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Grosse Pointe South Choral Department

Student and Family

Choral Handbook



Grosse Pointe South *Choral Music*

Department

Parents and Students,

Let me be one of the first to welcome you to the Grosse Pointe South High School Choral Music Department. By virtue of your student being selected for one of the four GP South choral ensembles, you are now a choir parent and we look forward to you joining the Grosse Pointe South Choir Boosters (GPSCB).

Some of the accolades that our choirs and its staff have received most recently include sweeping mixed, women, and solo Grand Champions at Center Grove's Best of the Midwest Competition, Women's and Mixed Competition at Bishop Luers, Findlay Fest Invitational, National Champions at Showstoppers Show Choir Competitions ('97, '98, '99), a feature in Choral Director Magazine as well as numerous appearances in local newspapers. Grosse Pointe sets a standard for excellence in high school choral music in the greater Detroit area. Our choral program is well-known and respected throughout the state and nation.

Throughout this choral handbook you will discover what it takes to be a part of one of the most supportive booster programs in the state. This handbook contains expectations for families, explanations of choir jargon (i.e. hair mom, spansks, and cat paws), forms, and other resources for you to use throughout the year. All information in this handbook can also be found on the choral website at GPSouthChoir.org.

We are all excited for a new year and hope that you will get involved in the choir family experience. This is truly one of the few activities for high school-aged students in which parents, siblings, and grandparents can come right alongside the students in producing the end product of our performances. So don't delay, get involved with the choir program today and help us to make the year a great success!

Sincerely,

Christopher Pratt, Director

Christopher.Pratt@gpschools.org

313-432-3638

Ensembles

Sounds of South

For the 2018-19 school year, this freshman women choir will perform at all major school concerts (listed below). There are some after school rehearsals. Members will be provided a costume for performances. This outfit will be used for all productions/shows in which the choir participates. Calendars are available online at www.GPSouthChoir.org.

South Singers

For the 2018-19 this ensemble is a mixed junior varsity show choir. South Singers perform at all major concerts and community events are possible. This group has some after school rehearsals associated with concerts and schedules will be made available toward the beginning of school - please plan accordingly. Costumes will be provided to members of the choir. This outfit will be used for all productions/shows in which the choir participates including a competition in January/February. Calendars are available online at www.GPSouthChoir.org.

Tower Belles

For the 2018-19 school year, this is a varsity women's show choir. The group performs at all major concerts throughout the school year, some community events and competitions. They will generally compete in 2 show choir competitions. Participation in this ensemble requires a larger time commitment; Calendars are available online at www.GPSouthChoir.org.

The Pointe Singers

For the 2018-19 school year, this is the varsity mixed show choir. The Pointe Singers performs at all major performances, community events, and competitions. They will compete in two competitions in the winter in January, February and March. Participation in this ensemble requires a larger time commitment; Calendars are available online at www.GPSouthChoir.org.

Participation by choir in different events/performances are outlined below:

	That's Entertainment Summer Workshop	Fall Follies (fall concert)	Mothers Tea	Sounds of the Season (holiday show)	Caroling in the Community	Winter Spectacular	Competitions	Broadway (Spring Concerts)
	(August)	(Oct.)	(Dec.)	(Dec.)	(Dec.)	(Jan.)	(Feb. & March)	May
<i>Sounds of South</i>	X	X		X		X		X
<i>South Singers</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	1 of 2	X
<i>Tower Belles</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Pointe Singers</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

South High School Choral Boosters

Congrats! Your child has decided to participate in the GP South Choral Program and you are invited to officially become a member of the Grosse Pointe South Choir Boosters. GPSCB supports the vision and goals of the choral director and is absolutely essential to success of the program!

Mission Statement

“The purpose of the Grosse Pointe South Choir Boosters is to solicit contributions from the general public for financial support of the Grosse Pointe South High School Choral Music Program, its students, and faculty. Furthering the purpose of equipment and materials, and the hiring of specialized instructors to further the purpose of promoting the music and artistic talents of the students in the choral music program at Grosse Pointe South High School, a public school.”

Executive Committee

The executive committee of the GPSCB consists of the following members

- President(s): Freeman and Megan Gunnell
- Vice President(s): Laura Sanom & Katherine Brandon
- Treasurer: Vic Maraldo
- Secretary: Laura Monahan
- Fundraising: Perry Calisi &
- Membership: Amy Moncevais
- Director (Ex-Officio): Christopher Pratt
- Past President(s): Perry and Linda Calisi

Additional Volunteer Opportunities:

- Car Washes
- Events: Gala, Wine Tasting, Concerts
- Costuming (aka Material Girls)
- Chaperones
- Garage Sale
- All School Musical
- Blue Books
- Meals and Hospitality
- Fundraising
- Concessions/Ushering
- Tech Parents (aka The Loose Screw Gang)

- Hair and Make-up Moms (aka The Hair Force)
- Many more volunteer opportunities...

First Year Students & Parents

On the website (www.GpSouthChoir.org) is a tab for information on First-Year Choir Members. Under that tab will be items that can assist in making for a smooth and helpful transition to high school choir.

Voice Placements

Information on our annual voice placements is handed-out in the winter and are conducted every year before spring break. The choir director conducts the voice placements for every student each year. Once your student has been assigned to an ensemble, it is the business of GPSCB to get started assigning volunteers based on the information provided by the parents on their Parent Volunteer form. **This form is available online and included in this packet** if you did not have a chance to fill one out prior to auditions. Many hands make light work and it definitely takes all of our parents working together to maintain the level of success that the choral program achieves.

2018 - 2019 Fees for Curricular and Extra-Curricular Ensembles:

ENSEMBLE	MEAL FEE	COSTUME FEE	COMPETITION FEE
Sounds of South	\$30.00	\$145.00	N/A: Does not compete
South Singers	\$30.00	\$145.00	\$110.00 for one competition
The Tower Belles	\$30.00	\$175.00	\$225.00 for two competitions
The Pointe Sinders	\$30.00	\$175.00	\$225.00 for two competitions

We need each student to participate in fundraising efforts during the school year. We require everyone to participate in each fundraiser so that we, as an organization can provide the quality our children deserve. Many of our fundraisers allow students to earn money toward their personal escrow accounts.

These accounts carry balances towards trips and travel expenses related to educational trips that each student participates. Escrow accounts are set-up for each choir student. There are fundraising opportunities that benefit these escrow accounts. The Executive Board will make Escrow Account money available to spend on fees, trips, and other items as the year unfolds. It benefits your child to build-up these escrow accounts. At the conclusion of a students' last year in choir any amount left in the escrow account is transferred over to the



Help Fund to assist in-need students. Escrow Account totals can be passed to younger siblings if the account can be immediately applied to a younger choir student's entrance into the department.

The Choir program depends on our membership dues to support expenses that the school budget does not cover. It constitutes our biggest fundraising activity in our Booster Organization. Membership levels vary with specific benefits and you can find one that is right for you on the choir webpage. Membership is open to any friend of the choir.

You can pay fees, find forms and join the boosters on our webpage at: www.GPSouthChoir.org All Choir Fees are due by the first day of school. Competition Fees are due by January 3, 2019!

Please send your checks to the GPS Choir @ 11 Grosse Pointe Boulevard, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI, 48236.

Please keep in mind that GPSCB is made of a group of caring **volunteers** who contribute countless hours toward the success of **your** student. Be respectful of this time by paying your bills in a timely manner. If you have a financial hardship or a change in your financial situation (i.e. job loss), communicate with our President so that our volunteers do not have to spend even more of their time tracking down individuals who have not paid their bills. We are not a collections agency and we appreciate you doing your part to be in communication with the GPSCB when you have a specific need.

Financial Assistance Fund (FAF):

This organization has a Financial Assistance Fund that students and families can apply for. The FAF will pay a percentage of the fees based on need and the amount of applicants. This form can be found at our website, in this packet and is due the first of July each year or as needed through the year and as circumstances change.

Choir Social Parties and Activities

Throughout the year the student leadership of the choir will invite students to student-sponsored parties at private homes.

For our students events like these allow for a nice opportunity to have some away time from school where they can socialize. However, to be clear, these parties are not a requirement, nor are they sponsored by the Choral Department. Parents and families hosting these events work with parents to line up chaperones and helpers to make these student events special and a fun time for all involved. These events, while not required, are wonderful opportunities for students to meet new friends in a fun and safe environment.

Performance Activities

The Choral Director will determine the number of shows each choir will participate in for the choir competitions season. This number may fluctuate from year to year based on the competitions available and other scheduling issues. All choirs will sing at Fall Follies, Sounds of the Season, public performances as requested, Preview, Broadway and other performance opportunities. The Pointe Singers and the Tower Belles will normally participate in two competitions. South Singers may compete once annually.

Competition Season

Welcome to your new life in February and March as a choir parent and volunteer...

'A Day at a Choir Competition' can begin very early... like 5:00 am early. The Director will provide an arrival time for each participating choir, which is 15 minutes before the buses will depart. The call times are carefully back-timed to allow the proper amount of preparation and travel time. So please help your student to be on time!

Most competitions will be 2 to 5 hours away and the choir will travel by charter bus. Students will need money for meals and snacks during the day (\$20). Light snacks and drinks may be available while students are on busses.

Your child should wear their choir's spirit wear and or comfortable clothing for the ride to the competition, a pillow and blanket for the ride might also be a good idea. They should bring their travel clothes, belt, and shoes for tech crew activities and watching the other choirs.

Normally the student leadership of the choirs will provide the girls/guys a checklist of items that they should bring to each competition. The girls will need to bring their caboodles with their makeup, deodorant, hair products and accessories and the boys should bring black socks, undershirts and hair products. Do not let your student bring expensive electronics or large amounts of cash as there is no way to secure their belongings 100% of the time while we are at a competition.

A typical competition will last from 8 am on Saturday morning until 11 pm on Saturday evening. The groups will perform during the preliminaries during the day and then potentially in the finals. Not all competitions have unisex finals, but all will likely have mixed finals. Some competitions also have an exhibition performance or finals for concert and women's choirs. In addition, some competitions have a soloist division. Students will audition to be a representative of Grosse Pointe South in the soloist division throughout the choir competitive season. All of the information regarding a particular competition will be available at www.GPSouthChoir.org the week of the event.

Cheering at Competitions and Concerts

The kids really feed off of your/the audience’s reactions while they are onstage. We really need you to cheer during dance breaks and between songs. Do not cheer so loudly that you cover vocals, but definitely live out or relive your high school days as a cheerleader any Saturday in which we compete or at our home shows! The rules for cheering for concert choir are a little different than show choir. Please applaud after the song is over, but not during the performance. Do not scream or yell while the choir enters the room.

What you need to bring to competitions and concerts:

Girls will need to purchase the following items:

Eye shadow	Blush	Foundation
Mascara	Eyelashes	Eyelash Glue
Eyeliners	Lipstick	Powder
Teasing/Smoothing Comb	Hair Clip	Ear Rings
Butterfly Clip for Poof Brush		Hair Piece
Buns/tights		Bobby Pins (that match hair color)
Shoes		Bustier
Khaki pants	Straightener	Hair Spray

Guys in PS & SS:

Performance Shoes	Reg. Shoes	black socks (2 pairs)
Khaki pants	Polo	toothbrush
Extra undergarments	Deodorant	Belt

Hair/Make-Up Parents (aka The GP Hair Force)

At each competition and concert we utilize our ‘Hair Force’ to assist with fixing the guys/girls hair. The Hair Force coordinator will have a meeting with choir members to show them how to wear their hair and will host separate sessions to help teach interested parents how to help fix the hair for the respective choirs. The Hair Force Coordinator is the only volunteer who receives specific directions from the director regarding the vision for the girl’s hair. Do not take it upon yourself to make a change to hair or the process unless specifically told to do so by the director.

Hair supplies that students will need to purchase include:

1. “Big Sexy Hair” is the best hairspray for choir hair on the market.
2. Black rattail comb-all hard plastic no metal end.
3. Smoothing brush-thin brush that smooth’s out teased hair.

4. Large roller pins-long bobby pins-these are what is used to put the show choir hair up.
5. Short bobby pins-won't use many just for hiding problem areas.

Tech Parents (aka Loose Screw Gang)

The Loose Screw Gang who are tech parents are needed to help our amazing Tech Staff to build props, sets, and transport them at each competition. A part of the adjudication process includes a time limit and we need as much help as possible getting all equipment to and on stage. Please make this a family activity by getting involved. Please don't assume that someone else will help with this area, the more parents we have the lighter the work will be.

Chaperone Responsibilities

The group that you are assigned to on the bus, will be the homeroom you are also assigned to while at the competition. If there are multiple chaperones for a single group, talk in the morning and decide who is going to be in the room when. At competition you have to be in the room if the students are there, unless the directors are meeting with them. You are to ride the bus both there and back. We are asking chaperones to split up on the bus and make sure there are chaperones in the front, middle, and back of the bus. You will pass out snack bags (if available) on the bus. They are NOT allowed to take them in the school.

Rules to keep in mind

School appropriate behavior and rules are always expected. The students are representing our school.

*If a parent has any trouble with a student, please contact Mr. Pratt, immediately, as opposed to trying to handle the situation on your own.

1. No food or drinks in the homeroom.
2. If we have 2 rooms for PS & TB (etc.), the guys will be in one room and the girls will be in the other. If South Singers are in attendance, the room will be split in accordance to the director's instructions.
3. **If they have to share a room, as much as possible, please have women and men change at different times. Logistically this can be challenging, but your help would be greatly appreciated.**
4. No chaperones should be in the homeroom or warm-up room once the directors begin their meetings.

5. No loud music should be played in the homerooms.
6. The seniors of each group should clean the homeroom before we leave for the evening.
7. Please make sure you are the last person out of the room and that you lock the room when everyone leaves.

Costume Parents (aka Material Girls, and occasionally Boys)

These parents are just as vital to the entire show as the tech parents. Costume fitting and preparation is a lengthy process considering the sheer number of students and the quality of show that our students prepare. Your child will be required at some point to complete rhinestoning or simple sewing on their individual costume, but we need help with all sewing projects and it would be great to get as many mom's and dad's involved as possible. You don't have to be a seamstress or even know how to sew, just show-up and we will find a way to use your ability and talents.

During the competitions and concerts we will need help repairing and sorting costumes. Please plan to come back to the homeroom after each performance to help with these aspects of the performance.

Student Leadership in Classes

Each group will have a company manager (or 2) and or a dance captain. This student is the liaison between the group and the director. If you have information that needs to be expressed to a particular ensemble, the company managers are the ones to disperse the information to the students. They handle spirit wear, the management of the group, and disperse information. Our company managers and dance captains have a very large leadership role in their group and have been carefully selected by the students and the director. The company managers and dance captains are trust worthy individuals who you can go to for explanations of simple questions about which you do not need to contact the director.

Student Leadership for the Choir

Each May, Freshman through Senior students nominate and run for Officer positions for the entire choral department. The officers for the 2018/19 School Year is:

John O'Dell, *Choir President*
Amelia Turco, *Vice President*
Maya Petropoulos, *Treasurer*
Sean Gates, *Secretary*

Other positions will be added from time to time. Students interested in a leadership position for an idea for one are encouraged to speak to the officers and the Choral Director.

Call Times

The directors will give the students call times, but are expected to be in the room (or at the venue) 15 minutes before that call time. Each of the company managers will have a different penalty for being late, but the expectation is that students learn to be punctual and prepared for their rehearsal or performance.

Storage

Near the choir room some groups may have a locker assigned to them for storage. Additionally, when at South HS there are dressing rooms available to male and female students. They will be available for students to prepare for rehearsals and so forth. They are also a more secure area for keeping personal items. Regarding lost personal and show items, if students do not store their items properly, there is a good chance that it may not be in the right spot when they go to get it the next time. We collect all of the misplaced shoes, tights and other found items and place them in a lost and found, but please make sure you remind your student to be thorough in placing their show related items in their proper place.

Scheduling

Please do not schedule doctor's appointments during in-school or after school rehearsals. Also, please do not plan for your student to take the SAT or ACT on a Saturday in February or March. There are many dates available to take the test, please be respectful of the time it takes to re-block and plan to avoid competition dates and rehearsals at all costs.

Volunteering

As a choir parent, you can volunteer to participate in many venues. In the voice placement packet, you will review the many volunteer positions the choir and the boosters have. You can indicate your interest to coordinate and/or participate on a committee. If you are a working parent, there are volunteer opportunities in the evening and on weekends. A good place to get started is to help out in the choir closet to assist with sewing snaps, buttons, hems, rhinestoning costumes, organizing, etc. You can also chaperone on competition days. We need help building props, planning events, and coordinating fundraising. In short, we have room for you! Please contact your GPSCB board vice presidents (Andy and Sue Martin) to find out where your talents can be used.

Private Voice Studios

Grosse Pointe South High School has several opportunities for private musical instruction available to students. Students are able to take voice lessons during their tutorial or other time arranged with a highly qualified instructor.

Voice Faculty

Nicole Joseph	Nicole.S.Greenidge@gmail.com	(503) 754-1725
Nick Kuhl	nickakuhl@yahoo.com	(313) 268-9088
Christina Swanson	cswansoprano@gmail.com	(313) 530-4932

Students interested in private lessons should obtain a private lesson form and packet, touch base with the private voice teacher of their choosing and sign the appropriate forms to enroll in private voice.

Calendar and Dates

Calendars are posted online at www.GPSouthChoir.org

Calendars are often updated, so please make a habit of checking on them. Currently most choreography dates are listed online for the next year. They are currently listed for all choirs, but that will adjust as time approaches and music is selected. Weekly updates are sent out via email to parents and students.

Eligibility and Grades

As students participating in a Co-Curricular Choir student-performers must be passing at least 5 classes in order to be eligible for participation. Students who are not passing 5 classes at the end of any particular nine weeks grading term will not be allowed to compete during the following 9 weeks of performance opportunity. Incoming Freshman are exempt for the first 9 weeks of school, however grades from the 3rd nine weeks of their 8th grade year will be taken into consideration for ensemble placement. Students in a competing group who are academically ineligible during the nine weeks of a national competition or curricular trip will not be allowed to travel with their ensemble.

Each year the South High School Choral Department performs in its annual concert series. These are required shows for each student in the Choral Department. These include, but are not limited to:

- Summer Select – required summer concert choir experience
- That’s Entertainment – required summer show choir workshop
- Fall Follies
- Mother’s Tea
- Sounds of the Season
- Home for the Holidays with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra
- Winter Spectacular!
- District Solo & Ensemble
- Show and Concert Choir Competitions
- Broadway 2017!

Summer Workshops – Required and Recommended

Summer Select and That’s Entertainment **are required summer events for students.**

The dates for Summer 2019 Required Workshops are:

- Summer Select: August 12 – 16th register at <http://gpschools.schoolwires.net/Page/1063>
- That’s Entertainment: August 19th – 25th register at <http://www.gpsouthchoir.org>

Recommended Workshops:

- Macomb Summer Show Choir Workshop: July 28th – August 3rd for students wishing to learn singing and dancing skills. Register at <http://www.macombcenter.com/education-enrichment/summer-workshops/show-choir.html>

Grosse Pointe South

Choral Music

Department

GPSCB VOLUNTEERS

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Student's Name/Choir: _____

Home Phone: _____ Home E-Mail: _____

Work Phone: _____ Work E-Mail: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian's occupation(s): _____

Are you available during school hours? Yes No

If yes, please list days and times. _____

Please check the boxes below of all that apply to your willingness to support the choirs.

Job Description	I am willing to coordinate	I am willing to be on this Committee
Alumni Committee		
Banquet (end of year)		
Chaperone Committee		
Concessions		
Costume Committee		
- Machine sewing		
- Hand sewing		
Hospitality (Choir Parties) Committee		
Events Committee		
Make Up & Hair Committee		
Nurses		
Patron/Membership Committee		
Publicity Committee		
Spirit Wear Coordinator		
Alumni Coordinator and Committee		
Tech/Prop Construction		

Trip Coordinator for Competitions		
Costume Coordinator for an ensemble		
Events Fundraising		
-Fall Follies		
-Holiday Concert		
-Christmas Caroling		
-Broadway		
-Musical		
-Garage Sale		
-Wine Tasting		
-Raffle		
-Car Wash		
-Mr. C's Tickets		
-Charity Gaming		
-Escrow Accounts		
-Blue Books		

House Manager		
Membership GALA		
Mother's Club Liaison		
Music Library		
Photographer		
Posters		
Programs		
Tickets		
Spirit Wear		
Caroling (Coordinator/Drivers/Chaperones)		
Flowers		
That's Entertainment		
Scripps		
Publicity		