



Gateway College Preparatory School

Choral Music

Kasie Kline - Director

3360 Westinghouse Road Georgetown, TX. 78626
(512) 686-4947 ext. 1010 kasie.kline@orendaeducation.org

Choir Handbook 2017-18

Gateway College Preparatory School 2017 - 2018 Choir Handbook

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Choir is a performance-based class. Students will sing a varied repertoire of music that will enhance their vocal and performing skills as well as provide a basis for music theory, history, sight-reading, and appreciation. Students are assessed on daily class rehearsal as well as public performance.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

In order to work as an ensemble, we must work together as a team to be successful. Teamwork requires cooperation, respect and commitment. Everyone is important to the team. Each student's participation grade will be based on the following rules:

1. Respect EVERYONE.
2. Be on time.
3. Show respect for the classroom, instruments, etc.
4. Be prepared every day with your folder, music, a sharpened pencil and any handouts given during class.
5. Give your best effort every day.
6. As a member of the Choir Program, students are expected to follow all rules, regulations and policies in the Gateway College Preparatory School Student Handbook. At the discretion of the director, a student violating any of these rules may be ineligible to participate in performances on and off campus, including field trips.

Students will be graded on the following:

Performances = 40% of overall grade
Daily Classroom Participation = 30% of overall grade
Quizzes = 10% of overall grade
Class Assignments = 10% of overall grade
Sight Singing = 10% of overall grade

90% - 100% = A

80% - 89% = B

75% - 79% = C

70% - 74% = D

69% and lower...Never going to happen right? = F

The grading scale for each quarter/semester is set. However, the number of points in each quarter will vary upon the number of tests, assignments, performances, etc.

CLASS SUPPLIES

All 6th-8th grade students need: A black 3 ring 1/2 inch binder with pockets, and a PENCIL (or 3). A highlighter is recommended, but not required. These items can remain in the classroom on the appointed shelves. Points will be deducted from their daily participation grade if they are missing their binder, music, and pencil (especially that pencil....).

GCPS CELL PHONE/MUSICAL DEVICE POLICY

The Gateway College Preparatory School's administration team developed this policy to give students the privilege of having cell phones on campus and be responsible for them. Please read it carefully. For repeat offenders, the consequences become quite serious.

PERFORMANCES

ATTENDANCE AT ALL PERFORMANCES IS REQUIRED!

Performance dates will be posted on the new Gateway website (details to follow) and is listed in the "Upcoming Events" column, Blackboard Class site, Choir Booster website, GCPS Master Calendar, and in the classroom on the master calendar, so please plan ahead! An ensemble is dependent on all its members. Performance is the culmination of classroom learning and a large percentage of a student's grade. Students are required to wear their performance wear exactly as instructed in order to participate in a performance. For example, a student wearing tennis shoes during a *formal* concert will not be allowed to perform.

If a student isn't able to attend a performance, please give Mrs. Kline as much advanced notice as possible. ***Although absences are rarely excused***, extenuating circumstances do occasionally occur and will be considered on an individual basis. The following are NOT valid excuses for missing a performance: Work, birthdays, last-minute vacations, visiting relatives, dinner with parents, too much homework, upcoming tests, and "I couldn't find a ride". Again, please plan ahead and be there for your team.

Performance Guidelines

- 1) Be on time for all performances. Call times will be given at least two weeks prior to the performance.
- 2) Demonstrate appropriate behavior as a PERFORMER and AUDIENCE MEMBER.
- 3) Represent the GCPS Choir Program with respect and pride.

FIELD TRIPS

There are a number of Performing Arts field trips during the year. Some of these are during the school day, some in the evening and some during vacations.

For day field trips, students need to notify their teachers/coaches two weeks in advance of the trip. We are careful to limit the number of trips an individual student may take as it can disrupt work in other subjects. Performing Arts Department Permission Slips will be sent out via paper handout and placed on your child's Blackboard page before each event, and will need to be returned before the scheduled event. Phone calls, e-mails, and "doodled" notes will not suffice in place of the permission slip form. Please make sure to complete all designated areas of the form.

We make it clear to students who participate in a Performing Arts field trip that they are responsible for making up any work missed in other classes.

UIL

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

Each spring, the 7-12 grade choirs will participate in the UIL Contest and Sight-Reading event. This is usually held during the school day, but sometimes performance times may run into the early evening. Notification of performance date and time is released 2 weeks prior to the event. UIL Constitution and Guidelines require that all UIL participants maintain a passing grade in each subject (70% and higher). Failure to do so means that student may not sing with the choir at the UIL festival, which will constitute a failing performance grade.

THE WEBSITE

Please make sure you check the Gateway CPS website Choir page **often**. This site will have important information concerning performances, various upcoming events, and announcements. Please make sure to bookmark it for quick reference.

PERFORMANCE WEAR

The items listed below are required materials for students taking Choir.

Choir T-Shirt/Sweatshirt for Informal Uniform

At the beginning of the school year, choir officers will vote on a t-shirt design. The choir sweatshirt design is the same every year. We will then purchase these items from PepWear for use throughout the year for informal concerts, fund-raisers, or specific club activities.

Prices are as follows:

T-Shirt - \$15

Sweatshirt - \$30

For the 2017-2018 school year we will use the sweatshirt design we have used the previous three years. If you already have this sweatshirt, there is no need to purchase another one. If you do not have one, please submit your money ASAP for both the t-shirt and sweatshirt (\$45). Checks can be made to Orenda Education. If finances are an issue, speak to Mrs. Kline as soon as possible. Camerata Choir (9-12) needs both t-shirt and sweatshirt and Bel Canto (7-8) and Bella Voci (6th) need only the t-shirt, however, Bel Canto and Bella Voci members may purchase the sweatshirt if so desired.

Dry Cleaning Fees

There is a dry cleaning fee of \$15 for all choir members. All uniforms will be sent to Pittman's Cleaners in Georgetown in April of each school year. Please see the contract page for fee information, and please do not wash the uniforms at home.

Formal Uniforms

High School

Women:



Issued by school:

~ Black/Green Dress (\$90)

Need to purchase by student:

~ Sheer, off-black panty hose or knee highs
~ Black, flat dress shoes with no designs

*Our dress was custom made, but dress in the picture is the style of dress we have.

Men:



Issued by school:

~ White Dress Shirt (\$20)
~ Green Satin Vest (\$60)
~ Black Textured Tie (\$15)
~ Black tuxedo pants (\$28)

Need to purchase by student:

~ Plain, white t-shirt for under shirt
~ Black dress socks
~ Black dress shoes

***Men's pants will need to be hemmed. DO NOT CUT!!!!!! Hem ONLY!
Cut pants will result in a \$40 replacement charge.**

*Our vest was custom made, but vest in the picture is the style of vest we have.

The above uniform will be checked out and issued to your child upon completion and submission of the Choir Uniform Contract to Mrs. Kasie Kline. ***DO NOT TURN THE CONTRACT IN TO THE MAIN OFFICE.*** All "need to purchase" items need to be ready to go by September 29, 2017. If there is any issue with purchasing any portion of the needed items, please contact Mrs. Kasie Kline immediately (kasie.kline@orendaeducation.org).

The price the school paid for each piece of the uniform is listed beside the item. Any lost items or damaged pieces will constitute in a charge you will be billed for. Prices are based on bulk orders. Replacement prices may be higher due to minimum order charges and other associated fees. All late uniform will result in final grades being withheld (and future schedules) as per GCPS administration, until uniforms are returned.

No student will be denied an awesome choir experience due to any financial hardship!

Middle School – Grades 7-8

Girls:



Issued by school:

- ~ White Dress Shirt (\$14)
- ~ Green Satin Vest (\$40)
- ~ Green Satin Bow Tie (\$5)
- ~ Black, knee-length skirt (\$24)

Need to purchase by student:

- ~ Plain, white t-shirt for under shirt
- ~ Off-Black – SHEAR pantyhose (no tights)
- ~ Black, flat dress shoes with no designs

Boys:



Issued by school:

- ~ White Dress Shirt (\$14)
- ~ Green Satin Vest (\$40)
- ~ Green Satin Bow Tie (\$5)
- ~ Black tuxedo pants (\$24)

Need to purchase by student:

- ~ Plain, white t-shirt for under shirt
- ~ Black dress socks
- ~ Black dress shoes

****Boys pants will need to be hemmed. DO NOT CUT!!!!!! Hem ONLY!
Cut pants will result in a \$35 replacement charge.***

The above uniform will be checked out and issued to your child upon completion and submission of this Choir Uniform Contract to Mrs. Kasie Kline. ***DO NOT TURN THE CONTRACT IN TO THE MAIN OFFICE.*** All “need to purchase” items need to be ready to go by September 29, 2017. If there is any issue with purchasing any portion of the needed items, please contact Mrs. Kasie Kline immediately (kasie.kline@orendaeducation.org).

The price the school paid for each piece of the uniform is listed beside the item. Any lost items or damaged pieces will constitute in a charge you will be billed for. Prices are based on bulk orders. Replacement prices may be higher due to minimum order charges and other associated fees. All late uniform will result in final grades being withheld (and future schedules) as per GCPS administration, until uniforms are returned.

**Only the boy’s pants will need to be altered to fit, hemmed only. DO NOT CUT.
NO OTHER UNIFORM ITEM MAY BE ALTERED!**

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6th Grade

Girls:



Issued by school:

- ~ White Dress Shirt (\$14)
- ~ Green Satin Cummerbund (\$15)
- ~ Green Satin Bow Tie (\$5)
- ~ Black, knee-length skirt (\$24)

Need to purchase by student:

- ~ Plain, white t-shirt for under shirt
- ~ Off-Black – SHEAR pantyhose (no tights)
- ~ Black, flat dress shoes with no designs

Boys:



Issued by school:

- ~ White Dress Shirt (\$14)
- ~ Green Satin Cummerbund (\$15)
- ~ Green Satin Bow Tie (\$5)
- ~ Black tuxedo pants (\$24)

Need to purchase by student:

- ~ Plain, white t-shirt for under shirt
- ~ Black dress socks
- ~ Black dress shoes

***Boys pants will need to be hemmed. DO NOT CUT!!!! Hem ONLY!**
Cut pants will result in a \$35 replacement charge.

The above uniform will be checked out and issued to your child upon completion and submission of this Choir Uniform Contract to Mrs. Kasie Kline. ***DO NOT TURN THE CONTRACT IN TO THE MAIN OFFICE.*** All “need to purchase” items need to be ready to go by September 29, 2017. If there is any issue with purchasing any portion of the needed items, please contact Mrs. Kasie Kline immediately (kasie.kline@orendaeducation.org).

The price the school paid for each piece of the uniform is listed beside the item. Any lost items or damaged pieces will constitute in a charge you will be billed for. Prices are based on bulk orders. Replacement prices may be higher due to minimum order charges and other associated fees. All late uniform will result in final grades being withheld (and future schedules) as per GCPS administration, until uniforms are returned.

Only the boy’s pants will need to be altered to fit, hemmed only. DO NOT CUT.
NO OTHER UNIFORM ITEM MAY BE ALTERED!

No student will be denied an awesome choir experience due to any financial hardship!

GCPS Choir Uniform Contract

Only the men's pants will need to be altered to fit, hemmed only. DO NOT CUT.

NO OTHER UNIFORM ITEM MAY BE ALTERED!

Please sign and return this contract to Mrs. Kasie Kline no later than September 8, 2017.

Name of Student _____ Grade _____

I have read the Gateway College Preparatory Choir Uniform Contract and understand the guidelines requested. We will do our very best to maintain the Choir Uniform in the best possible condition and return it to Mrs. Kasie Kline (Choir Director) by April 2018, unless otherwise notified.

We understand the charges associated with any lost or damaged uniform items and the associated dry cleaning fees for the use of the uniform for the school year.

Name of Parent/Guardian _____
(Please Print)

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____

For Choir Office Use Only:

Men Check Out Date _____ Check In Date _____

Notes:

Vest # _____ Cummerbund _____

Pants # _____ Tie _____

Shirt # _____

Women Check Out Date _____ Check In Date _____

Dress # _____ Notes:

Vest # _____ Cummerbund _____

Skirt # _____ Tie _____

Shirt # _____

PARENT/STUDENT CONTRACT

The Gateway College Preparatory School Performing Arts Department feels that communication between teachers, students, and parents is imperative for a great program. Therefore, we ask that each parent/guardian and student sign and return this contract to Mrs. Kline no later than Friday, September 8, 2017, with the best email address(es) that you would like all correspondence sent.

By signing below, you indicate that you have read, understand and will abide by the rules and guidelines of the Gateway College Preparatory School Performing Arts Department Handbook. This includes: Classroom Expectations, Performances, Performance Wear, Grading, Uniform and the GCPS Electronic Device Policy.

_____ Student Printed Name

_____ Student Signature Date

_____ @ _____ Student E-mail Address

_____ Parent/Guardian Printed Name

_____ Parent/Guardian Signature Date

_____ @ _____ Parent E-mail Address

FEES: *Make checks payable to: Orenda Education*

Choir T-Shirt *(required for all choir members grades 6-12)*

Size (circle one): YS YM YL S M L XL XXL _____ \$15.00

Choir Sweatshirt *(required for all high school choir members)*

Size (circle one): YS YM YL S M L XL XXL _____ \$30.00

Uniform Dry Cleaning Fee _____ \$15.00

Total Enclosed _____ \$ _____