

Webb Bridge Middle School  
Chorus Syllabus 2015-2016  
Grades 6-8  
Room 203

**Instructor:** Ms. Josi Suslov -- [suslovj@fultonschools.org](mailto:suslovj@fultonschools.org)

**Class Periods:**

Period 2: Chorus 8  
Period 5: Chorus 7  
Period 8: Chorus 6

**Available Times for Conference:**

Before or after school, by appointment only

**Student Materials:**

Pencils (2) – NO PENS!!  
Student Agenda Book  
Lined Notebook Paper  
1 inch black 3-ring binder  
1 box of tissues (**classroom donation, thank you in advance!**)  
Dry erase marker (**classroom donation, thank you in advance!**)

**Course Description and Objectives:**

Chorus is a sequential class throughout grades 6-8 and is open to all students interested in learning about singing individually and in a group. Students will learn to sing using proper breath support, diction, body alignment, articulation, and tone. Additionally, they will sight-read and notate music to improve their music literacy skills. Through daily rehearsal, students will discover a variety of performance techniques and styles, texts and subject matters, and cultures.

**Participation:**

Participation in chorus is a year-long commitment. School policy dictates that a student may not withdraw without written parental consent. Prior to withdrawal, parents are encouraged to speak with the director so that possible adjustments to their child's learning program may be attempted. No student will be dropped without prior parental notification. If withdrawal is necessary, it must be done at the conclusion of a semester. Goals and objectives for students with Individual Education Plans will be addressed in this course.

***\*\*\*\*\*Students must participate in a regularly-scheduled music class to be eligible for after-school ensembles. (This does not apply to the musical)***

**Fulton County Schools Grading Scale:**

A=100-90%

B=89-80%

C=79-70%

F=69% and below

**Chorus Grading Percentages**

As a way to measure growth, the following system will be implemented to evaluate each student:

Performances/Dress Rehearsals: 35%

Participation: 50%

Tests and Quizzes: 10%

Classwork and Homework: 5%

**Class Resources:**

Choral Octavos (sheet music) (Issued by WBMS Choral Program – may not be taken home)

Choral Connections - Glencoe McGraw-Hill

Experiencing Choral Literature – Hal Leonard

**Standards:**

To see the list of the music standards taught in chorus, please visit the following website (pages 36-43):

<https://www.georgiastandards.org/standards/gps%20support%20docs/fine-arts-music-gps.pdf>

**Concert Participation Policy:**

Chorus is a performance-based course and attendance at all concerts and performances is expected. Class time is spent on the development of individual and group voice technique, learning to understand musical notation, and acquiring the skills necessary to become “musical”.

At the same time, middle school choral students are also developing in the areas of teamwork, citizenship, and their ever-increasing responsibilities. Through choral performance, students learn to “follow through” with commitments, overcome obstacles that might hinder participation, and to recognize the value of their membership within a group. The students learn to help take care of each other and reap the rewards that are derived from working within a group striving toward a common goal of excellence.

That being said, students’ grades are impacted by their participation in dress rehearsals and performances. If a student has an emergency or illness that necessitates that he/she miss a required rehearsal or performance, he/she will be given the opportunity to complete an assignment of equal magnitude to take the place of his/her concert participation grade. Please communicate any

absences (other than severe illness or the loss of a family member) to Ms. Suslov with at least one week's notice.

**Class Participation Policy:**

All students are expected to participate fully. If a student is not feeling well enough to sing, he/she will be sent to the clinic. Students who are well enough to remain at school but are unable to sing will be expected to do an alternative assignment to earn his/her participation points for the day.

**Class Work:**

A student who misses class work for any reason must make up the work when he/she returns to school. Failure to do so will result in a grade of 0%. It is the student's responsibility to inquire about missed assignments.

**Recovery Process:**

If your child needs to improve his/her grade in chorus, he/she may work with Ms. Suslov before or after school to raise his/her grade. Any additional assignments used to improve a grade will be determined by Ms. Suslov on a case-by-case basis.

**Extra Help:**

Ms. Suslov is available on select days before and after school to work with students individually/in small groups. If class time does not allow, students may use this time to make up tests and quizzes.

**Class Expectations:**

**e<sup>3</sup>**

**Exemplifying Excellence Everyday**  
AKA...

- Take your seat when the bell rings, ready to warm up
- Listen when others are sharing
- Be respectful of others' music making
- Take risks!
- Bring your materials to class every day
- No gum, food, or drink (other than water) is permitted during class or performances

**Consequences:**

One of the goals of the middle school is to develop a sense of responsibility and self-discipline in students. In an effort to promote student growth in these areas, all Webb Bridge Middle School students are expected to behave in a positive manner conducive to learning. Fulton County policies and procedures will be

followed in all disciplinary cases. A school wide discipline plan will be followed in each student's classroom according to the steps below.

- 1 – 1st slip/warning Student/Teacher conference
- 2 – 2nd slip/warning Parent contact
- 3 – 3rd slip Detention 1 Using Webb Bridge detention slip and notification to parent
- 4 – 4th slip Detention 2 Use Webb Bridge detention slip and notification to parent OR Parent/Teacher/Student conference
- 5 – 5th slip Administrative Office Referral

**Concert Attire:** I am in the process of deciding whether or not to change the chorus uniform. Please go to the EDMODO poll for more information.

**Regardless of this change, any student who is not properly dressed in our uniform (whatever that change may be) will not be permitted to perform. The student will receive a grade of 50% for his/her concert participation grade.**

**Calendar:** Please note— The below dates and times are subject to change. You will promptly be notified of any changes. More specific calendar information will be distributed closer to the time of each major event.

| <b>Date</b>                 | <b>Event</b>   | <b>Time</b>  | <b>Location</b>  | <b>Participants</b> |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Aug 28, 2015                | Signed syllabus and chorus fee due                         |              |                  | All Choruses        |
| Sep 28, 2015                | Fall Arts Sampler  | 6:30-8:00 PM | WBMS Cafe        | 8th Grade           |
| TBA                         | Webb Bridge Fall Chorus Concert (concert begins at 7:00)   | 6:00 PM      | TBA              | All Choruses        |
| Oct 17, 2015                | Community Children's Choral Festival                       | All Day      | TBA              | 6th Grade Chorus    |
| Oct 30, 2015 - Oct 31, 2015 | District V Honor Chorus                                    | TBA          | TBA              | Select Members      |
| Nov 14, 2015                | All-State Auditions  | TBA          | Dutchtown HS     | Select Members      |
| TBD                         | Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal                             | 4:05-5:15 PM | WBMS             | All Choruses        |
| TBD                         | Winter Concert (Concert at 7:00 pm)                        | 5:30         | TBA              | All Choruses        |
| Jan 14-16, 2016             | 8th Grade Band/Orchestra/Chorus Trip                       | TBA          | TBA              | 8th Grade           |
| Jan 21, 2016                | Second All-State Audition                                  | TBA          | North Springs HS | Select Members      |
| Feb 19, 2016 - Feb 20, 2016 | Statewide 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Chorus               | TBA          | Athens, GA       | Select Members      |
| Feb 23, 2016                | LGPE Dress Rehearsal 1                                     | 4:05-5:15 PM | WBMS             | All Choruses        |
| Feb 25, 2016 - Feb 27, 2016 | All-State Chorus   | TBA          | Athens, GA       | Select Members      |
| Mar 1, 2016                 | LGPE Dress Rehearsal 2                                     | 4:05-5:15 PM | WBMS             | All Choruses        |
| Mar 3, 2016 or Mar 4, 2016  | LGPE (exact day and time TBA)                              | TBA          | TBA              | All Choruses        |
| TBA                         | Music in the Parks Competition                             | TBA          | Six Flags        | TBA                 |
| May 16, 2016                | 6th Grade Dress Rehearsal                                  | 4:05-5:15 PM | WBMS             | 6th Grade           |
| May 17, 2016                | 7th Grade Dress Rehearsal                                  | 4:05-5:15 PM | WBMS             | 7th Grade           |
| May 18, 2016                | 8th Grade Dress Rehearsal                                  | 4:05-5:15 PM | WBMS             | 8th Grade           |
| TBD                         | Webb Bridge Spring Chorus Concert (concert begins at 7:00) | 6:00 PM      | TBD              | All Choruses        |

**PERMISSION FORM:** Please print and return by Friday, August 28, 2015.

My child and I have read the Webb Bridge Middle School Chorus Syllabus and Calendar and agree to meet the obligations set forth by the choral program.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Additional Information**

Student's Name (please print):

\_\_\_\_\_

Student's Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Height: \_\_\_ft. \_\_\_in.

Parent's Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Email Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Phone Number:

\_\_\_\_\_

Does your student play an instrument? If so, which one(s)?

\_\_\_\_\_

Does your student take music lessons?

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

We are looking for adult volunteers to help us before and after concerts, on trips, and with other chorus events. If you are interested in volunteering, please mark your interest below. You will be contacted about your specific availability before each opportunity. Thank you for your support of the choral program!

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ Chaperone Dress Rehearsals
- \_\_\_\_\_ Before concerts
- \_\_\_\_\_ After concerts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chaperoning trips
- \_\_\_\_\_ Provide snacks for post-performance celebrations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Additional events/needs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assist with the Spring Musical

## **Additional Opportunities**

### **GMEA Statewide Sixth Grade Honor Chorus**

Webb Bridge is able to send five students to Statewide Sixth Grade Honor Chorus. Statewide Sixth Grade Honor Chorus is in Athens, GA from February 19-20, 2015. Any student who is selected will need to attend the event with a parent/chaperone. The cost of registration and music is approximately **\$50**. In addition, each student will be responsible for the cost of his/her travel, hotel, and meals.

### **GMEA All-State Chorus**

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade choral students are eligible to audition for GMEA's All-State Chorus. Students who are selected for All-State Chorus must pass two rigorous auditions. The first audition will take place at Dutchtown High School in Hampton, GA on November 14, 2015. The second audition will take place on January 21, 2016 at North Springs High School in Sandy Springs, GA. All-State Chorus will take place from February 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> in Athens, GA. The audition process involves quite a bit of preparation, though the auditions and event itself are incredibly rewarding. Any student who is interested in auditioning should plan to practice with Ms. Suslov before and/or after school. Any student who is selected will need to attend the auditions and event with a parent/chaperone. The cost of registration and music is approximately **\$50**. In addition, each student will be responsible for the cost of his/her travel, hotel, and meals.

### **GMEA District V Honor Chorus**

Webb Bridge may select 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students to participate in GMEA District V Honor Chorus (6<sup>th</sup> in the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Chorus, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> in the Middle School Honor Chorus). District Honor Chorus is a great way to meet other singers from Fulton County, Atlanta Public Schools, and the private schools in those districts. The event will take place on October 30-November 1 in the metro-Atlanta area. Please note that the performance on October 31<sup>st</sup> will take place in the early afternoon. **Please only commit this if your child is willing to postpone any Halloween celebrations until that evening!** The cost of participation and music is approximately **\$45**.

### **Georgia American Choral Directors Association Treble Honor Chorus**

GA ACDA Treble Honor Chorus is open by audition to any of our choral students with unchanged voices. The event will take place in June (exact date TBA) at Spivey Hall on the campus of Clayton State University. The cost of registration is approximately **\$65**. Each student must have a parent chaperone.

### **Southern Division American Choral Directors Association Honor Chorus**

This year, the American Choral Directors Association's Southern Division's conference will take place in Chattanooga, TN. Since it is so close to Atlanta, we'd like to give our students the opportunity to audition for this prestigious



event. To audition, students will need to submit a recorded track that they will create with Ms. Suslov's assistance before or after school. Auditions must be recorded in between September 11, 2015 and October 12, 2015. Students will be notified about the result of their audition on December 1, 2015. Selected students will attend the event from March 9th-12th in Chattanooga. All participating students must attend with a parent chaperone.

### **Honor Chorus Audition Sign-Up**

My child would like to audition for the following choirs (audition is at Webb Bridge Middle School):

- \_\_\_\_\_ GMEA 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Chorus
  - \_\_\_\_\_ GMEA District V Honor Chorus (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ GA ACDA Treble Honor Choir
- 

- \_\_\_\_\_ ACDA Southern Division Honor Choir (auditions through ACDA)
- \_\_\_\_\_ My child would like to audition for GMEA All-State Chorus (auditions through GMEA)

I understand that if my child is selected for one or more of the honor choirs, it is mandatory that he/she attends the event in its entirety. Students who are not able to commit should not audition as to allow another student to take advantage of the opportunity.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_