

Green Brook Middle School

Chorus and Orchestra

William Alzaher

Green Brook Middle School Choir and Orchestra Syllabus

William Alzaher – Director of Choirs and Orchestra
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Welcome to the Green Brook Music Program. If you're reading this, it means that you've enrolled in the Green Brook Choir or Orchestra program. I'm so excited that you have chosen this path and can't wait to begin our musical journey together! As we begin our study of music, and prepare our concert repertoire, you may have some questions as to how this class will function. The purpose of this document is to outline my expectations of you as well as answer some general questions you may have. Please read through this document with your parents and fill out the commitment form in the back.

Sincerely,
Mr. William Alzaher,
Director of Choirs and Orchestra

Goals and Objectives

- To learn leadership and teamwork skills that will transcend the walls of the classroom
- To learn discipline, commitment, and respect in regards to practice habits and learning goals
- To learn basic music theory and note-reading skills to enhance performances
- To learn about the basic elements of music, musical time periods, composers, and how music is an integral part of human culture
- To prepare 2-3 high-quality concerts throughout the school year
- To prepare musicians for the high school ensemble experience

Classroom Expectations

- Be punctual and prepared for each lesson
- Always check the board and online resources for updates regarding assignments, rehearsals, and performances
- Participate fully and without reservation from the beginning of each rehearsal to the end
- Be **respectful and responsible** at all times
- Practice at home. In the stead of more traditional homework assignments, students are expected to practice their instrument(s) after school, daily
- No food, gum, or drinks in the choir room with the exception of water

Discipline Plan

If the expectations above are not met, then consequences such as verbal warnings, a conference with the student, a call home, or detentions will be enforced. Along with all class rules, school rules are also always in effect. Consequences for breaking classroom and school rules will be enforced equally and consistently.

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Classroom Supplies

Students will need to bring the following to every class:

- Sharpened pencil for marking scores and taking notes
- Music, binders, paper, and method books
- Instruments, cases, rosin, shoulder rests (violins/violas,) rockstop (cellos,) and any other materials necessary to make your instrument more playable (for orchestra students)
- Water (for singers who want to stay hydrated)

Concert Attire

Students are required to dress for success during concerts. Our goal is to look as professional as possible.

Attire for all concerts, unless otherwise noted, is as follows:

- **Black slacks** (no jeans, shorts, khakis, wind or cargo pants)
(Girls, if you want to wear a **skirt** or dress, it must be black and an appropriate length; **no miniskirts**)
- Black shoes (these must be **black formal shoes**, not sneakers)
- **Black socks** or stockings (for girls who wish to wear them)
- If you're going to wear a belt, make sure it's black
- The music department is striving for a more professional performance look. We will perform in **white dress shirts** for boys and **white blouses** for girls. The boy's shirts must be long-sleeved, ironed, and clean for each performance. Girl's blouses cannot be strapless, cannot show mid-drift, and cannot be low cut. Part of being a professional ensemble is looking like a professional ensemble.
- For certain concerts, I may ask students to wear clothing not listed above. Some of these items may be a tie, vest, jacket, T-shirt, or jeans. If this is the case, I will post it online at least 2-3 weeks prior to the concert.

Attendance Policy

Unlike some traditional classes, performing ensembles must sometimes meet outside of the school day. Attendance at every dress rehearsal and concert is mandatory. I understand that emergencies do arise, and if this is the case, I will need sufficient evidence that participation in a certain rehearsal or performance was **impossible**. Music ensembles are a team working towards a common goal that can only be achieved when *everyone* pulls their equal weight. **Attendance at morning rehearsals and PGC lessons for orchestra members is 100% mandatory.** These classes will be graded and students who do not attend can not participate in the orchestra program or the concerts and trips we attend. Attendance at weekly lessons and rehearsals is paramount in achieving these musical aspirations.

Grading Policy

Achieving an excellent grade in Choir or Orchestra is well within reach for students eager to further their understanding of music and their instrumental and vocal proficiency. Marking period grades are based on a number of ongoing assessments throughout the year. These assessments may take the form of tests and quizzes, classroom discussions, participation in daily warm-ups, etc. The exact breakdown of grades is as follows:

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Daily Formative Assessment – 10 points per day

Dress Rehearsals – up to 50 points per rehearsal

Performances – up to 100 points per performance

Tests/Projects – up to 100 points per test

Quizzes – up to 50 points per quiz

Homework/Practice Logs – up to 10 points per assignment

Transportation

In general, the school will be asked to provide bussing for any off campus performances or activities. When traveling off school grounds, students will bring home a permission slip that will contain all information regarding that particular trip.

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2019-2020 Green Brook Choir/Orchestra Concert Attendance Agreement

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Phone/Email: _____

We have read the attached syllabus and agree to attend all required performances. We realize that performance is an essential part of a music ensemble and that we depend on everyone's participation to make our concerts successful.

We agree to be on time and dressed appropriately for each performance.

We understand that students may only be excused for serious, unavoidable conflicts and that we must notify Mr. Alzaher of any conflict in writing at least 2 weeks prior to any performance. Failure to do so will result in the lowering of my/my child's marking period grade.

We understand that emergencies do happen and that we will make every effort to notify Mr. Alzaher by phone or email if this is the case. If we cannot reach Mr. Alzaher, we will provide an explanation in writing the next school day. Regardless of the reason for missing a concert, the student will be assigned an alternate assignment to make up the missed grade. In general, this means the student will perform the concert repertoire for Mr. Alzaher solo.

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____