



2022-2023 Handbook

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Welcome from your Directors

Welcome! We are thrilled to start the 2022-2023 school year and have many exciting things planned for you. Chorus at Walton is more than a class; we are a family. Singing together provides us the opportunity to work as a team and create an experience larger than ourselves. Reflecting on the past successes of the Walton Chorus, we look forward to the future and everything this program can and will be.

Our success is due to you, our students, and the generosity and support of your families. We could not maintain our high standards of excellence without our Booster Board Officers and members. Please know you are appreciated and acknowledged. We are excited to begin traveling again as a program and hope you will join us for our choir tour to Austria in June.

Our student leaders are an integral part of our program, serving as role models and mentors to all singers. These leaders are here for you, we know you will enjoy getting to know them throughout the year.

We look forward to an amazing year of music-making, experiences, and travel.

Best,

Mr. Stoner and Dr. Mann

Mr. Stoner and Dr. Mann

Wesley.stoner@cobbk12.org

Alison.mann@cobbk12.org

A Message from your Booster Board

Welcome to Walton Chorus!

On behalf of the Walton Chorus Booster Board, I want to welcome you to Walton Chorus for the 2022-23 school year! Whether you are a returning chorus family or new to Walton Chorus, we hope that you'll find this group to be an extension of your family during your 4 years at Walton. The Booster Club is made up of all Walton Chorus families and is committed to supporting the educational and fundraising needs of the chorus program. As an organization, we will help our chorus directors, Mr. Stoner and Dr. Mann, with the resources they need to successfully lead our students each day with our collective fundraising efforts and volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Specifically, your financial support as a booster donor will provide music, accompanists, recognitions, and classroom improvements, as well as cover the costs for special events throughout the year.

Parent Meeting: We will hold our annual parent meeting **Tuesday, August 9 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Walton Theater. We will share all things chorus and you will have the opportunity to hear about the summer 2023 chorus trip to Austria from our travel coordinator.

Booster Donations: A significant portion of the Chorus budget is supported by donations from our Booster Club parents. I invite you to join the Booster Club with a donation of as little as \$50. This donation is beyond the required student participation fee and as stated, covers the majority of the financial needs of the program. You can find details about the benefits associated with various levels of donation by clicking [here](#). Your contributions are fully tax-deductible and will directly impact your student's experience in the program.

We look forward to working with you and your students throughout this exciting year of sharing amazing music together!

Tiffany Whittington

President, Chorus Booster Board

President@waltonchorus.com

Student Expectations

Walton High School has a tradition of excellence. Participation in the choral program provides each student with music development, individual and group accomplishment, and an appreciation for the value of music in our lives. All Choral groups are evaluated in music reading and performance at the Georgia Music Educators Association Large Group Performance Evaluations in the Spring.

Grades

Grades are earned on the following scale:

40% Coursework

30% Performance Tasks

20% Non-Performance Tasks

10% Final Exam (written and vocal)

Late work policy:

- After due date through 1-week past deadline: max score 75% (C)
- 1-week past due date through end of grading period: max score 50% (F)

Any student earning an “N” in conduct or a final grade below a “B,” may be ineligible to continue in chorus the next semester.

Conduct/ Participation

Our core values are:

- 1) Excellence
- 2) Teamwork
- 3) Individual Responsibility and Growth

Chorus members are expected to show respect for the directors, officers, fellow chorus members, and parents that volunteer.

Cell Phones /Airpods/Earbuds

Cell phones and other devices including airpods/earbuds are not allowed to be used unless the teacher specifically requests. Consequences: 1st time: 30-minute detention with fine arts teacher during WEB. The detention must be served within one week, or it will be an administrative referral. 2nd and subsequent times: Administrative referral for insubordination.

Gum Policy

Gum is not allowed in the chorus classroom or theater. Consequences: In the classroom, 1st time: warning. 2nd time: 30-minute detention with fine arts teacher during WEB. The detention must be served within one week, or it will be an administrative referral. 3rd time and subsequent times: Administrative referral for insubordination. *In the theater, there is no warning and it will automatically be a 30-minute detention with the procedures above.*

Concert Participation

Electing to participate in a performance group includes consistent attendance in both class rehearsals and concert events. Any absence within the ensemble affects the entire group's performance. Concert performance dates are given well in advance of the event. If a concert event arises without at least two weeks' notice, schedule conflicts will be taken into consideration.

Excused absences are generally given for personal illness with a doctor's note. An excused absence means the student will be allowed to make up the grade through a singing based assignment. Jobs, babysitting, or other events are not excused absences. A school-related event occurring at the same time as a chorus event needs to be discussed at first notice of conflict. This notification does not guarantee an excused absence, but every effort will be made to work with the student. Consistent attendance at concerts is a major consideration for placement in advanced choirs.

Our policy supports a standard for an organization that seeks to be of the highest possible caliber. Those who hold excellence as a goal for themselves and this organization will understand and value these standards.

Music

All singers will be issued music and a folder. A pencil should be kept in the folder to be used during rehearsals. Markings made in the music must be in pencil. Students should have the folder, music, and pencil in class each day. Lost or stolen music is each student's responsibility.

Care of the Rehearsal Room and Theater

NO FOOD OR DRINKS are permitted in the chorus room or theater other than water.

Pianos: Students may not use the main rehearsal piano or practice rooms without permission. Only choral students are allowed in our suite. Students who use the instruments or practice rooms must do so with respect and maturity.

Place book bags, purses, etc, against the walls when you enter the room. DO NOT bring anything to the riser area except your chorus music, folder, pencil, and water.

Tardiness

Students are expected to be on time for class and all choral events. Detention will be assigned for per the school policy. Students should immediately get their music when they enter class and move to their seat before the bell rings. Students arriving more than 10-minutes after their called arrival time will lose lettering points.

More About Chorus

Senior Celebration and In-class Celebrations

At the close of each year, Walton Chorus comes together to celebrate our Seniors' successes, recognize those who have lettered, members of the TRI-M music honor society, those who have received the Fine Arts seal, and present scholarships and other honors. The event takes place on May 12, 2023, at the Olde Towne Athletic Club. Dinner, music, and dancing are included in the price of the ticket. Parents are invited to join in the festivities.

In-class celebrations will be held in the spring prior to final exams to recognize class superlatives, give out letters/bars, and enjoy some fun and treats.

Walton Choral Booster Club, Inc.

Opportunities to support the Walton Choral program include attending the concerts, chaperoning trips away from school, helping with uniform fitting, assisting with concert arrangements, fundraising, serving on various committees, and serving on the Booster Board. The parents and guardians of active choral students are automatically members of the Choral Booster Club. You are encouraged to get involved. The Booster Club provides a structured avenue for parent volunteers and distribution of finances for choral program expenses that are not funded by the Cobb County School System. These funds are prioritized by the Director.

The Booster Club is guided by a Board consisting of the elected Booster Club Officers, Committee Chairs, and the Director. The Board meets regularly on the second Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. in the Chorus Room. Any Choral Booster Club member is welcome to attend.

Walton Choral Booster Club, Inc. is a non-profit organization. The primary source of funds to support the Choral Program is Booster contributions. All financial donations will be acknowledged.

Fundraising

Fundraising is a necessary activity to provide materials and help offset some student expenses. Parent support and financial assistance keep our Walton Chorus at a national level of excellence. Only about 10% of our choral budget comes from local, county, or state funds. The Booster Club sponsors fundraisers during the year to make up the difference. This money pays for items such as choir music, equipment, bus transportation, food, and accompanists.

The Walton Chorus Booster Board organizes fundraising opportunities throughout the year.

Booster Donations –A primary source of funding for the music program needs, Booster Donations begin as low as \$50 and each level comes with benefits for donors. More information will be provided at the parent meeting, and donation levels and benefits can be found online at <https://waltonchorus.com/boosters/>

Online Class and/or Zero Period Enrollment – Students receive lettering points for any online class taken during the summer or school year and any zero-period class. Half of the lettering points students

receive will be considered “fundraising,” since we recognize taking one of these classes frees up a spot in a students’ schedule and allows them to remain in chorus.

Volunteering

Volunteers are at the heart of Walton Chorus, helping us ensure that events run smoothly, students are fed, money is raised, and communication is strong. If you are interested in volunteering this year, please contact our Vice President of Administration and Volunteers, Diyva Lakshman, diyva.lakshman@gmail.com. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be available at the Parent meeting as well as through CHARMS.

Web Resources

While this handbook is designed to provide information that is most needed by students and families at the beginning of the school year, it does not contain everything you might want to know about chorus. The Walton Chorus web site – <https://waltonchorus.com> – contains detailed information about all that is Walton Chorus.

Social Media

Please follow us on social media. Instagram: waltonchorus; Facebook: waltonchorus Twitter: waltonchorus

CHARMS

Walton Chorus uses an online program called CHARMS to keep track of students, lettering points, contact information, calendar of events, volunteers and much more. You will be asked to create and log on to your CHARMS account at the beginning of the year. To access CHARMS:

<https://www.charmsoffice.com>

School code: WaltonHSChoir

When setting up your account, you must use an email address that is not your cobbk12 address (gmail, etc). This will bring up a main parent page, which allows access to the public calendar, event list, handouts, and other files.

Choral Ensembles

The Walton Chorus is comprised of:

9th Grade Treble Choir: Freshman treble voices

Bel Canto: Sophomore treble voices

Varsity Treble Chorus: Eleventh and Twelfth grade treble voices

Men’s Ensemble: All men

Select Women’s Ensemble (SWE): Sophomore, Junior, and Senior trebles by audition only (which take place in March)

A Cappella: Sophomore, Junior, and Senior SATB singers by auditions only (which take place in March)

Placement in Select Women’s Ensemble and A Cappella is by audition only. The directors have total authority to make all audition placement decisions. If at any time a student’s performance level (musical or behavioral) does not meet the group expectations, the student may be placed in another ensemble.

Concerts and Choral Evaluations (LGPE)

Due to high attendance, most concerts will be held off campus. Students should wear their chorus t-shirts to school on concert days.

There are approximately three concerts a year listed on the website calendar. Everyone also sings at the Homecoming pep rally (during school day).

The concerts are free, but there is no reserved seating unless you have made a donation to the Booster Club of \$250 or more. Moreover, seating is limited at all concerts. Students must arrive at the assigned time for their chorus to rehearse before the concert. Rehearsal is closed door, meaning no audience. Doors open for audience seating 20 minutes before the concert.

Each choir participates in Large Group Performance Evaluation. All singers are required to be part of this event in which choirs are adjudicated on choral performance and sight reading. LGPE evaluations are our equivalent of end of course (EOC) exams.

Fine Arts Diploma Seal and Tri-M

The Fine Arts Diploma seal recognizes graduating seniors who have been enrolled in fine arts courses and show dedication to the arts. Requirements include being enrolled for credit all four years, participating in fine arts related extra-curricular activities, obtaining 20 hours of community service related to the arts, and completing a capstone presentation explaining your experiences in the fine arts programs at Walton.

Tri-M is the National Music Honor Society organization that recognizes seniors who have been involved with chorus, band, or orchestra, for all four years of high school denoted with a pink cord worn at graduation. Students must be of high character and complete community service, performances, and program service each semester of their senior year.

Chorus Letters

All chorus members may qualify to letter by using a merit point system. All lettering point opportunities are listed on the document entitled “Lettering Points 2022-23” under the “Forms” tab on our website.

Lettering Point Requirements

To qualify for a letter award, a choral student must:

- Sing in **all** concerts, extra rehearsals, and LGPE
- Exhibit exemplary behavior and attitude
- Earn 100 lettering points – 25 of these points must be **earned through fundraising**

All requests for points must be turned in by **March 31, 2023**. Any lettering point submissions received after this date are not guaranteed to be counted towards your total.

A letter from a private teacher, director of other choral ensemble, or director of summer camp will serve as documentation for points in those categories. The Directors will sign for service points, choral trip, All-State and GHP. The Booster Treasurer will provide documentation for fundraising points. Students earning choral letters must demonstrate exemplary attitudes and behavior. The Directors have final authority in awarding choral letters.

Choral Performance Tours

All students who are in good standing are eligible to participate in our choir tour to Austria June 1-8, 2023. The purpose of our chorus performance tour is a musical, educational, and cultural experience. Students participating in tour must abide by school rules at all times. The tour details will be covered at the first parent meeting on August 9, 2022. Any student suspended from school will be required to meet with the Directors, and parents to evaluate trip participation. Attire on trips must comply with district rules. Chaperones will be on all overnight trips. We welcome chaperones on choir tour and value their assistance throughout the trip. Choral performance tours are not a required part of the curriculum.

All-State Chorus

Being selected for All-State Chorus is a fun and enriching achievement for a choral student.

The first audition requires a student to sing a prepared/memorized solo, perform scales, and sight read. Mr. Stoner, Dr. Mann, and advanced students are available during WEB to work on audition materials.

Students who pass the first audition are assigned an All-State choir pending a successful completion of the audition in January. There is a nominal fee for the audition process.

Parents must transport and chaperone students. Walton Chorus is not responsible for acquiring lodging or food for students attending All-State Chorus.

Walton Chorus Student Leadership

Being a Walton Chorus Student Leader is an honor as well as a responsibility requiring additional time commitment and responsibilities. Officers are expected to be role models for other students and should be willing to help motivate other students to participate in chorus activities including concerts, extra rehearsals, choral performance trips and fundraising. Officers are expected to take the initiative to help the chorus run smoothly.

President(s): Student assistant to the Directors, represents the chorus in school functions, head of student officers, supervises committees for special projects, assists and oversees other officers as

needed, helps with publicity of chorus events, organizes set-up and take-down at concerts, keeps up group morale and unity.

Vice-Presidents: In charge of recruitment. Correspondent for chorus, writing thank-you notes to parents and other correspondence as needed, organizes chorus room and materials, organizes freshman orientation and assists the Directors and President as needed, oversees all lettering and awards.

Librarians: Maintains the music library and all music in folders. Is responsible for distribution, collection, stamping, and organizing.

Class President: Assistant to the Directors during class.

Uniforms

Singers in all choirs wear uniforms. Uniforms are inspected by the student officers at all chorus events that require concert attire. Uniforms should be clean and neatly pressed for each performance. Uniforms will be worn at all concerts unless otherwise announced. Inappropriate dress will result in a deduction of 10 lettering points.

Uniforms are as follows:

Tenor/Bass: Black tuxedos, white traditional collar shirt, black socks, black shoes, and black long tie. These pieces are available as a package at **Bel Fiore** in the Woodlawn Square Shopping Center. Tenors/Basses of *A Cappella* will be issued a vest for use during the school year. Vests belong to Walton Chorus and must be returned at the end of the school year.

Soprano/Alto: Concert dress, concert black shoes, pearls. Chorus dresses and shoes will be fitted during the first weeks of school during class. Each singer is responsible for having their dress hemmed to hang one inch above the floor while wearing the concert dress shoes.

Chorus T-Shirts: Each student will have an annual chorus t-shirt to be worn on concert days, spirit days, and for less formal concert settings. The cost of the t-shirt is included in the participation fees.

2022-2023 CHORUS CALENDAR

Please double check the live calendar on the website as some information is subject to change:

www.waltonchorus.com/calendar

August 5	4 pm	Handbook Verification, Blanket Permission, Social media forms due	Website
August 9	6:30 pm	Annual Mandatory Parent Meeting	WHS Theater
August 12	4 pm	Deadline to update CHARMS	
August 17	1:10 pm	Seniors-Tri-M & FA Diploma Seal Meeting for Seniors	WHS Theater
August 19	4 pm	Deadline to pay participation fee and Austria trip deposit	
August 22	4 pm	Deadline to purchase uniform (dress)	
September 1	4 pm	Deadline to purchase uniform (tuxedo)	
September 13	4 pm	Booster Board Meeting	
October 4	4 pm	Booster Board Meeting	
October 11	7 pm	FALL CONCERT	Johnson Ferry Baptist
October 21		Homecoming Pep Rally	
November 5		First Round All-State Chorus Auditions	Woodland HS
November 8	4 pm	Booster Board Meeting	
December 12	7 pm	HOLIDAY CONCERT	TBA
January 13	4 pm	Booster Board Meeting	
January 13-14		GMEA District High School Honor Chorus	
January 20		Second Round All-State Chorus Auditions	Allatoona HS
January 26-28		GMEA Conference	

February 14	4 pm	Booster Board Meeting	
February 16-18		All State Chorus	Athens, GA
February 22-25		American Choral Directors National Conference	Cincinnati, OH
March 2-3		GMEA CHORAL EVALUATIONS	Lassiter HS
March 14	4 pm	Booster Board Meeting	
March 31	4 pm	Deadline to turn in lettering points, apply for Senior Chorus Scholarships	
April 11	4 pm	Booster Board Meeting	
April 14	4 pm	Officer Applications Deadline	
April 25	7 pm	SPRING CONCERT	Johnson Ferry Baptist
May 5	6:30 pm	Senior Celebration	Olde Towne Athletic Club
May (TBD)		Chorus Seniors Perform at Graduation	Kennesaw State University
May 17	7 pm	Austria tour Send-off Concert	WHS Theater
June 1-8		Austria Choir Tour	