



# SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL

# CHORAL DEPARTMENT

2022-2023 Handbook  
Janice Lynch, Director

*The Fine Arts Department at Spalding High School exists to cultivate creativity in the student body of SHS. We aim to: instill a life-long love and support of the arts in our Fine Arts students, prepare our students to continue their study of the arts at the collegiate level, give our students the tools they need to pursue a career in the arts, expose our students to various cultural and artistic experiences, and provide multiple opportunities for our students to showcase their talent for each other and the community.*

433 Wilson Road  
Griffin, GA 30224  
(770) 229-3775 ext. 28142  
janice.lynch@gscs.org  
www.spaldinghighchorus.org

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Spalding High School Chorus Program! I am excited about the upcoming year. With the foundation that already exists at Spalding High School, I know that we can anticipate an extraordinary year of growth and success.

This handbook contains any information you need to know for the upcoming school year. A tentative schedule of events, deadlines, and an information sheet will also accompany this document. Please keep this handbook and the schedule, but return the information sheet no later than the end of the second week of school **(August 12th)**.

I want to thank you in advance for being flexible concerning adjustments that may need to be made to policies and other information pertained here. I plan to communicate effectively with you as needed and keep you informed as much as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact me as questions arise. Email will be the quickest way for me to be able to reply; however, feel free to call if necessary. Stay updated and receive reminders about deadlines and upcoming events by “liking” the Spalding High School Chorus Facebook page, or following us on Instagram (@shs.chorus).

I can't wait to begin making music with you all. I look forward to getting to know all of you better.

Musically yours,

Janice Lynch

janice.lynch@gscs.org

(770) 229-3775

## Courses Available in the SHS Choral Department

Students will be placed in a specific course based on the amount of years they have been in high school chorus (see chart below). There are three classes of chorus available- Women's Chorus, Men's Chorus and Select Women's Chorus. All male voices will be placed in Men's Chorus. The chart below shows the sequence of courses students will follow in our choral department. Each class will have a mixture of levels in it, depending on how many years each student has participated in chorus. It is our goal for students to participate in chorus for the duration of their time in high school!

Year in High School Chorus	Females		Males	
	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester
First Year	Beginning Women's Chorus I	Beginning Women's Chorus II	Beginning Men's Chorus I	Beginning Men's Chorus II
Second Year	Intermediate Women's Chorus I	Intermediate Women's Chorus II	Intermediate Men's Chorus I	Intermediate Men's Chorus II
Third Year	Advanced Women's Chorus I	Advanced Women's Chorus II	Advanced Men's Chorus I	Advanced Men's Chorus II
Fourth Year	Mastery Women's Chorus I	Mastery Women's Chorus II	Mastery Men's Chorus I	Mastery Men's Chorus II

### Course Overview:

The objectives of this course are outlined in the Georgia Standards of Excellence as well as the National Standards for music education. The objectives include learning to read and write music, learning the fundamentals of vocal performance, learning about the history of music and lastly, learning about the music of other cultures. Students will be expected to participate in performances that will enable them to demonstrate to an audience the concepts they have learned and the abilities they have acquired.

## Concert Information

### **Concert Attendance:**

Students are not excused from any performance unless there is written notice given to the director at least two weeks in advance. Concerts are entered as PERFORMANCE GRADES in the grade book. Missing a concert is severely detrimental to a student's grade. Furthermore, it voids all of the work that we have accomplished leading up to the concert. We rehearse and perform as a group, therefore, it is imperative that students attend all required concerts. It is at the discretion of the director to determine if an absence is excused. *Excused absences from concerts are those absences that are beyond your control. Having to work, not having a ride, family functions or any other extracurricular activity or athletic function may not be considered excused absences.* If a student becomes ill or if an emergency arises on the day of a concert, please contact me as soon as possible and send a note to school with your student the next day. Students with excused absences will be required to complete an alternative assignment deemed appropriate by the instructor (typically performing the concert music). Those with unexcused absences will not be allowed to complete alternative assignments and consequently, there will be a reduction in the student's grade. If a student misses two or more concerts as a result of *unexcused* absences, he/she may be removed from chorus the following semester/year.

### **Concert Dress Code:**

#### *Informal Performances*

Each student must own an SHS Chorus t-shirt. If you are a returning student, you will not need to purchase a new shirt unless your shirt no longer fits or has stains or tears. Students must own this t-shirt for performances at pep rallies, assemblies, sporting events and more. The cost is \$10 and is due by Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. Shirts may be purchased at [www.spaldinghighchorus.org](http://www.spaldinghighchorus.org) or by mailing in a check, made out to SHS, to:

SHS Chorus  
433 Wilson Road  
Griffin, GA 30224

#### *Formal Performances*

All sopranos and altos will wear the SHS black choral dress with black, flat, close-toed dress shoes and school-issued pearl necklace. Sneakers are not appropriate for formal concert attire. Hair should be pulled back and off of the shoulders for all performances. Tenors, baritones and basses will wear the following- black dress pants, black socks and dress shoes, white long-sleeve tux shirt, bowtie and black vest. Students will be expected to provide their own shoes and socks. The cost for a new uniform is \$55.00. Gently used uniforms may be available on a first come, first serve basis at a cost of

\$35.00. If a student already owns or has access to the required uniform, he or she will not be responsible for this cost. *Please see me ASAP if you need financial assistance.*

## **Grading:**

Students will be graded according to the following percentages put in place by GSCS:

40%- Performances

A student's concert grade will be based on the following criteria:

punctuality (10%), correct dress code (10%) and performance (80%).

30%- Tests

30%- Daily Grades/Quizzes

## **Chorus Activity Fee (returning students only):**

In order to maintain a chorus program, we must have funds to pay for music, concert costs, transportation costs, piano tunings and supplies. Each RETURNING CHORUS STUDENT WHO IS NOT PURCHASING A FORMAL CONCERT UNIFORM will be responsible for a \$15 activity fee. This amount may be paid or fundraised. *First-year chorus students will be exempt from this fee due to the cost of purchasing a chorus uniform. As many of you know, this is a much lower cost than any other school activity. That being said, please do not let money be a factor for choosing whether or not your child will stay in chorus. I am willing to work with the students as much as possible to help defray the costs.*

## **Fundraising:**

We have several fundraisers scheduled throughout the year. Fundraisers are not required of chorus students; however, your student may use our fundraisers to raise money for their chorus activity fee, chorus uniform, SHS Fine Arts Trip (TBD), or other chorus-related activities. The profit your student raises through fundraising is ear-marked for their use throughout the year. At the end of the year, any remaining money rolls over to the general chorus account. See the calendar of events for beginning dates of fundraisers.

## **Class Procedures:**

Expectations:

1. Have a positive and respectful attitude at all times-for the teacher, your peers, and our supplies.
2. No gum, food, or drinks (water is the only exception).
3. Be seated, with supplies, by the time Ms. Lynch takes role.
  - a. If you are tardy, remember to sign-in in the Tardy Sign-In Notebook.
4. Phones should DISAPPEAR once class begins (when the bell rings). They should be in your bag.
  - a. If a student's phone is *visible* (in their hands, in their seat, etc.) during class, the following consequences will apply: First offense- phone will be held until the end of class in Ms. Lynch's office; Second offense- phone will be taken to the office to be picked up at the end of the school day; Third offense- phone will be taken to the front office and will be available for a parent to pick it up at 3:30pm.
5. Students may use the restroom one at a time. They must sign out and leave devices in the chorus room. The bathroom must be locked back afterwards. Using the restroom is not a valid excuse for being tardy. Students may not go to the restroom during the first or last 10 minutes of class. Failure to abide by these rules will result in the loss of this privilege.

Students who choose to not adhere to the expectations may face further disciplinary action and will be removed from the chorus program.

## **After-school Practices:**

Throughout the year, we may have rehearsals for honor choirs, auditions, concerts, etc. You will be given advance notice if an after-school rehearsal is required. A set time will be given in advance. We will have at least one after-school rehearsal for each concert that will be required. It is important that the classes rehearse together at least once before the night of the concert.

## Opportunities to Excel in Chorus

### **Honor Choir:**

Students may have the opportunity to participate in District 6 GMEA Honor Choir. In order to participate, students must sign up to show they are interested. Once a list of interested students is generated, students will be chosen based on participation in class, overall ability, behavior, and/or overall commitment to chorus. The director may require an audition to choose representatives. Once chosen, each student must learn his or her music before the Honor Choir event and pay any Honor Choir fees by the assigned due date. Failure to do so may result in the student not participating in the event. Students must be enrolled in chorus at the time of their nomination and at the time of the event. More information on these events will be forthcoming.

### **All-State Chorus:**

Students will have the opportunity to participate in All-State Chorus, sponsored by the Georgia Music Educators Association. Students who are interested should register and pay the audition fee by the assigned date (TBD). The first audition will consist of a solo performance, written exam, sight-reading and scales. If a student passes the first audition, they must attend a second audition. At the second audition, the student will perform portions of rehearsed music. Students who pass both auditions will attend All-State Chorus in Athens, GA in February. Attending All-State Chorus is the highest honor a chorus student can achieve. More information on this event will be forthcoming.

### **Literary Competition:**

The Georgia High School Association hosts the annual Literary Competition. In regards to music, each high school is represented by a female soloist, male soloist, ladies trio and men's quartet. Students will be chosen by the director based on participation, behavior, performance ability and willingness to rehearse after school. Auditions will be held if necessary. Participants will be responsible for learning their music, attending rehearsals, purchasing the correct attire, and participating on the day of the competition. Participants who fail to do so will be replaced with an alternate. Students must be academically eligible to participate as well. There may be a cost (not to exceed \$50.00) involved to purchase coordinating performance attire for this event. More information on this event will be forthcoming.

## Lettering Policy:

In order to letter in chorus, students must be enrolled in a chorus class and maintain a passing grade throughout the year. In addition, they must obtain 10 lettering credits. Students may obtain credits by completing the following:

- Being enrolled in and maintaining a passing grade in a chorus class (1 credit per semester)
- Singing the national anthem at each football game we participate in (1 credit total)
- Performing in a school-related concert. (1 credit each)
- *Completing* an audition for All-State Chorus (1 credit)
- Participating in a competition or festival (1 credit per performance)
- Participating in Honor Choir (1 credit)
- Participating in All-State Chorus (1 credit)
- Passing a level of Governor's Honors audition in the area of Fine Arts (1 credit/level passed)
- Participating in the Spring Musical (1 credit)
- Attending another high school's choral concert, a college-level choral concert or a concert presented by a professional choral group and completing a 1 page, typed evaluation and critique of the event. (1 credit)
- Participating in other chorus-related events that the director deems worthy of a lettering credit.

Credits are cumulative. Every performance may not be considered a concert (for example, singing the National Anthem at a football game is not a concert). Upon receiving their letter, students may earn up to one gold bar per year for subsequent credits. Additional patches may be given for other accomplishments. Students will be responsible for purchasing their letter jacket or varsity sweater. Sweaters may be purchased through the choral department.

## Awards:

Several awards are presented at the conclusion of each school year. They are as follows:

- Outstanding Student: This award is presented to one student from each course. These students must maintain an A average throughout the year, attend all performances, go above and beyond in their support of the choral program and exhibit exceptional leadership skills in their section and class.
- The Director's Award for Chorus: This award is presented to a senior each year. This student must not only be an exemplary choral student, they must also regularly act as an advocate for the arts in our school and community.
- National School Choral Award: This is the highest honor for high school choral performers. This award recognizes the dedication and musical achievement of the top two chorus students at SHS. It is typically awarded to seniors.
- Other awards may be given at the director's discretion.



Tri-M is designed to showcase student musician scholars in our schools. The program emphasizes the value of music instruction in shaping the leaders of tomorrow. There are more than 1,700 chapters around the world recognizing students for academic and musical achievements, rewarding their accomplishments and service activities, and inspiring other students to excel at music and leadership. Students will begin to value music as they develop a sense of teamwork and collaboration among fellow members. Tri-M will also benefit students in other ways by allowing them to: build an impressive record for college, become leaders, serve their community, take pride in mutual accomplishments, be rewarded for achievements and activities and learn accountability and responsibility.

### **Membership Criteria**

- **Music Participation**  
Candidates must currently be 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders who have been enrolled in a school-sponsored music ensemble and/or class for at least one semester of the current school year.
- **Academic Achievement**  
Candidates must have maintained for the previous semester an A average grade in music, with at least a cumulative B average grade or equivalent in other subjects.
- **Leadership**  
Students should be involved in various activities and organizations outside of the music classroom. Students are expected to be leaders in their Fine Arts classes and ensembles.
- **Service**  
Students should be involved in service activities including any actions undertaken by the student that are done with or on behalf of others without any direct financial or material compensation to the individual performing the service.
- **Character**  
Judgment of character should be free of speculation and rumor. One description of character is a person who demonstrates respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, positive attitude, and citizenship.

### **Ways to stay up-to-date on all chorus events:**



[www.spaldinghighchorus.org](http://www.spaldinghighchorus.org)



1st Block: Text @shswc22 to 81010  
IF (Men's Chorus): Text @shsmc22 to 81010  
4th Block: Text @shswc22 to 81010



Spalding High School Chorus page



@shs.chorus