



# Brookwood High School

## HIGH SCHOOL COURSE SYLLABUS



**COURSE TITLE**.....**Chorus**  
**TEACHER**.....Carter Still

**TERM**.....**2020-2021**  
**ROOM #**.....**E5**

<b>Email Address</b>	carter.still@gcpsk12.org
<b>Chorus Web Page</b>	brookwoodschorus.weebly.com
<b>Contact Information</b>	(770) 736-3151
<b>Student Support</b>	Help sessions are available after school most days from 2:30-3:00pm. On digital learning days, contact information / zoom information will be posted on eClass. Please schedule in advance during in-person instruction days.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The focus of the BHS Choral Program is comprehensive musicianship, producing singers who can read music independently and make strong performance choices individually with regard to historical and theoretical context. Both *a cappella* and accompanied literature for the ensemble are studied. Students expand their choral/vocal repertoire to include all major historical and contemporary styles and genres written for the vocal ensemble. Increasing technical skills in sight-singing and musical analysis is expected. All students will learn performance etiquette as performers and audience members through experience on both sides of the stage. Performance opportunities are varied, and include on-campus and off-campus venues.

### COURSE CURRICULUM CONTENT

The entire list of Academic, Knowledge and Skills for each of the following curriculum strands in this course can be accessed through the district web address at [www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us](http://www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us)

AKS STRANDS	UNITS/TOPICS
Creating Performing Responding Connecting	<b>Creation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improvise melodies, variations, and accompaniments</li> <li>• compose and arrange music within specified guidelines</li> </ul> <b>Performing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music</li> <li>• read and notate music</li> <li>• sing using correct posture and techniques</li> </ul> <b>Responding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• listen to, analyze, and describe music</li> <li>• evaluate music and music performances</li> </ul> <b>Connecting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understand relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts</li> <li>• understand music in relation to history and culture</li> </ul>

### INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

Textbook	Instructional Supplies – Student Responsibility
<i>Experiencing Choral Music</i> Choral Octavos BHS Chorus Sight-Singing Materials BHS Chorus Music Theory Workbook	Pencil <b>**NEW**</b> - Please provide a 3 ring binder or bradded folder used for music storage Loose leaf notebook paper

## EVALUATION AND GRADING

Grade Weights & Grade Scale	Make Up Work, eClass
<p>Summative Assessments <b>45%</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Unit tests/Theory Tests</li> <li>➤ Concerts</li> <li>➤ Dress Rehearsals</li> <li>➤ Part Checks/Singing Tests</li> </ul> <p>Formative Assessments <b>35%</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Quizzes</li> <li>➤ Theory Work</li> <li>➤ Rehearsal Skills/Competency</li> </ul> <p>Final Exam <b>20%</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Performance &amp; written finals</li> </ul> <p><b>Student Progress</b></p> <p>Students will receive Progress Reports at the 6-week and 12-week mark during each semester and will receive a Report Card at the conclusion of each semester. Student grades are available on the Parent Portal and eClass. Students and parents are advised to check the academic progress of students throughout the semester. Parents may request access to the Parent Portal by visiting the Brookwood High School Main Office.</p> <p>Students who do not meet the academic requirements of passing their classes may be assigned mandatory Academic Intervention which meets during Extended Lunch periods.</p>	<p><b>Make Up Work, eClass</b></p> <p><b>Make Up Work</b></p> <p>It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements to make up work due to an excused absence within five days upon return to school/instruction. Concert attendance requirements are described in detail on the following pages.</p> <p><b>eClass</b></p> <p>eCLASS is Gwinnett's digital content, learning, assessment, and support system. Brookwood students are expected to check their eClass course pages on a regular basis. During digital learning for the 2020-2021 school year, students should log in and check every course's eCLASS page each class period.</p>

<b>A: 90-100</b>
<b>B: 80-89</b>
<b>C: 74-79</b>
<b>D: 70-73</b>
<b>U: 69 and below</b>

## ACADEMIC HONESTY & HONOR CODE

The Brookwood tradition of excellence requires an academic environment that rejects cheating or any other form of dishonesty. In addition, the academic integrity of all students is paramount in the pillars of citizenship and respect that describe a Brookwood UPSTANDER. An essential part of education is developing a sense of honor, responsibility, and ethical principles that extend to all facets of life. Our students can earn respect for themselves and their academic work through academic integrity and ethical conduct.

All students are expected to abide by the Brookwood Honor Code. Cheating includes any attempt to defraud, deceive, or mislead a teacher in arriving at an honest evaluation of student achievement. Cheating is inexcusable conduct and will be dealt with strictly. Students and parents should refer to the Student Agenda Book for more information on cheating, plagiarism, and sloppy scholarship.

ANY electronic device visible during ANY assessment can be considered cheating.

For all assessments, cell phones should be placed in book bags and book bags placed at the front of the classroom. NO students should have access to their phones or electronic devices until ALL students are finished with the assessment.

Students who are taking assessments online from home may be asked to log into Zoom so that the teacher may monitor them like face-to-face learners during tests and quizzes

## CHEATING

Cheating includes any attempt to defraud, deceive, or mislead a teacher in arriving at an honest evaluation of student achievement. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, the following:

*The syllabus may be updated as needed throughout the school year.*

1. Looking at another student's answers or work or sharing answers on an independent assignment or assessment unless expressly permitted by the teacher.
2. Attempting to communicate information in any way during an independent assignment or assessment unless expressly permitted by the teacher.
3. Having cheat sheets or information written on the body or other personal objects.
4. Using programmed calculators or other electronic devices unless expressly permitted by the teacher.
5. Looking at quiz, test, or exam materials prior to their administration.
6. Sharing or receiving information regarding an assignment or assessment.
7. Failing to give credit when the ideas, words, or works of others are used. (See the information in your agenda book regarding Plagiarism.)
8. Submitting work that is not created by the student. This includes, but is not limited to, file sharing (submitting the same work with different header, copying files to and from electronic devices and web tools, and/or receiving or purchasing solutions or works from others).
9. Taking or transmitting photographs of secure assignment or assessments.
10. ANY electronic device (including, but not limited to, cell phones and smart watches) visible during ANY assessment can be considered cheating. At no time during an assessment should an unauthorized electronic device be visible or accessible.

*Cheating is inexcusable conduct and will be dealt with strictly.* A zero will be given for the assignment. The teacher will contact the parent(s), and a record of the incident will be placed in the student's disciplinary file. On the second and future offenses, students will receive consequences in addition to a zero. Students may lose other privileges, positions, or opportunities as determined by the administration.

## FOOD IN THE CLASSROOM/ALLERGIES

While Brookwood High School attempts to keep classrooms free of common food allergies, there could be traces of food allergens present. When bringing snacks for school, please consider bringing snacks that are free of tree nuts and peanuts in order to be considerate of the health and safety of our students with nut allergies.

## EXPECTATIONS

Expectations for Academic Success	Classroom Management
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Professional Chorus Rehearsal etiquette</li> <li>2. Memorization of music for performance</li> <li>3. Increased proficiency in Music Literacy and Theory</li> <li>4. Attend after school help sessions, if needed</li> </ol>	<p>At all times, students are expected to adhere to the GCPS Student Code of Conduct and Brookwood High School policies as outlined in the student agenda book.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Be Respectful</b></li> <li>2. <b>Be Responsible</b></li> <li>3. <b>Be Honest</b></li> <li>4. <b>Be a Good Steward</b></li> </ol>

## REHEARSAL COMPETENCY

A student's rehearsal competency grade indicates how well she or he performs during music rehearsal, including important points of performance such as correct singing posture, using a pencil to mark music, and staying on task. This grade is assessed weekly when conditions exist for safely singing, whether online or in-person. Gum and candy are not allowed in chorus both for safety reasons, since students can choke while singing and chewing gum at the same time. These items also affect the ability to produce acceptable tone and create correct vowel shapes. Water is the only drink permitted in the chorus classroom.

## CONCERT PROCEDURES

The procedures outlined below will apply when conditions exist for safe performances, both for student performers and audience members.

Performances are the culmination of every choral objective and are considered extremely important. **Every student is expected to perform at concerts and dress rehearsals and may only be excused due to illness or emergency.** Students excused from concert attendance must schedule a time to perform the concert repertoire individually for the choral director. Parents are notified well in advance of each performance date in order to plan effectively. Because chorus is a co-curricular subject and every voice is critical, students are graded for concerts beyond the normal school day and must make every effort to attend.

- Please be aware: No electronic devices (including, but not limited to cell phones) may be used at any point DURING a concert or rehearsal. If a student is observed using an electronic device at a concert, the director will hold it for the student until the end of the concert and the student will be assigned 3 afternoons of after school detention.

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- **Attendance is expected at required after school rehearsals and performances.** Required dates are listed on the chorus calendar, chorus website, and on eClass. Student illness or death in the family will be an excused absence provided that the student returns to school with a parent or doctor’s note. Conflicts with other school related activities must be submitted in writing to the choral director at least two weeks prior to the event to be considered as a possible excused absence. Examples of conflicts that would be unexcused are (but are not limited to) work, transportation issues, and rec league athletic events. Only excused absences are eligible for makeup work.

## CONCERT UNIFORM

For the 2020-2021 school year, students will receive a new 2020-2021 chorus t-shirt included in the cost of chorus dues. The chorus t-shirt, full length jeans (no rips or holes), and tennis shoes/sneakers will serve as our concert uniform once we are able to perform in public. ***This policy is identical to spring concerts in previous years, but will apply to this entire school year.*** In a previous years, there was an additional \$60-\$90 charge for the formal chorus uniform, but students only purchased the components they needed.

***Returning students: please keep your concert uniform from last school year, as we will return to formal concert attire for the 2021-2022 school year.***

## CHORUS DUES – DUE SEPTEMBER 4

While the BHS Chorus receives some funding via GCPS, the chorus relies on additional funding to provide a high quality choral program. All BHS Chorus members are required to pay \$25 for chorus dues, which will be payable on [mypaymentsplus.com](http://mypaymentsplus.com). Chorus dues will cover part of digital subscriptions for each individual student, some sheet music, and this year’s Brookwood Chorus T-shirt. **Do not pay yet. You will receive communication when the website is ready to accept payments.** Your shirt will not be released unless you have turned in your dues. Please note that it is not the intention of the director to deny any student entry into chorus because of an inability to meet this financial requirement. A family who is unable to make the required payment by the deadline **must address this with the director in confidence.** Please make your payment by **September 4, 2020.**

## CONCERT DATES

Typically, BHS Chorus holds five major public concerts each school year. It is important to note that **no dress rehearsals or concert performances will be held unless conditions exist to hold in-person concerts safely.** Specifically, the fall concert may become a virtual choir concert, and be pushed back to mid-October. **The dates below represent the original plan for this school year, and may be changed.** Each chorus student is required to be at all concerts and dress rehearsals. Making music is like playing a team sport. **Every** team member counts toward the outcome of the team – or the concert. These events count as a test grade. Per GCPS Board of Education policy, “Required out-of-class activities, as stipulated by the teacher, will determine a portion of the student's grade.”

**Required** dates that are part of your student’s evaluation:

Fall Concert Dress Rehearsal	September 17; <i>Time TBA</i>
Fall Concert:	September 21; 7pm
Masterwork Dress Rehearsal*	November 11, <i>Time TBA</i>
Masterwork Concert (Chorus & Orchestra)*	November 12, <i>Time TBA</i>
Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal	December 7, <i>Time TBA</i>
Winter Concert:	December 8; 7pm
Pre-LGPE Concert:	March 4; 7pm
LGPE Field Trip:	March 9, 10, or 11; <i>TBA</i>
Spring Show Dress Rehearsals	April 26-28, afterschool <i>TBA</i>
Spring Show:	April 29 & 30; 7pm

\*Specific Chorus Classes only.

\*\*All dates subject to change.

Optional events open through invitation and audition:

October 15	GMEA All-State Reading Chorus Auditions (Collins Hill HS)
October 30-31	GMEA District 13 Honor Chorus (Athens, GA - Classic Center)
November 7	GMEA All-State Chorus Audition 1 (North Gwinnett MS)
January 14	GMEA All-State Chorus Audition 2 (Discovery HS)
January 28-30	GMEA All-State Reading Chorus (Athens, GA – Classic Center)
February 25-27	GMEA All-State Chorus (Athens, GA)

**\*Please note that dates and times may change**, and additional events may be scheduled at the discretion of the director. Changes in dates will be announced as soon as possible. Updated information is always available on eClass.

## SELECT ENSEMBLES

*Chorale* and *Camerata* are auditioned ensembles that meet outside of regular school hours. Additional information will be available on the chorus eClass page.

## CHORAL COUNCIL

The BHS Choral Council is comprised of choral students who serve the chorus in a leadership capacity. Applications and additional details, including deadlines, will be posted on the chorus eClass page.

## MUSIC & FOLDERS

Current In-Person instruction policy: Once students return to school, students will be responsible for keeping school music in their own folders, and will need to bring their chorus folder with them to school **every day**. **NEW:** Chorus folders will not stay in the chorus room until further notice. Our music is similar in function to a textbook in any other class, and you must have it in order to be adequately prepared.

Should conditions permit, we will resume our typical folder policy: Students are responsible for keeping their music in their chorus folders. These folders are provided by the chorus department, and are to remain in the chorus room. Any music/octavos brought home for private study **with permission of the director** must be returned the next day. Regardless of conditions, **students are responsible for the cost of music and/or folders that are destroyed or damaged**. Music folders will be charged at the current rate plus shipping (approximately \$10), and music will be assessed at the current market price, which could be higher than the price printed on the music as set by the publisher.

## COMMUNICATION

Mr. Still communicates to all parents primarily through email newsletters and eClass. Please make sure your GCPS portal account email is accurate. All email changes are handled through the front office – please call the front office for exact procedures. In addition, you can receive occasional text message reminders for upcoming concerts and events by signing up for the free remind service.

2<sup>nd</sup> Period Beginning Women's Chorus: text @636fdk to the number 81010  
3<sup>rd</sup> Period Int. Women's Chorus: text @89kah4 to the number 81010  
4<sup>th</sup> Period Adv. Women's Chorus: text @73fa77 to the number 81010  
5<sup>th</sup> Period Men's Chorus text @ggfkbe to the number 81010

Online: Search for Brookwood High School Chorus on Facebook.

The chorus website ([brookwoodschorus.weebly.com](http://brookwoodschorus.weebly.com)) provides basic information about the chorus program and contains the chorus newsletter for parents. All course related content, including (but not limited to) interactive lessons, study guides and permission forms, are available on your child's eClass course page for chorus.

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**Brookwood High School Chorus**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**  
**RETURN BY AUGUST 14, 2020**



**COURSE TITLE.....Chorus**  
**TEACHER .....Carter Still**

**TERM.....2020-2021**  
**ROOM #.....E5**

**NEW For 2020-2021:**

Please visit the chorus eClass page to submit the Syllabus Acknowledgement form, [or click this link.](#)