



2023-2024 Handbook

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Welcome from your Directors

Welcome! We are thrilled to start the 2023- 2024 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.

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, and experiences.

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 2023-24 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. The Booster Board is a group of 12-15 volunteer parents here to be the liaison between you as a parent, our directors, and the students to offer support to one of the most successful chorus programs in the county!

Parent Meeting: We will hold our annual parent meeting after the beginning of school, typically the 2nd Tuesday of August. It is held in the theater and information is sent out at the beginning of the year to make you aware of this. We will share all things chorus and you will have the opportunity to hear from various board members and our directors to acclimate you to high school chorus and all the ways you can become involved.

Booster Donations: A significant portion of the Walton Chorus budget is supported by donations from all of you, our Booster Club parents. I invite you to join the Booster Club with a donation in any amount. There are various giving levels that award you with a variety of opportunities such as a car magnet showing your support while driving around East Cobb, reserved seating at concerts, and even a reserved parking space at all concerts! This donation is beyond the required student participation fee of \$55 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 visiting our website www.waltonchorus.com and clicking on the boosters tab. 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

President.waltonchorusbooster@gmail.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 (LGPE) 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 /Air pods/Earbuds

Cell phones and other devices including air pods/earbuds are not allowed to be used unless the teacher specifically requests. If a singer has a cell phone on the risers following the start of class, the singer may be removed from the rehearsal and lose points for the day.

Gum Policy

Gum is not allowed in the theater or on the risers in the chorus classroom. If a singer has gum on the risers following the start of class, the singer may be removed from the rehearsal and lose points for the day.

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 an email from the parent no later than the evening of the concert. 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 on the risers besides 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 per the school policy.

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 10, 2024, 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.wpengine.com/booster-club/>

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, Divya Lakshman, divya.lakshman@gmail.com. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be sent out for events via email 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](#)

CHARMS

The Booster Club will send email correspondence from a program called Charms, please check your junk folder to make sure emails are not missing.

Choral Ensembles

The Walton Chorus is comprised of:

9th Grade Treble Choir: Freshmen treble voices

Bel Canto: Sophomore treble voices

Varsity Treble Chorus: Eleventh and Twelfth grade treble voices

Men’s Ensemble: All tenor/bass voices

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 audition only (which take place in March)

Placement in SWE 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. There are approximately three concerts a year listed on the website calendar. Everyone also sings at the Homecoming pep rally (during school day) and Homecoming football game (evening).

All concerts are free. There is no reserved seating unless you have donated 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. Rehearsals are not open to the public. Doors open for audience seating 20 minutes before the concert unless you have Booster preferred seating.

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 equivalent to 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, obtaining 20 hours of community service, and completing an online capstone presentation explaining your experiences in the fine arts program 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. For questions about Tri-M, please reach out to Ms. Grimes, sara.grimes@cobbk12.org

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 2023- 2024** 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 29, 2024**. Any lettering point submissions received after this date are not guaranteed to be counted towards your total. You will submit all points to your class president(s). 9th grade Treble will submit to Dr. Mann.

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 Chicago, March 7-10, 2024. The purpose of our chorus performance tour is a musical, educational, and cultural experience. Students participating in tour must always abide by school rules. The tour details will be covered in class and on the website. 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 should be clean and neatly pressed for each performance. Uniforms will be worn at all concerts unless otherwise announced.

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 or a black jacket and pants available through the uniform chair.

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, and concert black shoes or a black jacket and pants available through the uniform chair. Chorus outfits 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.

Soprano/Altos of *SWE* and *A Cappella* will wear pearls with their dresses provided by Walton chorus.

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

2023-2024 CHORUS CALENDAR

Please double check the live calendar on the website as some information is subject to change: <https://waltonchorus.com/events/>

August 4	11:59 pm	Handbook Verification, Blanket Permission, Social media forms due	
August 8	6:30 pm	Annual Mandatory Parent Meeting	WHS Theater
August 11	7:50 am	Seniors-Tri-M & FA Diploma Seal Meeting for Seniors	WHS Theater
August 18	11:59 pm	Deadline to pay participation fee on waltonchorus.com	
August 25	11:59 pm	Deadline to purchase uniform (dress or jacket and pants) on www.waltonchorus.com	
September 1	4 pm	Deadline to purchase uniform (tuxedo or jacket and pants) on www.waltonchorus.com	
October 13		Homecoming Pep Rally and Homecoming Game	
October 17	7 pm	FALL CONCERT	Johnson Ferry Baptist
November 4		First Round All-State Chorus Auditions	Woodland HS
November 30	7 pm	FINE ARTS HOLIDAY CONCERT SWE and A CAPPELLA	Theater
December 11	7 pm	HOLIDAY CONCERT	TBA
January 13-14		GMEA District High School Honor Chorus	
January 20		Second Round All-State Chorus Auditions	Allatoona HS
February 16-18		All State Chorus	Athens, GA
March 1		LGPE	Walton HS
March 7-10		Choir Tour	Chicago, IL
March 29	11:59 pm	Deadline to turn in lettering points, apply for Senior Chorus Scholarships	

April 12	11:59 pm	2024- 2025 Officer Applications Deadline	
April 25	7 pm	SPRING CONCERT	TBA
May 10	7 pm	Senior Celebration	Olde Towne Athletic Club