

# Green Brook Middle School

## Choir Syllabus

William Alzaher – Director of Choirs

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Welcome to the Green Brook Music Program. If you're reading this, it means that you've enrolled in the Green Brook Choir program. I'm so excited you have chosen this path and can't wait to begin our musical journey together! As we begin our study of music, and prepare our concert repertoire, you may have questions as to how this class will function. The purpose of this document is to outline my expectations of you as well as answer some general questions you may have. Please read through this document with your parents and fill out the commitment form in the back.

Sincerely,  
Mr. William Alzaher,  
Director of Choirs

### Goals and Objectives

- To learn leadership and teamwork skills that will transcend the walls of the classroom
- To learn discipline, commitment, and respect in regards to practice habits and learning goals
- To learn basic music theory and note-reading skills to enhance choral performances
- To learn about the basic elements of music, musical time periods, composers, and how music is an integral part of human culture
- To prepare 2-3 high-quality concerts throughout the school year
- To prepare musicians for the high school ensemble experience

### Classroom Expectations

- Be punctual and prepared for each lesson
- Always check the board and online resources for updates regarding assignments, rehearsals, and performances
- Participate fully and without reservation from the beginning of each rehearsal to the end
- Be **respectful and responsible** at all times
- Practice at home. In the stead of more traditional homework assignments, students are expected to practice their instrument(s) after school, daily
- No food, gum, or drinks in the choir room with the exception of water

### Discipline Plan

If the expectations above are not met, then consequences such as verbal warnings, a conference with the student, a call home, or detentions will be enforced. Along with all class rules, school rules are also always in effect. Consequences for breaking classroom and school rules will be enforced equally and consistently.

### Classroom Supplies

Students will need to bring the following to every class:

- Sharpened pencil for marking scores and taking notes
- Music, binders, paper, and method books
- Water (for singers who want to stay hydrated)

### Concert Attire

Students are required to dress for success during concerts. Our goal is to look as professional as possible. Attire for all concerts, unless otherwise noted, is as follows:

- **Black slacks** (no jeans, shorts, khakis, wind or cargo pants)  
(Girls, if you want to wear a skirt or dress, it must be black and an appropriate length; **no miniskirts**)
- Black shoes (these must be **black formal shoes**, not sneakers)
- **Black socks** or stockings
- If you're going to wear a belt, make sure it's black
- The music department is striving for a more professional performance look. Instead of buying the usual white polo shirt, we will perform in **white dress shirts** for boys and **white blouses** for girls. The boy's shirts must be long-sleeved, ironed, and clean for each performance. Girl's blouses cannot be strapless, cannot show mid-drift, and cannot be low cut. Part of being a professional ensemble is looking like a professional ensemble.
- For certain concerts, I may ask students to wear clothing not listed above. Some of these items may be a tie, vest, jacket, T-shirt, or jeans. If this is the case, I will post it online at least 2 weeks prior to the concert.

## Attendance Policy

Unlike some traditional classes, performing ensembles must sometimes meet outside of the school day. Attendance at **every** dress rehearsal and concert is mandatory. I understand that emergencies do arise, and if this is the case, I will need sufficient evidence that participation in a certain rehearsal or performance was **impossible**. Music ensembles are a team working towards a common goal that can only be achieved when *everyone* pulls their equal weight. Attendance at weekly lessons and rehearsals is paramount in achieving these musical aspirations.

## Grading Policy

Achieving an excellent grade in Choir is well within reach for students eager to further their understanding of music and their instrumental and vocal proficiency. Marking period grades are based on a number of ongoing assessments throughout the year. These assessments may take the form of tests and quizzes, classroom discussions, participation in daily warm-ups, etc. The exact breakdown of grades is as follows:

**Daily Formative Assessment** – 10 points per day

**Dress Rehearsals** – up to 50 points per rehearsal

**Performances** – up to 100 points per performance

**Tests/Projects** – up to 100 points per test

**Quizzes** – up to 50 points per quiz

**Homework/Practice Logs** –5 points per assignment

## Transportation

The school will be asked to provide bussing for any off campus performances or activities. When traveling off school grounds, students will bring home a permission slip that will contain all information regarding that particular trip.

## Student Leaders

- **President** – If assigned, he or she must possess the ability to take on great responsibilities. This person will assist the director throughout the year and will act as a student liaison. The president is a student spokesperson for the choral program; he or she is entrusted with representing the choral program in a professional and enthusiastic manner.
- **Vice President** – If assigned, he or she will assist the president and be able to take on the responsibilities of the president if the president is absent not able to fulfill his/her position. Additionally, the Vice president must always represent the choir in the same way as the president and other student leaders.
- **Librarian** – If assigned, he or she is responsible for upkeep, distribution, and collection of the choral library. This student is in charge of all sheet music going in and out of the library.
- **Section Leaders** – If assigned, section leaders are musical leaders from each section of the choir who act as an example for other choir members. These students have advanced musical and leadership skills and will be responsible for helping their peers by answering questions and reminding them of due dates and expectations.

# Green Brook Music Program

## 2015-2016 Green Brook Choir Concert Attendance Agreement

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

We have read the attached syllabus and agree to attend all required performances. We realize that performance is an essential part of a music ensemble and that we depend on everyone's participation to make our concerts successful.

We agree to be on time and dressed appropriately for each performance.

We understand that students may only be excused for serious, unavoidable conflicts and that we must notify Mr. Alzاهر of any conflict in writing at least 2 weeks prior to any performance. Failure to do so will result in the lowering of my/my child's marking period grade.

We understand that emergencies do happen and that we will make every effort to notify Mr. Alzاهر by phone or email if this is the case. If we cannot reach Mr. Alzاهر, we will provide an explanation in writing the next school day. Regardless of the reason for missing a concert, the student will be assigned an alternate assignment to make up the missed grade.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return to Mr. Alzاهر by Friday, September 11, 2015.*

