



Webb Bridge Middle School
2023-2024 CHORUS SYLLABUS

*Through an inclusive community, we commit to cultivate each facet of each child in order to
have a positive impact on tomorrow's world.*

Exemplifying Excellence Every Day through the Webb Way!

Respect • Responsibility • Citizenship • Perseverance • Integrity • Positivity

1. Teachers:

<u>Teacher Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
Caroline Reitzes	reitzesc@fultonschools.org

2. Class Participation Dues:

At WBMS, we work to create vibrant, rigorous music programs that inspire passion in our students. Unfortunately, music programs are very costly and supply-intensive. In lieu of fundraisers, our band, chorus, and orchestra are asking families to contribute \$125/performer. This money will be used to purchase uniform t-shirts, pay for local school fees, pay for sheet music and materials, pay workshops and evaluation fees, pay for our accompanist/music assistant, pay for our concert venue, etc....

Class Participation Dues may be paid here: <https://tinyurl.com/WBMSChorusFee2324>

Please email me at reitzesc@fultonschools.org if your family is unable to pay the fee. Money will never keep a child from our programs.

3. Supplies:

All supplies will be included in the class participation dues.

4. Textbook:

Choral Octavos* (sheet music) - Issued by WBMS Choral Program – may not be taken home. Students will be responsible for the care of their octavos. Destroyed music will need to be replaced by the student (\$1.50-\$3.50/song).

*Please note that we will perform sacred and secular music representing many cultures. Music is selected for its educational and artistic merit, not to promote a particular religion or belief.

5. Course Description:

WBMS Chorus is a **year-long, performance-based class**. Because our success relies heavily on teamwork and the cultivation of a group sound, **it is required that students remain in chorus for the entire year**. Chorus is open to any student and does not require any prior experience. Students will learn to sing using proper breath support, diction, body alignment, articulation, and tone. In addition, they will sight-read written music, notate music, and explore the historical and cultural contexts of a wide variety of repertoire. Through participation in

the choral program, students will explore practice techniques and performance skills. Students will apply reading comprehension skills throughout this course.

6. Concert Participation Policy:

Chorus is a performance-based course and attendance at all concerts and performances is expected. All students should attend the entire rehearsal and/or performance. Students' grades are impacted by their participation in dress rehearsals and performances. ***If a student must miss a required rehearsal or performance, they will be given the opportunity to complete an assignment of equal magnitude to take the place of their concert participation grade.*** Please communicate in writing any absences (other than severe illness or the loss of a family member) to Mrs. Reitzes with at least ***one week's*** notice.

7. Concert Attire:

For concerts, students will wear our uniform black t-shirt, solid full-length black dress pants (no leggings or jeans), and solid black dress shoes for performances. Long hair must be pulled back with a small, neutral hair accessory. Jewelry is limited to stud earrings and religious/medical items.

Any student who is not properly dressed in our uniform will not be permitted to perform. The student will need to complete the make-up assignment.

8. Course Outline:

First Semester	Second Semester
Fall Concert – Focus on folk, contemporary, and standard choral repertoire from multiple cultures	LGPE – Focus on sight-reading musical passages using solfege, performance of standard choral repertoire
Winter Concert – Focus on winter and holiday choral repertoire	Fall Concert – Focus on folk, contemporary, and standard choral repertoire from multiple cultures

The information provided below pertains to policies and procedures consistent in every Webb Bridge Middle School classroom.

GRADE CATEGORIES AND WEIGHTS

Teachers work with their PLC to create Balanced Assessment Plans prior to each unit of study. Not all assessments are graded or count in a student's average. Grades are a representation of what a student knows, has learned and can demonstrate. All middle school course gradebooks at WBMS (and in Fulton County) are set up the same:

- 50% - Major: An assignment or assessment that is cumulative in nature that measures learning targets from multiple standards/skills.
- 40% - Minor: An assignment or assessment that measures an individual learning target, standard, or subset of learning targets/standards/skills within a unit.
- 10% - Practice: Daily assignments, observations, and/or engagement activities given in class or for homework to build pre-requisite skills, measure progress towards mastery of a learning target or standard, enrich, and/or remediate skills.

Please click to view the [FCS Middle School Grading policy](#)

High School courses at WBMS (and in Fulton County) are set up the same:

- Majors: 55%

- Minors: 35%
- Practice: 10%

Please click to view the [FCS High School Grading](#)

WBMS Grading Specifics:

- For Major and Minor categories: 5 points a day will be taken off for 5 school days, totaling up to 25 points.
- Teachers may enter M (which calculates as a zero) for missing work. Missing work must be submitted before the final ten days of the semester (unless for a 9-week course). Up to 25 points will be deducted from the mastery score.
- No final exams or midterms (defined as an assessment which is cumulative in nature) will be given for middle school courses.
- Assessment Calendar-Teachers will record all major and minors on school Assessment Calendar. No more than three Major/minor a day, no more than two can be Major.
M (uppercase) Major m (lowercase) minor

GRADING SCALE

Letter grades will be assigned according to Fulton County's approved grading scale, which is as follows: A—100-90, B—89-80, C—79-70, F—69-0.

PROVISION FOR IMPROVING GRADES

Re-teaching/Reassessment/Recovery

Teachers should provide opportunities for each student K-12 to continue learning material that has not yet been mastered even if the student's grade is not replaced.

- Students in K-12 should be afforded the opportunity to recover all major assessments if they score below 75% on the assessment.
- Students are limited to one recovery attempt per major assessment that meets the threshold for recovery.
- Recovery of a major assessment should occur before the next major is given.
- Students are eligible to earn a replacement grade on a recovery that is no higher than 75%.
- If a student's recovery is below the original score, the original score should stand in the grade book.
- Before recovery, the teacher should work with the student to complete missing work and/or ensure delivery of the content through reteaching and relearning.
- The original score should be noted in the comment section of the grade book if a student recovers a major assessment.

If students are struggling, these are suggested academic skills to avoid reassessment may include:

- Regularly attended help sessions
- Conferenced with teacher
- Completed all unit work
- Actively engaged in class
- Ask and respond to questions in class
- Completed study aides prior to assessments when provided
- Participate in class activities
- Taken notes and create study aides

WBMS CONTENT HELP SESSIONS SCHEDULE

- **HELP SESSION SCHEDULE (Students may attend any teacher's help session)**

- Monday—ELA/Reading/World Language
- Tuesday--None
- Wednesday—Math
- Thursday— Social Studies and Connections
- Friday—Science

Students will receive feedback each 9 weeks on [non-academic skills](#)

INFINITE CAMPUS-Campus Parent and Campus Student Portal

The Infinite Campus portals - Campus Parent and Campus Student - provide access to information for all enrolled students in their household. Information includes grades, attendance, assignments, and school announcements.

Have questions regarding your Parent/Student Portal account? Help is available by calling 470-254-2700 Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. or by emailing campusparent@fultonschools.org

Please click here for more information- <https://www.fultonschools.org/infinitecampus>

LOST/DAMAGED BOOK POLICY

Students are financially responsible for all books issued by Webb Bridge Middle School. Textbooks may not be left in classrooms, and teachers are not responsible for students' books once books have been issued to the student. The copy issued to the student must be turned in at the end of the course. Students will not receive credit for turning in another student's book, and students may not turn in replacement books. The cost of replacement will be assigned to any student that fails to turn in the exact book she/he was issued and/or to any student that turns in a damaged book.

MAKE-UP WORK POLICY

Students should make every effort to complete any missing work in a timely manner. Upon return to school, students will have an equal number of days as they were absent to complete any late/missing assignment, assessment, and/or task for full credit. Teachers may begin deducting points from late/missing assignment, assessment, and/or task after the deadline has not been met.

COMMUNICATION WITH FACULTY

[WBMS Communication Protocol](#)

HONOR CODE:

To embrace our value word integrity and to encourage good study habits, fair competition, and positive development in the area of academics, the Webb Bridge faculty supports a strong policy for academic honesty. Student assignments turned in for grading should be the sole work of that individual student. To prevent cheating, including plagiarism, students may not collaborate with other students or adults on their assignments unless the teacher has given explicit permission to do so. This includes the giving or receiving of information in any manner, including electronically. In situations where collaboration is allowed, the teacher will clearly define what level of collaboration is appropriate. Under no circumstances is it acceptable for two students to submit identical work, unless the assignment included a group component that makes it permissible or copy and paste from a resource. Students are encouraged to consult with their teacher regarding what level of collaboration is acceptable prior to completing an assignment.

An environment of academic integrity is the work of all members of the WBMS community; thus, the duty to report any part of academic dishonesty falls on all including students. If any community member suspects or witnesses academic dishonesty, he or she is required to report the incident immediately (within 24 hours) to his or her teacher or administrator. Students who knowingly make false accusations are subject to disciplinary consequences.

Students who are found in violation of the WBMS Honor Code Policy will receive academic and disciplinary consequences. Students will be responsible for re-assessment up to 70 percent and disciplinary consequences will be based on the student's responsibility cycle. Classroom teachers will handle infractions that fall in the formative assessment category; grade level administrators will handle infractions that fall in the summative assessment category.

Students will learn about the school honor code and will sign an integrity commitment in Compass.

*No electronic device may be displayed during any assessment without the explicit direction from the teacher. Violating this requirement may result in an Honor Code violation.

Calendar

Please note that dates may be added or changed.

Date	Activity	Location	Time	Students	Obligation
9/1/23	Digital Syllabus/Info Form, Spiritwear. Orders, and Supplies Due			All Choruses	Required
9/7/2023	All-State Audition Sign-Up Forms Due	WBMS		7th and 8th Grade	Optional
9/21/2023	Tenor-Bass Day	Roswell HS	TBA	All Tenors and Basses	Optional
10/17/2023	Fall Concert	Johns Creek UMC	5:15 PM Call, 6:30 PM Concert	All Choruses	Required
11/4/2023	All-State Auditions	TBA	TBA	Select	Select
11/13/23-11/14/23	District Honor Chorus	Dunwoody UMC	TBA	All Choruses	Select
12/4/2023	Winter Concert	Johns Creek UMC	5:15 PM Call, 6:30 PM Concert	All Choruses	Required
1/18/2024	All-State Auditions - 2nd Round	Centennial HS	TBA	Select	Select
2/15/24-2/17/24	All-State Chorus	Classics Center Athens, GA	TBA	7th and 8th Grade	Select
2/28/24-3/1/24	Large Group Performance Evaluation	TBA	One day only, TBA	All Choruses	Required
4/20/2024	Sixth Grade Trip	TBA	TBA	6th Grade Chorus	Optional
5/9/2024	AHS Chorus Concert	Alpharetta HS Auditorium	5:30 PM Call, 6:30 PM Concert	8th Grade Chorus	Required
5/14/2024	Spring Concert	Johns Creek UMC	5:15 PM Call, 6:30 PM Concert	All Choruses	Required

Optional Opportunities

JagChoir

The WBMS JagChoir is our extracurricular, advanced choral ensemble. JagChoir is our primary ensemble for events such as Black History Month assembly and fifth grade visits.

Eligibility: To audition, you must be a member of chorus, band, or orchestra.

Where: WBMS Chorus Room

When: Thursdays from 8:00 am - 8:55 am

Commitment: You may miss a total of two rehearsals each semester. Arriving or leaving more than 15 minutes early counts as an absence. In addition, all members of JagChoir must attend our Fall and Spring Chorus Concerts.

Audition Requirements:

Please prepare "Ah, Poor Bird" using the following link:

Audition Dates: August 24th - 8:00 AM

1. Sing "Ah, Poor Bird" individually for Mrs. Reitzes (not in front of other students).
2. Range check (not stressful--Mrs. Reitzes will teach you everything you need to know right then and there!).
3. In small groups, sing "Ah, Poor Bird" as a round.

Registration Form: <https://tinyurl.com/JagChoir2023-2024>

District V Honor Chorus

Webb Bridge may send several students from each grade level to Georgia Music Educators Association's District V Honor Chorus. District Honor Chorus will take place at Dunwoody United Methodist Church from November 13-14, 2023. The cost of registration and sheet music is approximately \$50. Parents will be responsible for transporting their child to and from the event.

Audition: <https://flip.com/2356b9ce> - Record your first and last name as well as your grade level. Then, sing a song of your choosing from memory.

GMEA All-State Chorus

7th and 8th grade choral students are eligible to audition for GMEA's All-State Chorus. Students who are selected for All-State Chorus must pass two rigorous auditions. The first audition will take place at Sandy Creek High School in Tyrone, GA on November 4, 2023. The second audition will take place on January 18, 2024 at Centennial HS in Roswell, GA. All-State Chorus will take place from February 15th-17th in Athens, GA.

The audition process involves quite a bit of preparation, though the auditions and event itself are incredibly

rewarding. Any student who is interested in auditioning should plan to practice with a teacher (either Mrs. Reitzes) before school as well as on their own. It is recommended that any student who is very motivated to consider private instruction leading into the audition. Any student who is selected will need to attend the event with a parent/chaperone. The cost of registration and music is approximately \$65. In addition, each student will be responsible for the cost of his/her travel, hotel, and meals. Students must attend the event with a parent/guardian.

Registration Link: <https://tinyurl.com/WBMSAll-State2023>

Audition Fee: \$30– Please pay on OSP: <https://tinyurl.com/ChorusAdditionalFees2324>