

Dr. David Lewis – Superintendent, Muscogee County School District

BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS HANDBOOK AND SYLLABUS 2018-2019



Ramona Horn – Principal, Baker Middle School

Rudy Barraca – Choir Director – Baker Middle School

Baker Middle School Chorus Syllabus
2018-2019 School Year

Chorus is a course offered at Baker Middle School to students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade.

The goal of the chorus class is to teach students about music through choral singing. The two main objectives of the class are as follows:

1. The student will be able to read music notation.
2. The student will be able to sing melodies alone and with others in harmony.
3. The student will be able to describe music through speech and through writing.

The student's grade will be based on the following:

1. Daily class participation: The student will choose how to earn their grade. The student will choose to earn their grade by performing or by writing.
 - a. Performance option: The student will participate by singing every day in class.
 - b. Writing option: If the student does not choose the performance option, the student will be required to write a 100 word essay every day.
2. Tests
 - a. Performance option: Skill tests (singing, piano, rhythm counting, after-school concerts)
 - b. Writing option: Written tests based on the student's knowledge of the subject matter.

There will be optional after-school rehearsals every Wednesday and every Friday from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Behavior expectations: PBIS (Be respectful, be responsible and be safe). SLANT

1. Participate in class every day for the entire class period.
2. Come to class on time. Do not be tardy.
3. Do not bring cell phones, food, drinks, purses, or book bags into the classroom.
4. Enter the room quietly.
5. Do not throw objects in the room.
6. Do not touch the classroom phone, computers, smart-board or pianos unless you ask the teacher's permission.
7. Keep your hands and feet and objects off of other students. Do not touch other students.
8. Fighting, harassment of other students and threatening the teacher will not be tolerated.
9. If the teacher tells you do something, do it immediately without argument.

Discipline procedure for Level One offenses (every violation will be documented on the computer):

1. Warning to the student-discipline essay.
2. Phone call to the parent.
3. Parent phone call and afternoon detention (Wednesdays and Fridays from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.)
4. Parent-teacher conference
5. Referral to the office

Level two offenses (fighting, profanity, insubordination) are automatic discipline referrals to the office.

Concert Performances

The Baker Middle School Concert Choir will present concerts throughout the year. The concerts will be in the Baker Middle School Cafeteria. The concert will be from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. The band and the orchestra may also participate in the concert.

The after-school concerts are usually as follows:

1. Fall Concert-October 2018
2. Holiday Concert-December 13, 2018
3. Black History Program-February 2019
4. Spring Concert-May 9, 2019

Choir members will wear the choir robes during the concert. Choir members should wear appropriate shoes with their choir robes (no boots and no tennis shoes).

Here is the usual procedure for the after-school concerts:

4:10 pm: The choir members will meet in the cafeteria after the bus riders and car riders and walkers are dismissed.

4:15 pm: Choir members will sing through the concert program.

4:30 pm: Choir members will eat in the cafeteria.

5:00 pm: Choir members will get dressed in their choir robes.

6:00 pm: The concert will begin with the band. The orchestra will also perform.

7:00 pm: The concert should be finished, but also be prepared if the concert runs a little late.

Parents and guardians should attend the concert. Otherwise, rides of the choir members should be at the school at 7:00 pm so that the choir members can be transported home.

If more information is needed, please call Mr. Barraca at 1-706-718-8554 or send an e-mail to Barraca.Rodolfo@muscogee.k12.ga.us

LGPE

The Baker Middle School Concert Choir will perform in the Large Group Performance Assessment (LGPE).

This performance will take place off campus in March, 2019. Exact time and date (TBA)

The choir students will sing two songs for a panel of judges. The choir students will also sight-read a melody chosen by the judges. The judges will grade the choir according to the following standards:

A = I = Superior B = II = Excellent C = III = Average D = IV = Poor

The choir students will also listen to choirs from other schools.

As choir director, Mr. Barraca will choose the best choir students from Baker Middle School who have proven their music reading skill, their good behavior, and singing ability in class throughout the year.

Parents may attend the LGPE and cheer the students as they perform.

Parents need to sign the attached permission slip and return it to Mr. Barraca.

Here is a sample itinerary for the LGPE (The LGPE may take place in another county, making travel necessary):

8:00 a.m. Parents will need to bring their child to Baker Middle School early because the students have been assigned an early performance time. As soon as the students get to school, they must report to the choir room so they can put on their choir robes.

8:30 a.m. The choir students will board the bus. Students are to be reminded that they may not bring any food and drinks with them. Students should use the restroom before they get on the bus because they will not be allowed to use the restrooms at the church.

9:10 a.m. The choir students will warm up for their performance.

9:20 a.m. The choir students will perform their two songs for the judges.

9:35 a.m. The choir students will sight-read.

9:45 a.m. The choir students will listen to other middle school choirs perform.

10:30 a.m. The choir students will get on the bus.

10:45 a.m. The choir students will eat at McDonalds.

5:00 p.m. The choir students will return to Baker Middle School.

If more information is needed, please call Mr. Barraca at 1-706-718-8554 or send an e-mail to Barraca.Rodolfo@muscogee.k12.ga.us

Field Trips

In addition to the performances, there may be additional field trips that may be scheduled off-campus and during school hours. This will require the students missing classes during the school day. This will always make it necessary for students to participate in fund-raising activities to finance the cost of transportation and other expenses. Students who do not fund-raise may be required to pay the cost of participating in the field trips.

GMEA ACTIVITIES

Some students will be asked to participate in certain activities sponsored by the Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA). These activities will occur off-campus. Students who choose to participate may have to provide their own transportation and may have to miss classes during the school day and may have to participate after-school and on weekends.

1. Georgia All-State Choir: Students who want to participate in this event will have to audition for this choir before a panel of judges. There will be two rounds of auditions, with the first round in November and the second round in January. Students who are selected to the Georgia All-State Choir will rehearse and perform on the campus of the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia in February. Students who are selected to the Georgia All-State Choir will have to provide for their own hotel room and their parents will be required to be their chaperone.
2. All-District Honor Choir: The choir director (Mr. Barraca) will nominate students for this choir. The students who are selected to be members of this choir will have to rehearse twice after school (usually on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon) and will have to rehearse and perform on a Friday night and all day Saturday in February.