# Dawson County Junior High School

Chorus Handbook



2016-2017

Dawson Co. Junior High Chorus Syllabus

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| **Teacher** | Kevin Woody | **E-mail** | kwoody@dawson.k12.ga.us |
| **Chorus Web Site:** dcjhchorus.weebly.com |
| **Remind 101 Texts:** Text **@dcjhchorus** to **81010** |

### Required Materials:

* 1 Black ½ inch 3-ring binder
* Pencils

### Description:

Chorus is a yearlong course that consists of performance-oriented ensembles for 8th grade students.  Students will study the fundamentals of music and good vocal production including diction, posture, breathing techniques, tone quality, and sight-reading skills. Chorus builds a basic knowledge of musical notation, terms, rhythmic patterns, scale structure, key signature identification, and ear training.  After school performances are required for this class.

### Goals: *Throughout the school year, each student will:*

* Develop and demonstrate proper vocal techniques (including posture, breathing, tone quality, diction, and expression)
* Develop an awareness of the body as an instrument and how to keep it working at its best (vocal health)
* Develop and utilize a knowledge of music reading (including pitches, rhythms, notation symbols, and vocabulary)
* Develop skills for singing independently as well as in groups of various sizes
* Develop and refine the ability to critique one’s own performance as well as the performance of others in a positive and constructive manner

**“Make the best music possible.”**

**\*\***This statement may sound very simple, but I firmly believe that if we are trying our best to “Make the best music possible,” we will reach all our goals both set by the State of Georgia’s Education Standards, as well as the standards and expectations of ourselves and our audience.

### Required Performances:

* *Monday, October 17th* @ 6:30 PM– Fall Concert
	+ DCHS Performing Arts Center
* *Friday, November 11th* – Veterans Day Program
	+ Location and Time TBD)
* *Tuesday, December 13th* – Christmas/Holiday Concert
	+ DCHS Performing Arts Center
* *Tuesday, February 28th @ 6*:30 PM– Pre-LGPE Concert
	+ DCHS Performing Arts Center
* *Wednesday, March 9th* **–** Large Group Performance Evaluation
	+ DCHS Performing Arts Center
* *Tuesday, May 16th* @ 6:00 PM – Spring Concert
	+ DCHS Performing Arts Center

**Other Important Dates**

* *Sat, November 12th* - GMEA All-State 1st Audition
	+ North Gwinnett MS
* *Fri – Sat, November 4th-5st* – 9th District Honor Chorus
	+ Cumming First UMC
* *Sat, January 21st*  - GMEA All-State 2nd Audition
	+ Vickery Creek MS
* *Thurs - Sat, February 23rd – 25th -* All-State Chorus
	+ The Classic Center, Athens, GA

**\*\*Although not likely, these dates and times are subject to change. Any alterations or additions to this schedule will be announced at least one month in advance.**

**\*\*Due to necessary maintenance and cleaning of the facilities, ALL concerts held at DCHS Performing Arts Center will hold an Admission charge of $4.00 for Adults, and $2.00 for students 5 years of age and older.**

**CHORUS DUES AND FEES**

**All students participating in chorus will pay a $50.00 Chorus registration due.**

Make checks payable to *DCJHS*.  This fee will cover the cost of the following:

* 1. **Uniform –** Black Top and Pants (ordered locally this year through Carley Etta's Boutique - **$35.00 value**
	2. **Chorus T-Shirt-** Used for less-formal performances. This shirt will be a 3/4 length "baseball-T." **- $15.00 Value**

\*No student will be denied the ability to participate in Chorus if he/she is unable to pay registration dues. A payment plan can be set up by contacting Mr. Woody to discuss options and scholarships that are available.

**Grading Policy**

**Formative Assessments: 30%**

**Weekly Rehearsal Grades & Classwork**

In a performing arts classroom such as Chorus, individual and ensemble skills are the focus of National and State standards. Because of this, the weekly performance grade will reflect the student’s ability to effectively contribute to both the ensemble and their own vocal development. The following standards-based skills will be assessed on a weekly basis:

1. Preparation for rehearsal—students are expected to arrive on time, get necessary materials for class and be seated when the vocal warm-ups begin.
2. Participation—students are expected to be an active member of the ensemble, shown through their attention to director’s instructions, singing at appropriate times, and being in the appropriate section of the music at all times.
3. Vocal Preparation—in order to further vocal development, vocal instruments must be clear of obstruction such as gum, candy, food…etc. Also, voices must not be otherwise engaged in talking, whispering.
4. Body Alignment—students are expected to demonstrate proper posture conducive for singing.

**Summative Assessments: 55%**

**Performances & Tests**

Mandatory performances (see “Required Performances”) will be videotaped and reviewed for a display of proper performance skills. Students must be in **complete** uniform for each performance in order to participate and receive full credit.

\*\***Students unable to attend performances due to emergency situations will be given a make-up assignment to complete in lieu of their attendance at the concert. If concert is missed, it is up to the student to collect make-up assignment materials and complete them within 1 week of the missed concert.**

**Final Exams: 15%**