

# Piney Grove Middle School Chorus Syllabus

## 2016 - 2017

Teacher: Mrs. Amanda Steinberg  
Phone: 678-965-5010 x. 381262  
Email: [asteinberg@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:asteinberg@forsyth.k12.ga.us)

### Course Description

The Piney Grove Middle School choirs are designed to equip each student with musical and vocal skills that will help prepare them for a lifetime of musical involvement and enjoyment. Each chorus at Piney Grove has a three-fold purpose:

1. To develop each student's vocal technique and music reading skills.
2. To practice the skills of musical performance in solo, small ensemble, and large ensemble settings in as many musical styles as possible.
3. To develop each student as a self-responsible contributing member of the musical ensemble.

### Classroom Expectations

- a. Each student will willingly participate in all class activities.
- b. Each student will be in their assigned seat with their music and a pencil when class begins, ready to rehearse.
- c. Each student will be responsible for their chorus folder, music, and uniforms. Damaged or lost music, folders, or uniforms will be replaced at the student's expense.
- d. Each student will help maintain and enhance the learning environment in each rehearsal. Students will respect the right of every other chorus member to learn and Mrs. Steinberg's right to teach.
- e. Talking to others or out of turn during rehearsal is not permitted, especially while the ensemble is singing.
- f. Gum and/or food are to be deposited in the trash can when you enter the chorus room. *No food, drinks (except water), or gum will be permitted in the chorus room.*
- g. Students will respect and help maintain the chorus room and music department facilities. The chorus room and stage area are essential rehearsal and performance areas. They are to be maintained in a neat, orderly fashion.

### Chorus Uniforms & Student Fees

1. All girls will wear their rented black Chorus dresses and black closed-toe dress shoes for all major concerts and festivals. NO loose or dangling jewelry or hair accessories.
2. All boys will wear their rented Chorus tuxes, black socks, and black dress shoes for all major concerts and festivals.
3. For the annual Spring Spectacular, Chorus members will wear their special Spring Spectacular T-Shirts, blue denim jeans/shorts/skirts, and closed-toe shoes.
4. Throughout the year, students will be participating in several events which will require us to travel. In order to secure transportation and participation in these events, students may be asked to pay a bus fee or event registration fee.

**Please refer to the Student Information / Parent Volunteer Opportunities / Chorus Fees information sheet for more information. Please do not let money be a factor when deciding whether or not to participate in Chorus. Should a special circumstance arise, please contact Mrs. Steinberg.**

## Performances

Performance is a major part of the choral learning experience and is required by the Georgia Standards for Choral Music. Required performances will be treated as unit exams. All required performances will be announced well in advance. Any unexcused absence from a required performance will result in a failing exam grade. The following are considered excused absences:

- Illness
- Death in the family
- An important religious observance
- An unforeseen emergency or extenuating circumstance. *A parent or guardian* must contact Mrs. Steinberg before or within 24 hours after the event to let her know about the reason for the absence.

Parents, please understand that the presence of every student is crucial for a good performance. We hope that you will plan your schedule to ensure that your child has a ride to each chorus performance that will get him/her there on time, and that you will be able to attend all performances. The schedule for rehearsals and concerts are posted in the chorus room, on the chorus website, and in the Chorus Handbook; therefore lack of transportation is not excused. Please make your arrangements early.

The following performance standards will be in effect at all required performances:

1. The student is in proper concert attire.
2. The student is not disruptive or inattentive and does not need to be verbally corrected more than once by the director.
3. The student is on time to the performance warm up or arrives with an excused tardy.
4. The student does not leave the event early or leaves with the expressed approval of the director.
5. The student contributes to the overall musical and artistic quality of the performance.

A (100 – 90 %)	All 5 performance standards are met.
B (89 – 80 %)	4 of the performance standards are met.
C (79 – 70 %)	3 of the performance standards are met.
F (Below 70 %)	Unexcused absence from a required performance.

For an excused absence, students will complete a written make up assignment. A detailed description of this assignment can be found on the Chorus Concert Make-Up Assignment. This assignment can be found on the PGMS Chorus Website and ItsLearning and should be completed by the student and turned in to Mrs. Steinberg no later than one week after the missed performance.

## **Grading**

### Georgia State Chorus Standards

**MMSIC.1** – Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.

**MMSIC.2** – Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.

**MMSIC.3** – Reading and notating music.

**MMSIC.4** – Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.

**MMSIC.5** – Composing and arranging music within specific guidelines.

**MMSIC.6** – Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.

**MMSIC.7** – Evaluating music and music performances.

**MMSIC.8** – Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.

**MMSIC.9** – Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

### **Summative Grades – 80 %**

#### **1. Required Performances**

Includes attendance and participation at all required performances and rehearsals outside of class.

#### **2. Vocal and Written Assessments**

Includes singing assessments such as part tests, sight reading tests, and any written work including tests, quizzes, listening journals, and performance evaluations.

### **Formative Grades – 20 %**

#### **1. Rehearsal Participation**

Students will receive Rehearsal Participation grades based on the following criteria:

- Being prepared and on time for rehearsal
- Having all necessary materials
- Remaining attentive and well behaved during rehearsal
- Demonstrating proper vocal techniques
- Listening to and following the instructions of the director

#### **2. Individual and Group Vocal Assessments**

Students will also be assessed on their vocal ability, both individually and within the larger ensemble. This is not an assessment of vocal talent, but on their ability to successfully perform the following:

- Scales (Major, Minor, Chromatic)
- Sight Reading
- Tonal Memory
- Error Detection