



ELWOOD-JOHN GLENN HIGH SCHOOL

Chorus Handbook

2024-2025

Ms. Brittany Wheeler, Director | bwheeler1@elwood.k12.ny.us

Chorus website: sites.google.com/view/jgchorus

Mixed Chorus-Period 9

Google Classroom Code: **v5qv3s4**

Concert Choir-Period 8

Google Classroom Code :**6uz7lmb**

COURSE EXPECTATIONS & GUIDELINES

A copy of this handbook will be posted on google classroom and the chorus website, along with any other important information.

Goals:

- Improve music literacy, sight-reading and aural skills.
- Gain understanding of vocal technique, vocal anatomy, and how to improve your singing voice.
- Develop healthy vocal habits that will improve not only your singing, but also your speaking voice.
- Build self-confidence by acquiring performance experience and technique
- Sing in a variety of musical styles, languages and time periods, and understand the connection to history and different cultures.
- Develop vocabulary for proper music terminology.
- Constructively reflect upon and discuss live musical performances, including those performed as a class.
- Cultivate an environment of support and encouragement, allowing fellow classmates to feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and talents.

Classroom Expectations and Guidelines:

- First and foremost: **Be an active participant.** The foundation of this course is based on participation and you are expected to work to the best of your ability on a daily basis.
- Be on time. Be in place with all the required materials, ready to start when the bell rings.
- Follow rehearsal etiquette. No hats, gum chewing, talking or texting. Not complying will impact your grade and may keep you from participating in field trips or special music activities.
- Respect our space: Clean up after yourself.
- Respect each other: Everyone is to be treated with respect and courtesy. Bullying and rude behavior will not be tolerated.

Required Daily Materials:

- Sheet Music and Folder (provided)
- Pencil
- Headphones
- Charged Chromebook

GRADING POLICIES

Quarters 1 & 3

Rehearsal Skills 35%
Lessons 35%
Individual Achievement 30%

Quarters 2 & 4

Rehearsal Skills 30%
Lessons 30%, Concerts 20%
Individual Achievement 20%

Rehearsal Participation:

Being an active participant is the best way to ensure your success in this class. Students will receive 5 daily participation points. Students should demonstrate the following to receive full credit, daily:

- Arrive on time, ready to begin when the bell rings
- Be prepared with your materials (music, pencil, chromebook)
- Be focused on the task at hand
- Take notes in music when asked
- Sit or stand with appropriate choral posture
- Remain actively engaged in activities
- Sing when asked
- Sit quietly when not singing
- Keep a respectful and positive attitude
- Work to the best of your ability
- Follow classroom guidelines and strive to achieve class goals

Lessons:

Lessons are an important part of our choral program. During this time, we will work on your vocal development and technique, music theory, ear training, and other concepts embedded in our choral literature. Quarterly assessments will be based primarily on work done in lessons, therefore, attendance is not only mandatory, but crucial to your success in class.

The lesson schedule is posted on the chorus website *and* the google classroom. All chorus students are required to attend 5 lessons per quarter (unless you are also in band or orchestra, in which case you are required to attend 3 per quarter).

Grading Lessons: Lesson grading is cumulative. Each lesson is worth 20 points. If you come to 4 out of 5 lessons, your lesson grade for the quarter will be an 80. If you come to all 5 it will be 100. Extra credit may be earned by attending more than the required five lessons (no more than 3 extra lessons per quarter). Students will also earn an additional quarter credit toward their diploma for each year of lessons completed. This additional credit will be graded pass/fail based on attendance.

Lesson Rules:

- Let your teacher know before heading to your lesson.
- If a lesson is during your lunch period, you may bring your lunch or quickly eat in the cafeteria, arriving no more than 15 minutes late.
- You may only attend one scheduled lesson per week.
- You may only attend ONE makeup lesson per quarter
- Make-up lessons must be scheduled with Ms. Wheeler in Advance
- You may schedule the make-up lesson during your lunch or study hall if Ms. Wheeler is also available.

Performance and Dress Rehearsal Participation:

- Students are required to attend all concert performances and dress rehearsals. In extreme or unforeseen circumstances, absences must be approved by Ms. Wheeler and administration, and will be required to complete a makeup assignment. All other absences will result in a failing concert grade for that quarter.
- Concert Dates:
Winter Concert: December 16th, 2024 7:00pm (call time 6pm)
Spring Concert: May 28th, 2025 7:00pm (call time 6pm)

Concert Attire: Concert robes are given to each student for performances. Please dress comfortably, wearing neat black pants to accompany, as well as flat black dress shoes.

- **Graduation:** In the fourth quarter, performing at graduation constitutes 25% of your concert grade. This year, graduation is scheduled for **June 27th, 2025** at **5:30pm** (call time TBA). **Attire:** White Top, black on bottom, black shoes.

Individual Achievement: Throughout the year, student progress will be assessed in several ways. These assessments can include but are not limited to :

- Classwork
- Returned handouts
- Quizzes
- Vocal assessments
- Memorization check

OTHER PROCEDURES & EXPECTATIONS

- All students are expected to follow the guidelines listed above.
- Students should be prepared with all materials every day.
- Students should have a pass when arriving late to class.
- Students may leave for the restroom when necessary, but only one at a time. Students must use the sign out log.
- Students will take notes in their music when asked, and take good care of any materials or music loaned to them.
- If negative or disruptive behavior becomes a pattern, a warning and a phone call home will occur. Extreme or excessively poor behavior may result in removal from the class.
- ****If a student tells their teacher that they are attending a lesson and then does not attend a lesson, that is a cut, and will result in a referral.**

If there are any changes to the calendar regarding performance dates/times or classroom policies, parents and students will be notified as soon as possible and the updated information will be published on the chorus website and google classroom.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Wheeler at:
bwheeler1@elwood.k12.ny.us

Parents/Guardians and Students: Please confirm that you have read and understand the information presented in this handbook by completing the attached google form. [Click here](#) to access the form, or scan QR code below.

FORMS DUE SEPTEMBER 13TH.

