



# Welcome to McGraw Senior Chorus!

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the 2022 – 2023 school year! My name is Mrs. Madison Elia, and I am thrilled to be your student's vocal music teacher this year! Below you will find details regarding our class Google Classroom page, Vocal Ensembles, Voice Lessons, Rehearsal Etiquette, Concert Dates, Concert Attire and Grading. Please read through the syllabus and mark down the important dates in your calendars!

## **Google Classroom**

Every student in Senior Chorus will need to be part of our Senior Chorus Google Classroom.

The class code is: **4ehteqy**

*It is extremely important that everyone signs up for our Google Classroom. The Google Classroom "stream" will be used for announcements, links, and any information you may need throughout the course of the year. Assignments, music and weekly lesson schedules will appear under the "classwork" tab.*

## **Senior High Chorus**

Senior High Chorus consists of students in grades 8-12! In this chorus, we will explore layering harmonies through recognizable songs from this day and age, and will heavily focus on how to produce and incorporate proper vocal technique into our singing. We will also dive into vocal anatomy and how the whole body is utilized to create a healthy vocal sound. The National Music Standards (creating, performing, responding and connecting), honor choir and NYSSMA preparation, and listening examples will be daily skills and goals focused on, taught, and learned this school year.

## **After School Show Choir**

Show Choir is open to students in grades 8-12. It will rehearse after school from 2:50pm-3:30pm every Tuesday, and I am in communication with sports teams and coaches to ensure that any student who is interested in Show Choir will be able to take part in both the choir and sport! We will learn and perform music largely from musical theater, a cappella, and pop genres. Extracurricular choirs are a great way to stay engaged in music making after the school day ends as well as form meaningful relationships with one another while expanding vocal knowledge and skill. There will be more to come on this very soon! Please keep your eye out for a separate email and handout about Show Choir, and talk to your students about the possibility of joining.

## Small Group Vocal Lesson Expectations

Students should be on time to every voice lesson and are responsible for knowing when their voice lesson time is. Students should report to their scheduled class and inform their classroom teacher **before** coming to lessons. Students should report to the chorus room (room 38) when it is time for their scheduled lesson. Small group lessons will begin on Monday, September 19, 2022 and will continue throughout the school year. Students should be sure to check the lesson schedule carefully, as their lesson day and time will change from week to week. *The lesson schedule will be posted on the auditorium door, outside of the chorus classroom, in the Main Office, and will be shown to the students in chorus rehearsals. It will also be distributed to classroom teachers on a weekly basis.*

In the event your child misses a lesson due to an absence from school, they should see me the following day to see what was missed during the lesson and set up a time to make it up. In the event your child has a test during their scheduled lesson and is unable to come, they should see me **before** the missed lesson to schedule another time to make it up. Students will be expected to attend a **minimum** of 6 scheduled lessons each ten-week marking period, but keep in mind that students will grow from these weekly lessons and are encouraged to attend **all** of them!

Vocal lessons are worth 30% of your student's overall grade, and each lesson will be graded out of 50 points. Students will be graded on preparedness, on-task behavior, vocal technique, text accuracy (if in a foreign language), rhythmic accuracy and pitch accuracy. In order for voice lessons to be as successful and meaningful as possible for students, it is recommended that they spend at least 20 minutes a day practicing at home whenever possible. Please note that I want your students to succeed and that they are my number one priority. I will always provide them with productive feedback that will help them grow as singers, musicians and human beings.

## Chorus Rehearsals & Chorus Rehearsal Etiquette

Required Materials: Students are expected to have their music, folders, and a pencil for each rehearsal. Water is also strongly encouraged!

Musical Preparation: Students are expected to practice their chorus music at home and prepare any selections in their music assigned in previous rehearsals. Our success as a group depends on each student's ability to perform their music to a high level, and preparation is vital to a strong ensemble..

Rehearsal Etiquette: It is imperative that we maximize our rehearsal time by being on task from the moment our warm-up starts to the moment students are dismissed. Students will have the opportunity to earn 3 rehearsal etiquette points per rehearsal: One point for preparedness, one point for behavior, and one point for effort. Points will be deducted for inattentiveness, disruption, or misbehavior. Students are expected to remove any gum before coming into rehearsal and must keep all food and drinks (except water) in their backpacks during class. All electronics are expected to be away and out of sight. There is a strict no-electronic device policy that will be enforced. Should I see an electronic device out when it is not supposed to be, I will confiscate the device and send it to the Main Office where it can be picked up later. Students will receive all three points for rehearsal etiquette each class if these rules are followed.

## **Mandatory Concert and Performance Dates**

- \* Sweets and Songs Music Fundraiser – Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022 at 6:30PM (6:00PM arrival time)
- \* Winter Concert – Wednesday, December 14th, 2022 at 6:30PM (5:45PM warm-up time)  
(Winter Concert Snow Date – Thursday, December 15th, 2022 at 6:30PM)
- \* Spring Concert – Thursday, May 11th, 2022 at 6:30PM (5:45PM warm-up time)

**All Senior Chorus students are expected to be at these three performances, as they are graded and mandatory!**

*Please Note: Missed concerts and performances will result in an automatic zero in the grade book with no make-up opportunities. Extenuating circumstances and excused absences will be an exception as long as I am communicated with ahead of time and receive prior notice from both the student and a parent/guardian. Simply “not wanting to attend” is not an excused absence.*

## **Recommended Concert Attire**

The goal of our concert attire is to present a formal and professional ensemble appearance. No individual in the ensemble should stick out. Please choose dress clothes that reflect this goal.

**Option 1:** Blouse with sleeves, black pants or full-length skirt, black stockings or socks, black dress shoes.

**Option 2:** Full-length dress, black stockings or socks, black dress shoes.

**Option 3:** Dress shirt, black pants, tie, black socks, black dress shoes.

## **Assignments and Grading Policy**

*Grading Categories:*

Rehearsal Etiquette and Participation	25%
Written Assignments & Quizzes	15%
Performances/Concerts	30%
Voice Lessons	30%

Please fill out and return the following page by Friday, September 16th, 2022, as it will act as a choir contract. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at: [melia@mcgrawschools.org](mailto:melia@mcgrawschools.org)

I am SO looking forward to working with each of the students this school year! We have many exciting musical experiences and events planned, and I cannot wait to grow and collaborate with you all.

Sincerely,

Madison C. Elia  
Secondary Vocal Teacher  
McGraw Central School District



## ***Senior Chorus Contract***

***Please fill out and return this page to Mrs. Elia by Friday, September 16th, 2022***

I have read, understand and accept the above information about ensembles, vocal lessons, rehearsals and rehearsal etiquette, concert dates, concert attire and grading outlined above for the 2022-2023 school year.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email Address (for reminders/important info): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Have you signed up for the Senior Chorus Google Classroom? (circle one) Yes! Absolutely!

*(You're not allowed to turn this in until you do!)*