

EVG Chorus Handbook

Chorus Director: Ms. Alexandra Vecchio

E-mail: avecchio@edgewaterschools.org

Table of Contents

1.	<i>Program Overview</i>	2
2.	<i>Responsibilities</i>	2
3.	<i>Assessment</i>	3
4.	<i>Important Dates</i>	3
5.	<i>Private Lessons</i>	3
6.	<i>If Your Child Loses Interest</i>	3
7.	<i>Rehearsal Etiquette</i>	4
8.	<i>Concert Attire</i>	

Welcome to Elementary Chorus!

Welcome! I am beyond thrilled to have your child in the EVG School Chorus. Enclosed you will find important information about the choral program. Please sign the handbook form on the last page informing us of your commitment to your child’s participation in the EVG School Chorus. Your child will begin the year by returning the form at the back of this packet by Friday, 9/13. Please read each section carefully. I look forward to a great year!

The Program Overview

Starting in late September, chorus rehearsals will take place after school, once a week. During these rehearsals, we will work on aural skills, repertoire and concert etiquette. The chorus will be comprised of 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students and we will perform at a winter and spring concert.

Responsibilities

Parents

Students

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arranging transportation to evening rehearsals and concerts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending rehearsals and concerts
---	---

- Contacting chorus teacher before withdrawing student from the program

- Performances: Winter Concert / Spring Concert

Assessment

Every student in the chorus program receives two progress reports: one in December and one in June. They will come home with your child's report card. Chorus progress reports provide a rubric for the following categories:

1. Preparedness – Attendance at rehearsals
2. Posture and Breathing
3. Rhythm and Articulation
4. Pitch and Tone
5. Reading Music

Important Dates

Winter Concert: Wednesday, 12/11

Check our website for all the important events throughout the year. I will also send flyers home with students to remind parents of upcoming events.

Private lessons

Individual private lessons are recommended for students who are looking to progress more rapidly and who have shown a high level of commitment to practicing. You can contact me and I would be happy to recommend someone. You can expect to pay from \$25-\$45 per half hour, depending on the teacher.

If Your Child Loses Interest

In the event that your child loses interest in music study, don't panic.

- A. Discuss the situation with your child to determine why their interest is declining.
- B. Explain that worthwhile activities sometimes require a little work and dedication. Not everything is easy
- C. The ability to sing is something that many older students and adults wish they had. As they get older, many students regret "quitting."
- D. Talk to your child's music teacher to see what might be done to rekindle their enthusiasm.

Thank you for supporting your child's interest in choral music, and if at any time you would like to talk more about how you can help your child be successful, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Rehearsal Etiquette

Rehearsals

1. **ATTENDANCE AT CHORUS REHEARSAL IS MANDATORY.** If you are in school you must be at rehearsal. To be excused you will need a parent note and advance notice to the chorus director (The day before or at least by the morning of rehearsal day). Sports, clubs, going home with a friend are not valid excuses. More than 3 absences may disqualify you from performing in the concert.
2. Be in your seat at 2:40, prepared with a pencil. Be ready to warm up. If you are not ready at 2:40 you are late, and this could affect the transition into an effective rehearsal. If you are late, get to your place ASAP and do not disrupt the class.
3. Stay in your section. If the director is working with a group, study your music, listen to the direction because you may learn something that is important for you as well. Rehearsal time is not socializing time. If you need to the bathroom or get a drink, do so before band rehearsal starts.
4. Be alert. When the conductor starts, be ready to sing! Do not interrupt, talk or make unnecessary sounds. Focus and listen.
5. There is no eating, drinking (except water), or gum chewing in rehearsal. This prevents you from singing properly.
6. We all want chorus to be fun, but it can't be fun at the expense of others. Learning the music has to be our first goal. Taunting, teasing, or mocking other students is not acceptable. If we work together and accomplish our goals, we will have fun!

Concert Attire

Boys should wear: A white, collared dress shirt, a long, black tie, black slacks/dress pants, and black shoes (dark colored sneakers are acceptable)

Girls should wear: A white blouse (must cover shoulders and stomach), black pants or black skirt, and black shoes.

Please return this Chorus form by Friday, 9/13!

Student:

My signature indicates that I have read and understand the responsibilities required of me including but not limited to: chorus rules, attendance policy, etc.

Print Student Name _____ **Grade** _____

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent:

My signature indicates that I have read and understand the responsibilities required of me including chorus rules, attendance policy, etc.

Print Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____ **Date** _____

Work Phone _____ **Home Phone** _____

Cell Phone _____

Email address _____

After rehearsal, my child will:

Walk _____ **Late Bus** _____ **Pick-up** _____

Comments/Questions: