Chorus Department website listed on the Choral Parents Association page.

Sincerely,

Kim Strother

I look forward to getting to knowing you and your students throughout the year. If you have any questions, concerns or are just looking for general information please feel free to contact me at any time at:

kimstrother24@gmail.com

757-410-2771 home

757-675-0633 cell



Welcome Grassfield Choral Department members!

I hope you all enjoyed your summer and are excited to start the new school year. My name is Catherine Elder and I am your Student President for the upcoming year. Every year our choirs grow and transform, so I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of the new members to our program. You will all play a major role in making our choirs the best they can be, and I look forward to meeting each and every one of you.

We have three great years behind us, and I am hoping that this year will be even more spectacular. We are not a class, but rather a family, with each year different than the last. This is a quality that helps us to create an incredible group that has the ability to come together and perform as one cohesive unit. You are bound to get back what you put into this family, so if you put in as much as you can, it will be a very rewarding experience for not only you, but everyone else as well.

To develop this family as much as possible we have many events that take place after school hours, allowing us to use all of the class time we can to perfect our music, which is what it is really all about. We work hard, but we enjoy the process as well as the end product.

I hope you will make the most of every opportunity this department offers you this year. I am very excited to be able to take on this role in the program, so if you have any questions please feel free to ask me, one of your other amazing student officers, or of course, Mr. Parrish. There are many different ways to reach us, so it is never hard to do. Please find our Facebook page and friend it, sometimes announcements are posted on that. If you need to ask me something specifically you can reach me at cmelder107@cox.net. Or of course just come up to us in class. Any one of us will be happy to talk with you.

I cannot wait to see how our program has grown this year. I know this one will be just as fantastic as the last three, but let's do everything we can to make it our best one yet!

Sincerely,

Catherine Elder



GRASSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
CHORAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT
MISSION STATEMENT



- We believe that all students can and will succeed in Choral Music.
- We believe that Choral Music is an integral part in the lives of our students, providing them an overall, well-rounded education.
- We believe that there is a sense of community and family established through Choral Music
- We believe that Choral Music has a profound impact on the lives of young adults by offering them opportunities to foster their talents and abilities in a positive environment.
- We believe that Choral Music enhances all other subject areas while still maintaining its own integrity.
- We believe that Choral Music express all things that can not be said aloud but are too powerful to remain silent.

Therefore, the Grassfield High School Choral Department will:

1. Work to maintain and create a tradition of Excellence in all aspects of Choral Music.
2. Offer opportunities for students to challenge themselves in any and all aspects of Choral Music.
3. Will enhance and promote Grassfield High School and the Grassfield community through the public performance of quality music.
4. Will challenge all members to work as one team for the sole purpose of advancing Choral Music at Grassfield High School.
5. Offer varied opportunities for students to take part and pride in the program.
6. Work with our parent organization to enhance the Choral Music program at Grassfield High School through volunteerism and financial support.
7. Encourage all students to develop essential character qualities including a commitment to excellence, a strong work ethic, personal integrity, leadership, and a respect for self and others.
8. Offer special performance opportunities outside of the community that will showcase our traditions of excellence.



Grassfield High School
2007 Grizzly Trail
Chesapeake, VA 23323
(757) 558-GRIZ (4749)

General Expectations

1. Be on time to all rehearsals and public performances prepared to give your personal best.
2. Be a responsible member of the choral family- bring your music to each rehearsal as well as loose leaf paper and pencils.
3. Maintain respect for the Chorus room, the instruments and the equipment. This includes your music and your folder. Keep the room neat and orderly. The keyboard and the sound system are not toys. Do not use any of the equipment without permission from the director.
4. Remember, your actions and attitude at all times reflect on you, your choir, your school and your family.

Rehearsal Expectations

The success of a choir depends on how it rehearses. How it rehearses depends on the conduct and cooperation of the student. Rehearsals are the place to correct mistakes. The fewer the mistakes and the less individual distractions, the greater the contribution is to the choir. Be patient, attentive, careful and cooperative in observing these rehearsal expectations. Good behavior, attitude and self-discipline are essential to producing a GREAT CHOIR. If you are successful, then the Choir will be successful.

1. Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. You are to be in your seat by the time the class begins. The GFHS tardy policy will be enforced.
2. Always have your music, folder and pencil.
3. Thank you for not chewing gum at any time.
4. Be conscious of good posture while you are singing.
5. Keep your eyes on the director when singing.
6. LISTEN to the conductor at all times. Talking while the conductor is rehearsing is never appropriate.
7. Cell phones are not allowed in rehearsals. (School policy will be enforced)
8. Rehearsals are not over until the director dismisses class. Please do not put your music away until you are instructed to do so.
9. Stay involved in rehearsals from start to finish.
10. Do not bring food or drinks into the chorus room.
11. Approach all rehearsals with OPTIMISM, ENTHUSIASM, DETERMINATION, AND YOUR WHOLE-HEARTED ATTENTION.

Letters and Stars

Students may be awarded a chorus letter after their first full year of participation in the department and a star for each year thereafter by meeting the following minimum guidelines:

1. Maintain an "A" average in Chorus each nine weeks
2. Attending ALL mandated events
3. Auditioning for District Chorus
4. Assisting the chorus department in both fundraising opportunities (**Rock-A-Thon and Variety Show**)



5. Participating in two encouraged activities of the department
6. Continually demonstrating a positive attitude towards the director and fellow classmates

Fundraising

All choral students will have the opportunity this year to participate in various fund raising activities to help defray the expenses of the choral department. All students are encouraged to participate, however fundraising is not mandatory. Students will have the opportunity to raise funds for trips associated with this year, or to bank money in their account for future trips. Please note any monies not used by the student, will transfer back to the CPA general fund.

Sponsorship Opportunities

This year parents, families, local businesses and community will have the opportunity to assist the choral program through various levels of sponsorship. These monetary donations will be used for the betterment of the choral program and will help us to maintain our tradition of excellence. More information will follow at the CPA Open House on September 21 at 7:00 pm. In addition, families are asked to assist the choral department in obtaining ads from local businesses that will be placed in each of the programs for this school year. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Strother.

Uniforms:

Fittings for all students who have not purchased a uniform will take place on September 13 and 14 during class. Uniform cost are as follows:

Ladies Soltanto Dress

_____ \$61.00

_____ \$64.00 (for those ladies who require a Tall dress)

Men's Tuxedo Package (Pants, Shirt, Cumberbund, Tie and Jacket)

_____ \$95.00

We do have a limited number of dresses available as a "resale" from former students. If you are interested in purchasing a dress at a significant savings, please email gfhchorus@gmail.com to receive this information. Note these are first come-first served.

In addition, we will again be offering Chorus Department tee-shirts for sale at the beginning of the school year. These are \$10.00 and will be available on a first come basis. At the CPA Open House, you can also receive information regarding hoodies, sweat-shirts, hats, car magnets, and many other items.

Athletics:



The choral department is extremely proud of the athletic organizations of Grassfield High School and encourages all students to become actively involved if they so choose. It is crucial that all athletes provide the director with a schedule of all practices and games as soon as possible. The choral director and the specific coach will handle any conflicts should they arise. Early communication is key to avoiding future conflicts!

Grizzlies Give Back:

Each choir will be scheduling special events throughout the school year designed to give back to the community through special activities and fundraisers. We encourage all students to become involved with these events and help give back.

Web Use:

Students are expected to follow the Chesapeake Public School's Acceptable Use Policy for any online activity related to this course.

Communication

Mr. Parrish

Email: joey.parrish@cpschools.com

Home Phone: (757) 537-7731

Choral Department

Email: gfchorus@gmail.com

School Phone: (757) 558-GRIZ

Choral Parents Association Steering Officer

Mrs. Kim Strother

Email: kimstrother24@gmail.com

Home Phone: (757) 410-2771

Website: www.gfchorus.com

Grading Policy

The students' nine weeks grades are based on the following:

I) Daily Participation: 33%

Students are given the opportunity to earn points each day based on their participation in their chorus class. Daily points are limited to 5, with a grand total based on the number of classes that are held each nine weeks depending on the A/B rotation and any school holidays. Students may earn points by:



- Being on time to rehearsals
- Not having any type of gum or candy in the chorus room
- Having excellent singing posture while you are singing
- Having all materials daily (folder, music, pencil, etc)
- Having a positive attitude and by showing respect
- Being engaged in the rehearsal at all times

For each failure to follow these rules, students will lose 2 points of their daily grade.

II) Written and Oral Assessments: 33%

Students will have seven (7) written and/or oral assessments through out each nine weeks. These will range from vocabulary quizzes, non-fiction writing, sight-singing examples, vocal sing-offs or other activities provided by the director. All sing-ff and sight-singing examples will be done in a group and each student will be graded on his or her progress, not performance. Each student will be given a rubric for each oral assessment that explains what they will be graded on. Each assessment carries a weight of 100 points.

III) Public Performances: 34%

Public performances are a major part of the requirement in chorus. The students will be required to participate in ALL major school approved concerts during the school year. Please see the attached choral calendar for these dates. Students who miss a required concert must submit a written excuse from their parent or guardian to the director within 3 days of the concert. An excused absence from a concert would be granted in the case of extreme illness, death in the family or conflicts which are brought to the attention of the director at least two weeks before the concert date. These conflicts must be submitted to the director in writing from a parent or guardian and the director will contact you to discuss the conflict. Students who have an excused absence from a concert will still be required to make up the grade for the concert by completing an alternate assignment. Details of this assignment will be provided by the director. Students who miss a concert for an unexcused reason will have their nine weeks grade be lowered. Please take special note of the attached letter from the Chesapeake Public Schools Administration regarding mandatory attendance at all concerts. If you have any questions, please contact me immediately. All information regarding concerts will be shared with parents at least two weeks prior to the performance date.

Example of Grade Breakdown:

Daily Participation: 33%		
Class 1: 5	Class 11: 5	Class 21: 5
Class 2: 5	Class 12: 1(2 penalties)	Class 22: 5
Class 3: 5	Class 13: 5	
Class 4: 3(1 penalty)	Class 14: 5	
Class 5: 5	Class 15: 3 (1 penalty)	
Class 6: 3(1 penalty)	Class 16: 5	



Class 7: 3(1 penalty)	Class 17: 5
Class 8: 5	Class 18: 5
Class 9: 5	Class 19: 5
Class 10: 5	Class 20: 5
Total= 98/ 110=90%	

Written and Oral Assesments: 33%	
Assesment 1: 100 (Vocabulary Quiz)	
Assesment 2: 97 (Sing-Off on Danny Boy)	
Assesment 3: 100 (Vocabulary Quiz)	
Assesment 4: 100 (Non-fiction writing on Motet)	
Assesment 5: 80 (Sight-Singing)	
Assesment 6: 95 (Vocabulary Quiz)	
Assesment 7: 100 (Sing-Off on Alleluia)	
Total:	672/700 points=96%

Public Performance: 34%	
Fall Concert Dress Rehearsal: 20	
Fall Concert:	80
Total	100/100 points=100%

Grand Total: 95% 1st Nine Weeks

Extra Credit:

Students may earn 5 points extra credit that may be added to their nine week grade for the following:

- I) Auditioning for All-District Chorus, Honors Choir, All-State and National Choir
- II) Perfect attendance in class each nine weeks
- III) Attending concerts or other musical activities that are approved in advance by the director
- IV) Participation in a local church choir or other musical organization with regular rehearsal and performance attendance. Proof of attendance must be provided by the director of the choir.



Chesapeake Public Schools
Instructional Services Center
304 Cedar Road
Chesapeake, Virginia 23322

TO: Parents of Secondary Music Students

FROM: Patricia L. Powers, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction *pep*
Linda J. Byrd, Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction *LB*
Craig L. Robertson, Supervisor of Music Education *CLR*

RE: Requirement for Performance Attendance by Secondary Music Students

DATE: September, 2010

Music is a performing art. The National Standards for Music Education and the Virginia Music Standards of Learning identify *performance* as a critical component. With this in mind, the Office of Music Education of the Chesapeake Public Schools has developed the curriculum for secondary band, chorus, and orchestra with public performance as a vital element of each course. As part of the requirements for completion of these courses, students are expected to participate in a number of group performances each year.

Performances showcase the skills learned in daily rehearsals and give each student an opportunity to exhibit his or her special musical talent. Concerts, festivals, marching band shows, and other performance activities enhance student, school, and community life. Participation in quality group activities contributes significantly to the development of the student's sense of responsibility, as each ensemble member has an important role in the success of the group.

Accordingly, the administration of Chesapeake Public Schools has developed the following guidelines for grading middle and high school students enrolled in performance based music courses:

1. Students are required to attend any scheduled performance approved by the school principal. Adequate notice (two weeks or longer) of performance dates will be provided.
2. Excuses for an absence must be submitted by the parent in writing and approved by the student's principal or designee and music teacher prior to the performance. In the event of an emergency situation, a written note stating the reason for the unexpected absence must be submitted by the parent for approval by the principal and music teacher on the next school day. Make-up work for an excused absence will be assigned according to the individual school policy.
3. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in the student's grade being lowered for the marking period.
4. An unexcused absence will be determined by the regular school policy concerning attendance.

It is hoped that parents will not only emphasize to the student the importance of performance attendance, but will also support the student by attending as many performances as possible.

CLR

GRASSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
CHORUS DEPARTMENT
2010-2011
HANDBOOK INFORMATION PAGE

Student Name _____ Grade _____

Parent Name _____

Address _____

Email: _____

Phone Number _____

Name as it should appear in the Concert Program _____

Student Birthday _____

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND INFORMATION HANDOUT
TO THE CHORUS DIRECTOR**

As a student and a member of this choir, I have read this handbook and understand the membership requirements, particularly in regard to class expectations, rehearsals, and concert attendance.

As a member of this choir, I will assume the obligations and responsibilities and do my utmost to accomplish the objectives and follow the principles, rules and regulations.

Legibly print student's name

Student's Signature

Date

As parents/guardians of this child, we understand the rules and regulations which our child is expected to follow.

Legibly print Parent/Guardian's name

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

Students and Parents should BOTH mark their calendars to avoid conflicts that could affect the student's grade!!!

Check www.gfhchorus.com for important information about chorus!