

Gorham High School Chamber Singers Class Syllabus

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"...this thing which we are trying to do together is somehow greater – more important and more rewarding – than most things which we attempt alone."

~ Robert Shaw ~

The single agenda of the GHS Choirs is to be one of the leading High School choral programs in Maine, period. Toward that end, you will:

- Learn vocal techniques that strengthen your personal vocal qualities
- Learn rehearsal techniques that develop a unified ensemble sound
- Learn skills in music literacy
- Rehearse and perform choral literature that reflect educational considerations
- Develop the skills of teamwork, trust, commitment, self-esteem and respect

Ground Rules

General Rehearsal Expectations

Be in your assigned seat with your folder, on time and ready to work. Students may only leave class with a previously issued pass or for other unique circumstances. Food, gum and drinks (except water) are not permitted in class and result in the loss of **three full letter grades** for the day.

Be here...on time.

Unless you are excused from school, you are expected to be in class. A single skip WILL result in a loss of credit for the day. Arriving late for class without previous permission or a pass will result in the loss of **three full letter grades** for the day.

Be Attentive:

Do not distract the director or those around you or talk with your neighbors while the choir is singing. Failure to meet this standard will result in the loss of points for the day. The amount of points lost will depend on the severity and/or frequency of infraction.

Perform like a Chamber Singer:

This is a class for students who wish to pursue music at the highest level possible at GHS. If you do not wish to be held accountable for this, please seek other alternatives. **Above average effort, focus and attitude will be the expectation, not the exception.**

Grading:

I invite you to look at your experience in Chamber Singers as a means of personal growth as a musician. **You will not be graded on how well you sing compared to another student.** The main goal is for **you** to progress. You will be assessed based on the work that you do to increase your knowledge and skill level in music and to . You must improve throughout the year.

Your acceptance in the group is not guaranteed from year to you. If you choose to coast through the year, you will jeopardize your chances of returning next year.

Choral students will be assessed:

1. Each day via productivity, progress made and following rehearsal protocol – 50%
2. Periodically, through Performance Assessments, both formal and informal – 25%
3. At least once per quarter in Public Performances – 25%

Performances:

There is a very intense performance requirement in this class. There are several performances each quarter. There is no make-up for a missed performance. *Students who are unable to fulfill this obligation will see their grade affected accordingly, AND jeopardize their chances of returning next year.*

In accordance with the Gorham High School attendance policy, absences will only be excused for the following reasons:

- Illness (with doctor's note)
- Family emergency

The following are considered unexcused absences and will result in a grade of no higher than 75 for the quarter.

- Work
- Christmas parties
- Family vacation

**In matters where athletics and Chamber Singers dates conflict:
Games/Concerts trump Practice/Rehearsal**