



***GREEN COVE JR. HIGH SCHOOL COUGAR CHORUS***

1220 Bonaventure Ave, Green Cove Spgs, FL 32043

Tina Larsen, Director

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Class Website: GCJMusic.Weebly.com

**CHORUS HANDBOOK**

**MRS. LARSEN- DIRECTOR**

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Green Cove Jr. High Chorus Program! This handbook is designed to inform you about the operations, responsibilities and expenses of being a chorus member or chorus parent. Read this booklet carefully and if you have any questions concerning the information presented in it, please feel free to call the band room for an explanation. This handbook is designed to serve you as a guide for students and parents, but may not answer every question that arises. We hope, however, that it will answer most of your questions concerning the Green Cove Springs Jr. High Chorus program. Again, Welcome to the “Cougar Chorus Program” and I look forward to the upcoming year working together to make music.

Sincerely,

Tina Larsen

Director of Bands and Chorus

## UNIFORMS

Our uniform is very simple. Each student will be given a chorus T-shirt prior to the first concert (Cost is part of the chorus fee). We will wear these for most of our functions with dark wash jeans (NO HOLES) and closed toed shoes. This is so we can recognize each other as well as it looking much more professional.

## FORMAL CONCERT GOWNS

We are going with a new look!

**Girls: Black choral gown. Rented each year from the GCJ chorus.**

**Boys: Black pants, black long sleeve button down shirt, and a forest green bowtie.**

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. If you have a comment about the way someone sings, or the way someone sounds, **keep it to yourself. On the other hand, if you have lavish praise to offer, please share: we all need encouragement!**
2. Good posture is the foundation for good breath support, which is the foundation for good singing a strong, erect sitting or standing position should be maintained during rehearsal, with both feet flat on the floor and the back completely away from the chair.
3. Students are to do as they are told by our chaperones during any chorus function. These adults volunteer their time and efforts to help the Cougar Chorus. I expect you to show the respect and gratitude they deserve. Students who do not adhere to the chaperones are subject to suspension from performances and will write a letter of apology to the chaperon, which must be approved by the director. Failure to write a letter of apology can result in further consequences.
4. Students are responsible to comply with all the rules and regulations of Green Cove Springs Jr. High when attending a chorus function. You are responsible for your own actions and must, therefore, know the rules and regulations of the program. A little common sense and self-restraint at times will enable all of us to have a fun, yet productive year.
5. No student will be allowed to participate in any after school activities or trips if their grade point average drops below a 2.0. That is not a school policy, it is a state mandate that we must follow.
6. **\*\*\*\*\*There will be no gum or food in the band/chorus room.** We need to keep our home away from home clean and neat.

## REWARDS

1. Your voice and music skill will show magnificent improvement.
2. You will enjoy a lovely change of pace from the daily school routine.
3. The class overall will receive varying amounts of free music listening time (based on the amount of work accomplished in class.).
4. Solos
5. Confidence in singing and performing.

## SUPPLY LIST

- 1 inch binder (any color)
- 3 dividers
- Pencils
- Filler Paper
- Page protectors (optional)
- Composition book

## CHORUS FEES

Chorus fees are the amount that each student is responsible for contributing to the program. Trips are not included in the chorus fee.

*This fee pays for chorus shirts, music, supplies, state and district musician fees, & other miscellaneous items that every chorus is responsible for in order to successfully run a program.*

**\*\*Every chorus student is responsible for a chorus fee of \$50**

- Chorus fee due by 9/18 of \$50

**\*\*\*\*\* Please talk to me if there are issues paying these fees!!!**

## MAKING THE “GRADE” IN CHORUS

First, let me say that the student truly controls their grade in the class. The amount of practicing at home and desire to be the best young musician they can possibly be...will intimately decide their grade.

Unlike their other core subjects, chorus grades are not 99.9% ‘subjectively’ calculated. Meaning: the individual musician is graded on:

1. Correctly displaying the functional techniques with their voice
2. Accuracy of notes and rhythms
3. Proper breathing and tone techniques
4. Mastery of the music they are performing for their director.

I am not only listening for the song/musical exercise to be performed perfectly, but I am also looking for ALL the other details listed above.

\*Mrs. Larsen must be informed at least two weeks in advance by a parent if a child is going to miss a concert. In the event of an illness, a doctor’s note must be provided. Students will have to demonstrate knowledge of their concert music by playing for the director upon their return. In some cases make-up assignments may include a two page, double spaced report. The musical topic will be at the discretion of the teacher and must be handed in within two class periods of the concert. The appropriate make-up assignment will be selected by the teacher.

<b>Standard School Grading Scale:</b> A= 90-100 B= 80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 F=0-59	<b>Florida Vocal Association Grading Scale:</b> A=Superior B=Excellent C=Good D=Fair F=Poor
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Directors across the state strive for “Superior” rated choruses at their schools.

My standards are high! I evaluate each student based on the state chorus standards and then try to give them a fair numerical grade based on the standard school grading scale. I expect all chorus students, no matter the level, to be making A’s in their class.

**Here are tips on how to make the “A” in chorus:**

1. **Practice every day. If you do not know how, please come chat with me and I will help you write a practice routine.**
2. **Come to band class everyday with your instrument and supplies.**
3. **Be at all the performances: whether you are performing or not.**
4. **Come before school and ask me for help.**
5. **Take private lessons from a professional musician if it is convenient for you.**
6. **Listen to the other musicians in class---you might be able to learn from their performance or help them if they are struggling.**
7. **Dedicate yourself to being the best musician you can possibly be. Learning how to sing and how to read music is not easy. It does take work and commitment.**

\*\*\*\*\*Parents please call or email me if you have questions or concerns regarding the chorus program.

## SIGNATURE PAGE

**\*\*This is a grade! Please sign and return to Mrs. Larsen for your first grade of the school year.**

We have read and understand the Green Cove Springs Jr. High Chorus Handbook. We understand that even though we may not agree with everything in the handbook, that these are the rules and regulations of the GCJ Chorus Program.

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_