

9/9/15

Dear Glenwood Choral Program Families,

I am so excited to continue my sixth year as Director of Choral Music at Glenwood. I look forward to working with your children throughout the school year. I have great and many plans to improve and expand the choral program at Glenwood. I am looking forward to meeting you, seeing you again, and supporting your efforts to provide your child(ren) with a well-rounded and balanced education.

A great deal of vocal change takes place over this three years, which means there is plenty to teach and plenty to learn! These students are really starting to develop personal preferences about what they want to experience later in life, and I'm so glad that your children are showing a preference for singing. It is my goal that they will leave middle school with the desire to continue singing, whether they continue on in high school, or pick it up again in college, as an adult, or even in retirement! I hope they can continue making music, and certainly appreciating the arts, at any age.

I would also like to open up a few rehearsals for parents to observe and even participate, if interested. Please check your email for information regarding open rehearsals. Parent volunteers and support from the community in general is always needed and appreciated at dress rehearsals and concerts in order to assist in student success. You will receive an email in advance with our volunteer needs. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer or support the choral program. Thanks so much for your help!

This packet includes information regarding important dates for the semester, other vocal programs and opportunities within the county/state/community for your child to participate in, concert attire, behavior expectations, and a Chorus Contract. Please review this information carefully with your child(ren).

CLOSING REMINDERS:

- 1) Review this packet carefully as a family and call or email me as soon as possible with any unanswered questions.
- 2) Check the IMPORTANT DATES section and mark your calendars now to avoid future conflicts. Shop early for necessary concert attire to get the best selection.
- 3) **Signed Chorus Contracts and Rehearsal Permission Slips must be turned in for a homework grade by Tuesday, September 15, 2015 for all chorus students.** Contracts and Permission Slips will be accepted before this date but are due on the above date, at the latest.

I am looking forward to a great year for the Glenwood Choral Program.
Thanks for your support and take care,

Sharon Johnson
Choral Director and General Music Teacher
Glenwood Middle School
sharon_m_johnson@hcpss.org

I. IMPORTANT DATES 2015-2016

The following calendar includes all scheduled mandatory rehearsal and performance dates for the school year. **As these are provided up front, at the beginning of the school year, please contact the director if there are any known conflicts at this time.** Consult the attire, grading, and attendance policies for more performance information. Typically, students should expect to arrive at least half an hour prior to the beginning of a concert.

THE GLENWOOD CHOIR (Includes 7th and 8th grade chorus members 2014-16)

<u>Events</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Choral Day	October 20, 2015	4:00pm drop off 7pm concert	Glenelg High School
<i>1. Students should go home on the bus and then be dropped off at Glenelg High School at 4:00pm. Students should bring their own snacks and drinks with them for the evening.</i>			
<i>2. 10.20.15 GMS/GHS Choral Day Concert is at 7pm for parents.</i>			
Winter Concert	December 15, 2015	6pm Call* 7pm Concert	Glenelg High School
HCPSS Assessment	April 11/12, 2016 TBA	TBA	Long Reach High School
<i>Please reserve both April 11th and 12th for the assigned Howard County Adjudication/Assessment. Specific times and dates will be announced as soon as there are received.</i>			
Spring Trip pending			Chamber Choir Only
<i>Music in the Parks Festival</i>	May 20, 2016	All day event	Hershey Park
<i>• See Music in the Parks Festival Packet for more information in the Spring 2016.</i>			
Spring Concert	June 1, 2016	6pm Call* 7pm Concert	Glenelg High School

**Call is the time the students need to report to Glenelg High for attendance and warm-ups.*

GLENWOOD'S COBRA CHORUS (Includes 6th grade chorus members 2015-16)

<u>Events</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Choral Day	October 20, 2015	4:00pm drop off 7pm concert	Glenelg High School
<i>3. Students should go home on the bus and then be dropped off at Glenelg High School at 4:00pm. Students should bring their own snacks and drinks with them for the evening.</i>			
<i>4. 10.20.15 GMS/GHS Choral Day Concert is at 7pm for parents.</i>			
Winter Concert	December 15, 2015	6pm Call* 7pm Concert	Glenelg High School
HCPSS Assessment	April 11/12, 2016 TBA	TBA	Long Reach High School
<i>Please reserve both April 11th and 12th for the assigned Howard County Adjudication/Assessment. Specific times and dates will be announced as soon as there are received.</i>			
Spring Concert	June 1, 2015	6pm Call* 7pm Concert	Glenelg High School

**Call is the time the students need to report to Glenelg High for attendance and warm-ups.*

Concert and Performance NOTE: All events/rehearsals are **mandatory**, graded events. *All of the concerts and assessments above are mandatory performances that will affect students' grades, with the exception of the Music in the Parks Festival. Please contact Mrs. Johnson immediately if you have any conflicts with these events.*

II. After-school/Evening Rehearsals for Glenwood Choral Ensembles!!!

I'm excited to announce that we are welcoming Ms. Allison Peters back to accompany our groups this year! Our schedules require us to rehearse after-school regularly once a month and possibly twice a month as we prepare for a concert performance. Dates of those rehearsals listed below but waiting for final approval. Thank you all for understanding how important these rehearsals are and for the sacrifices you are making in order to get your children to these rehearsals. This program benefits by your amazing support and understanding.

Date	Event	Time	Location
9/30/15	After-School Rehearsal	2:30-4pm	GMS
10/14/15	After-School Rehearsal	2:30-4pm	GMS
11/11/15	After-School Rehearsal	2:30-4pm	GMS
12/2/15	After-School Rehearsal	2:30-4pm	GMS
2/3/16	After-School Rehearsal	2:30-4pm	GMS
3/16/16	After-School Rehearsal	2:30-4pm	GMS
4/6/16	After-School Rehearsal	2:30-4pm	GMS
5/18/16	After-School Rehearsal	2:30-4pm	GMS
5/25/16	After-School Rehearsal	2:30-4pm	GMS

III. CONCERT ATTIRE

Students are asked to provide white tops and black bottoms as described on the following chart. Dress rehearsals do not require concert attire. **Please do not attend a concert in sneakers!** The concert shirt must be long enough to “tuck in.” No exceptions. Do not wait until the day of assessment or the concert to be prepared with your concert dress clothes.

	MALES	FEMALES
TOP	White button-down collared shirt (long-sleeved; tucked in)	White button-down collared shirt, long-sleeved (must be long enough to tuck in!)
BOTTOM	Black slacks	Black slacks OR Below-the-knee black skirt
FEET	Black socks, black shoes	All black —socks, stockings, dress shoes (a flip-flop is not a dress shoe!)

IV. CONCERTS; GRADING AND ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Concerts are an integral part of a music education. At these events students are able to showcase what they have accomplished in class rehearsals, demonstrate how they have developed as a team, and also take part in a culminating experience of everything they have learned. Performing in a concert is often a very powerful and musical experience for students. Every member influences the sound and

dynamic of the group. If an individual is not in attendance the entire ensemble suffers. For this reason **attendance at all dress rehearsals and concerts (including assessment) is mandatory for every member.** Please notify the director if there is already a known conflict with the provided rehearsal and/or concert dates.

Concerts; Grading and Attendance Policies continued...

Due to its importance to the group as a whole and the performance development of the individual singer, concert and adjudication attendance is worth 100 points each of the student's semester grade. In addition, students will earn participation points for daily classes, sectionals, and rehearsals. Points are deducted for misbehavior, disrespect, violation of the Cobra Creed, etc.

The Howard County Public School System recognizes the following as excused absences:

(Written notice from the parent should still be given to the director)

- 1) Serious Illness, 2) Death in the Family, or 3) Required Court Appearance

V. BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Chorus class and rehearsals follow the COBRA Creed in addition to the rules set within the music classroom. Please give your attention to the following and review them with your child(ren):

COBRA Creed

Be Responsible

Be Respectful

Be Prepared

Music Room Rules

Respect yourself, others, and property:

It looks like...

- 1) Demonstrating appropriate audience behavior.
- 2) Caring for music, folders, and instruments.
- 3) No gum!
- 4) Giving your personal best.
- 5) Showing respect for peers.

The chorus rehearsal is a place to learn together and to ***HAVE FUN*** singing, which cannot be achieved without RESPECT. **Consequences of inappropriate behavior or breaking the rules listed above may include: Warnings, Teacher/Student conference, Parent email or phone call, Teacher/Parent conference, or Disciplinary Referral to the administration.**

Signed contracts and permission slips are Homework due to Mrs. Johnson by Tuesday, September 15th, 2015.

Grades for this assignment will be posted on Aspen once they have been received.

This is a 5-point assignment that contributes to each student's grade.

Chorus Contract

STUDENT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTRACT

I have read and understand the Chorus rules, policies, and consequences. I give my child permission to participate in Chorus for the 2015-2016 school year and will arrange for his/her prompt attendance at all mandatory events and rehearsals listed in the handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

I have read and understand the Chorus rules, policies, and consequences. I will respect myself, others, and school property during all rehearsals and concerts.

Student Signature Date

****IMPORTANT INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT)****

1) Student's Grade: _____

2) Student's name as it should appear in concert programs (correct spelling):

First: _____ Last: _____

3) PARENT/GUARDIAN Name(s): _____

4) PARENT/GUARDIAN phone numbers:

Home: _____ Cell/Work: _____

5) PARENT/GUARDIAN email address*: _____

(*Please note: Important information regarding concerts and performances will be distributed via email this year.)

Due to Mrs. Johnson by Tuesday, September 15th, 2015

Permission to Stay After-School for Choral Rehearsals

I _____ give permission for my child
_____ to stay after school from 2:30-4:00pm in the cafeteria for
choral rehearsals on the following dates...

Date	Event	Time	Location
9/30/15	After-School Rehearsal	2:30-4pm	GMS
10/14/15	After-School Rehearsal	2:30-4pm	GMS
11/11/15	After-School Rehearsal	2:30-4pm	GMS
12/2/15	After-School Rehearsal	2:30-4pm	GMS
2/3/16	After-School Rehearsal	2:30-4pm	GMS
3/16/16	After-School Rehearsal	2:30-4pm	GMS
4/6/16	After-School Rehearsal	2:30-4pm	GMS
5/18/16	After-School Rehearsal	2:30-4pm	GMS
5/25/16	After-School Rehearsal	2:30-4pm	GMS

I _____ will pick my child up at 4:00pm from Glenwood Middle School.

My child has my permission to be picked up by the following person(s)
_____.

My child will walk to the Glenwood Community Center/Library.

Emergency Contact:

Name _____ Phone # _____

Relationship to child _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

**Please have your student return this form with the Chorus
Contract by Tuesday, September 15, 2015.**