

Gorham High School Concert Choir  
Class Syllabus

Instructor: Mr. Murray  
Credit: 1 (full year) or .5 (semester) Fine Arts  
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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.

## **Grading:**

I invite you to look at your experience in Concert Choir 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 put in to increase your knowledge and skill level in music.

## **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%

## **Concerts:**

**This is a performance class.** There is at least one concert performance each quarter. There is no make-up for a missed performance. 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
- Family gatherings
- Family vacations

## **Concert Dates:**

Quarter 1: Fall Concert – Tuesday, October 25, 7:00 (6:00 call), MPAC

Quarter 2: Winter Concert – Sunday, December 11, 3:00 (2:00 call), MPAC  
GHS/GMS Combined Concert – Thursday Dec. 15, during school

Quarter 3: School Tour – Thursday, March 15, during the school day

Quarter 4: All Gorham Chorus Night – Thursday April 26, 6:00 (5:00 call), MPAC  
Spring Concert – Sunday May 13, 3:00 (2:00 call), MPAC

## **Concert Attire**

Guys - Black dress pants, long-sleeved white oxford shirt, long, dark tie,  
Black dress shoes

Gals - FLOOR-LENGTH black skirt or dress pants,  
Black tights/hose/nylons, Black dress shoes.  
Concert Blouse will be provided