

J. C. Booth Chorus Syllabus 2014-15

Ms. Kara Post, Director

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Course Description

- Chorus is a year-long class that meets daily.
- Students will receive an engaging choral music experience in compliance with the National Standards for Music Education and the Georgia Performance Standards for Middle School Chorus.
- Students will learn correct vocal technique, including using proper warm-ups, major/minor/chromatic scales, modes, arpeggios, intervals, and solfege.
- Students will explore the fundamentals of music theory, ear training, and sight reading.
- Students will study and perform literature from various musical periods, cultures, and in different styles.
- Students will develop self-discipline, cooperative learning, and the joy of musical expression.
- Students will perform both on and off campus, during and after school.

Required Chorus Materials

- 1-inch “hard” 3-ring binder with first/last name and team printed on front
- “Essentials of Music Theory” workbook, \$7.00 (*must be paid the first week of school*)
- 5 divider tabs labeled as follows: 1) Ear training, 2) Music Theory, 3) Sight Reading, 4) Octavos, 5) Listening Journal
- 5 clear plastic sheet protectors
- 3-hole zippered pencil pouch (to be kept in binder)
- 2 sharpened pencils
- 1 highlighter pen
- 1 dry erase pen (medium point)
- 1 pad of Post-it notes (standard square size)
- 1 cotton sock for eraser
- 1 box of tissues
- 1 bottle of hand sanitizer

Donations appreciated

- Oreo cookies
- Life Savers candies (any flavor)
- Jumbo marshmallows
- Peppermints

Grading Policy

- Participation 60%

Daily participation includes

- Being on time with all required materials
- Listening to and applying instruction
- Giving the best effort in all activities and staying on task
- Using correct posture when seated and standing
- Utilizing the procedures for class routines
- Observing Chorus policies of no gum, candy, mints, snacks, or drinks other than water
- Complying with expectations for using computers, electronic devices and cell phones (using only as instructed by Ms. Post and only when the “Technology Up” sign is posted on the board).
- Following the Chorus Behavior Expectations as posted in the classroom.

Performance participation includes

- Attending all scheduled dress rehearsals and performances and remaining for the entire performance
- Arriving at the designated call time and location for attendance and warm-up
- Wearing the required uniform
- Demonstrating proper stage presence and audience etiquette
- Observing Chorus policies of no gum, candy, mints, snacks, or drinks other than water
- Following the Chorus Behavior Expectations

- Tests 30%

A variety of tests will be used to check for understanding, including individual part-singing, written music theory tests, aural ear training tests, sight reading, and online assessments.

- Classwork/Homework 10%
- Activities will include individual part singing, music literacy, melodic and rhythmic dictation, writing/reflecting in listening journals, using electronic devices, sight reading, creating/presenting projects, individual/partner/team/section activities, and “ticket out the door” responses.

Chorus Behavior Expectations

Students are expected to conduct themselves during rehearsals and performances as outlined under the grading policy, along with self-discipline and pride as a member of the Booth Chorus. Students are expected to use good manners when addressing Ms. Post, each other, and guests. Students who choose excessive or severe misbehavior will be assisted in learning to make better choices through consequences that may include:

- Private counsel
- Parent contact via agenda note, email, or phone call
- Discipline referral
- Parent conference
- Suspension from Chorus events

Class routines

Students will be instructed in the appropriate procedures for:

- Entering/Exiting the Chorus room
- Emergency drills
- Office/Clinic/Guidance
- Restroom
- Water
- Tissues/hand sanitizer
- Pencil sharpener
- Question/Answer
- Intercom
- Interruptions

It is Ms. Post's responsibility to use the entire class period for instruction. Writing hall passes disrupts our Chorus activities, so students are expected to use the restroom and visit the office/clinic/guidance between classes or during lunch, recess, and Warrior Time. In the event of a genuine medical or restroom emergency, students will be appropriately assisted.

Chorus Uniforms

- All students are expected to wear the required performance uniform.
- Students must purchase their own uniform by ordering polos, shirts, and dresses through JC Booth. Girls new to Booth who have long black dresses from their previous schools must bring them the first week of school for Ms. Post’s approval.
- Students needing uniforms will be measured during class, and uniform orders will be placed so that uniforms arrive in time for the Fall Concert in October.
- Students will staple order forms into their agendas and will return the form and payment before the assigned deadline.
- All uniform items purchased by parents must comply with JC Booth dress code.

6 Boys and Girls	7 and 8 Boys	7 and 8 Girls
Green Chorus polo shirt (ordered from JC Booth, approximately \$20)	Black Chorus long-sleeve shirt (ordered from JC Booth, approximately \$20)	Long black Chorus dress (ordered from JC Booth, approximately \$60)
Black dress code pants or skirt with black belt (no black jeans) (parents purchase)	Black dress pants with black belt (no black jeans) (parents purchase)	Solid black tights or solid black nylons (parents purchase)
Black dress shoes and black socks/nylons (no athletic shoes) (parents purchase)	Black dress shoes and black socks (no athletic shoes) (parents purchase)	Black dress shoes that enclose the foot, 2” heel or less, must be comfortable for standing and walking, no open toes or sandals. (parents purchase)
Girls’ hair ornaments must be neutral colors (black, silver gold).	No hair ornaments.	Girls’ hair ornaments must be neutral colors (black, silver gold).
Post earrings in neutral colors are permitted for girls only (black, silver, gold). No dangle earrings. No necklaces, wrist or ankle bracelets, or body piercings.	No earrings, necklaces, wrist or ankle bracelets, or body piercings.	Post earrings in neutral colors are permitted for girls only (black, silver, gold). No dangle earrings. No necklaces, wrist or ankle bracelets, or body piercings.

Chorus is a performing arts program; therefore, students are expected to participate in ALL

required performances. Our music is specifically rehearsed for the number of members in each Chorus, and the absence of even one person affects balance, blend, intonation, and other factors that determine the success of a performance. Please mark your family calendars now with these advance dates in order to avoid conflicts.

Excused Absences

It is not possible to make up the experience of a concert performance. However, students with excused absences may make up the missing points with an alternate project of equal rigor and investment, chosen from a list of projects provided by Ms. Post and turned in by a deadline assigned by Ms. Post.

The following events are accepted as excused absences when a parent note is provided to Ms. Post within 2 days of the missed performance:

- student's personal illness
- family medical emergency such as hospitalization or funeral

The following events are accepted as excused absences when a parent note is provided to Ms. Post at least two weeks prior to the performance:

- approved school absence prearranged with office
- religious observance or holiday

Please note that

****both the parent note and the assignment must be received by the deadline in order for missing points to be made up.***

****a lack of uniform or lack of transportation are unexcused absences.***

****an unexcused performance absence = ZERO POINTS for that performance and cannot be made up.***

Extracurricular opportunities

Participation is not required, but is highly encouraged. These opportunities provide valuable experiences and new friendships as students meet, rehearse, and socialize with other Chorus students from all over Georgia. Additional assistance by Ms. Post or a private tutor is required. Interested students must also meet academic requirements as outlined in the JC Booth student handbook for extracurricular activities participation. Parents are responsible for transportation and expenses for these events, including application and registration fees, uniforms, sheet music, rehearsal CDs, accompanist fees, travel, meals, and lodging.

- All State Chorus (7 and 8 Chorus students)
Membership is by audition with GMEA judges. The All State Chorus rehearses and performs with a renowned conductor in Athens over three days in February. In order to participate, students must pass two challenging auditions by sight reading and performing a solo. All State Chorus is recommended for students with solid musicianship skills. Parent chaperones are expected to accompany student participants to Athens.
- 6th Grade Statewide Honor Chorus (6 Chorus students)
Membership is by audition with judges selected by Ms. Post. The 6th Statewide Honor Chorus rehearses and performs with a renowned conductor in Tifton over two days in February. Each participating school is permitted to send four students. Ms. Post will provide audition information as the date nears. Parent chaperones are expected to accompany student participants to Tifton.
- Solo and Ensemble (6, 7, 8 Chorus students)
This event gives interested students an opportunity to be adjudicated as a soloist or as members of a small ensemble. Students must choose music from an approved list provided by Ms. Post. Registration information will be provided as the registration deadlines approach.

Fundraising

All students are encouraged to participate in the Chorus fundraisers since all profits benefit the Chorus program. We depend on the funds for new music, recordings, accompanists, awards, piano maintenance and repair, GMEA dues/fees, and substitute teachers when Ms. Post is traveling with a student group. Our primary fund raisers are Coke and Encore (desserts) sales.

Additional fundraisers are

- Atlanta Hawks National Anthem Performance game ticket sales
- Chorus spiritwear sales
- Spirit Nights at local restaurants
- Box Tops for Education
- Chorus Boosters fees

Chorus Accounts

All Chorus student financial activity is tracked through individual Chorus accounts.

Deposits to

the accounts are made from your child's participation in our Coke and Encore fundraisers in

September and October. Students keep a percentage of their Coke and Encore profits in their Chorus accounts and may use the funds to pay for Chorus expenses such as uniforms, field trips, and spirit wear. Chorus funds may not be withdrawn for other expenses.

Digital Communication

Edmodo is a free and secure social learning network for teachers, students, and schools. It is a safe and user-friendly way to connect, share content, and access assignments, grades, and announcements. Edmodo will be used for communication between students and Ms. Post outside of our scheduled class period. It will also be used to enhance and reinforce learning through audio/video files, our library, and online tests. **Students must have the signed Edmodo Code of Conduct on file with their homeroom teacher before they will be permitted to join our Chorus Edmodo.**

Edmodo also offers parent accounts. With parent accounts, you can

- view your child's assignments and due dates
- check the status of your child's grades
- receive announcements and information

Edmodo is accessible online and on any mobile device with Internet capabilities. Free apps for iPhone and Android are also available. You can access your account at any time, and adjust your notification settings to receive alerts via text or email. Students will receive codes to

join Edmodo, then your unique parent code will be available on your child's profile.

After your child joins his/her Chorus Edmodo, your unique parent code will be available on your child's profile. To join, follow these steps:

1. Go to www.edmodo.com
2. Select "Parent Signup."
3. Enter your unique parent code, then create your username and password.
4. Select "Sign up."

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUR CHILD TO REGULARLY CHECK EDMODO FOR MATERIALS, MESSAGES, AND ASSIGNMENTS.

Infinite Campus

Infinite Campus is our FCBOE secure student database. It contains enrollment records, student attendance information, grades, and medical information. Parents can access the database to see the directory and other information held in the database. It is also our official messaging tool, so please be sure that your contact information is always correct. Students received login information at "Meet the Teacher." Please contact the school office if you need assistance accessing Infinite Campus.

J. C. Booth Middle School Chorus
Syllabus 2014-15
Confirmation Form

**Please sign and return this page only.
Keep the syllabus for your reference.**

*****DUE MONDAY, AUGUST 11*****

This is equivalent to a 100% test grade!

This signed and dated form will be kept on file in the Chorus office. The intent of this form is to verify that Chorus parents and students understand the requirements and expectations of membership in the J. C. Booth Chorus.

___ I have read the J. C. Booth Middle School Chorus Syllabus with my child and we understand our responsibilities in helping to develop a successful chorus program and in the Chorus grading expectations.

___ I understand that my child is expected to perform in the required uniform, and that it is my responsibility as the parent to purchase and provide the required uniform.

___ I have noted and documented the required Chorus performance dates, times, and locations, and we understand the procedures for arranging an excused absence as well as the consequences of an unexcused absence.

(continued)

Student Name (please print)

Team

Chorus Period

Parent 1	Parent 2 (if applicable)
Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:
Work Ph:	Work Ph:
Home Ph:	Home Ph:
Cell Ph:	Cell Ph:
Email for Chorus messages:	Email for Chorus messages:
<input type="checkbox"/> I will attend the Chorus Booster meeting from 7:00 - 8:00 PM on Thursday, August 14, in the J. C. Booth Chorus room. <input type="checkbox"/> I will not be able to attend.	<input type="checkbox"/> I will attend the Chorus Booster meeting from 7:00 - 8:00 PM on Thursday, August 14, in the J. C. Booth Chorus room. <input type="checkbox"/> I will not be able to attend.

X _____
Parent 1 Signature

Date

X _____
Parent 2 Signature (if applicable)

Date

X _____
Student Signature

Date

J. C. Booth Chorus Booster Club

The Chorus Booster Club is essential to help meet the needs of the Chorus program. Chorus Booster Club funds provide music, materials, technology, and equipment for Chorus students.

Booster Club Memberships

- Member \$25 Name listed on concert programs
- Associate \$50 Name listed on concert programs and car magnet
- Patron \$75 Name + car magnet + reserved seating at concerts
- Grand Patron \$100 Name + car magnet + reserved seating at concerts + one Chorus hoodie

Booster Club Parent Volunteers

- Parent volunteers are needed to assist with
 - uniform measurements and delivery (August)
 - fundraising August/September: Coke, October/November: Encore Desserts, August/ September and March/April: spiritwear sales, TBA: Spirit Nights
- Chaperones will be needed for
 - assisting with student check-in and supervision at dress rehearsals preceding concerts
 - helping supervise students during trips away from school

Please return the following Booster Club form by Monday, September 1 along with check paid to JC Booth MS or cash if you are interested in membership.

J. C. Booth Middle School Chorus Booster Club

Name (please print individual or family name as you prefer for it to appear in a concert program)

Your child's name and
team _____

Name

Team

Amount enclosed \$ _____ (circle one) Check number _____

Member \$25

Associate \$50

Patron \$75

Grand Patron \$100

I would like to donate another amount \$ _____

Grand Patrons, please circle hoodie size and color (all sizes are Adult)

Adult sizes: XS S M L XL

Red Yellow Bright Blue Bright Green Purple

Orange White Black Gray White

Brown Forest Green Pink Sky Blue Navy Blue