

**GCPS
HONOR
CHORUS
HANDBOOK
2026**

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HOW TO ACCESS HONOR CHORUS INFORMATION IN GOOGLE DRIVE

TO ACCESS HONOR CHORUS INFORMATION IN GOOGLE DRIVE:

1. Sign into GCPS Employee Portal
2. Click on the icon for "Google Workspace for Education"
3. Click on "Shared Drives"
4. Click on OIA Fine Arts Elementary Music Teachers
5. Click on Folder titled "Honor Chorus 2026"

Honor Chorus Information

Co-Chairs: Jennifer Myles (Harbins ES), Josh DeWitt (Alford ES), Kelly Mraz (Head ES), Amanda Dodd (Lovin ES)

What is Honor Chorus?

o Honor Chorus is a chance for your best students to shine!

- Students sing challenging music with talented peers and work with expert choral directors
- Students meet new friends and perform a concert for the community
- Students receive a T-shirt and certificate

(Students will have the option to purchase GCPS lunch onsite or they can bring their own lunch. Free/reduced pricing will be honored.)

o Honor Chorus is a chance for teachers to rejuvenate, rededicate and reconnect!

- Teachers observe expert choral directors
- Teachers share duties and responsibilities during the Workshop/Concert and help monitor children throughout the day
- Teachers can register for observation credit by filling out the PL form and sending it to David Dubose within 10 days of the event

What is Involved?

o Participation is an expectation, and any school not participating needs permission from its administrator.

o Two choirs: Dolce and Giocoso. Each Choir is composed of clusters around the county. Each cluster is based on the high school that the elementary school feeds into.

Note that Lanier and Mountain View have switched choirs.

Dolce Choir by Cluster	Giocoso Choir by Cluster
Collins Hill*	Meadowcreek
Central Gwinnett	Dacula
Berkmar	North Gwinnett
Grayson	Shiloh
Mountain View	Duluth
South Gwinnett	Peachtree Ridge
Seckinger	Lanier
Brookwood	Parkview
Archer	Discovery
Norcross	Mill Creek

*Also in Giocoso - Taylor ES

- o Each school selects up to four **5th grade singers** that:
 - Must be able to match pitch
 - Sing with a pleasant vocal tone and are able to sing in head voice
 - Have excellent behavior
 - Have reliable transportation to and from rehearsals and the HC event
- o Teachers must work with singers to learn music and attend required rehearsals and performances with students.

Honor Chorus Dates and Deadlines

Friday, November 21st, Payment and Registration form Due (\$10 late fee after November 21st)

Friday, January 23rd, Names/Heights/Shirt Sizes Due

Dolce Names Form Link: [Dolce 2026 Names Form - Fill out form](#)

Giocosco Names Form Link: [Giocosco 2026 Names Form - Fill out form](#)

Friday, February 20th Mandatory Area Rehearsal 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Students may not miss more than 30 minutes of the area rehearsal and still participate.

Excused absences:

- absent from school
- checked out from school that day due to illness
- participation in a local school program-with administrator permission

Wednesday, February 25th Lunch Orders Due [EHC Lunch Orders 2026 - Fill out form](#)

Students can receive a free lunch from the school. Teachers must pay cash or check. Only fill out the form for those who are ordering school lunch.

Friday, March 13th, All Day Workshop and Concert Event at Berkmar HS (2 different times depending on choir/cluster, check schedule)

Payment Instructions (DUE NOVEMBER 21 at 5 PM):

Please have your bookkeeper send a check made payable to Lovin Elementary School for your school's total cost. The check and your school's order will be sent through the courier to Amanda Dodd at Lovin Elementary.

Each student is **\$30** with a maximum of four students. You can prepay for students and send in the name form in January. No refund will be processed.

Teacher polo shirts (new color and design) are **\$15**.

Late fee after November 21st is \$10.

A copy of the receipted check will be sent to your school's bookkeeper. If your bookkeeper has any questions, they can reach out to Lovin's bookkeeper -Melissa Crabtree
melissa.crabtree@gcpsk12.org

You will also need to fill out a Google Form with your payment to let us know how many students you are bringing: <https://forms.gle/qfgLUVdNAfQzETcw9>

Student Registration:

January 23, 2026 Names, heights, shirt sizes, teacher shirt info due via links below

Giocoso Names Form Link: [Giocoso 2026 Names Form - Fill out form](#)

Dolce Names Form Link: [Dolce 2026 Names Form - Fill out form](#)

Friday, February 20, 2026, 5:00 - 6:30 pm - Area Rehearsal at assigned locations. This rehearsal is REQUIRED for student participation, unless a student is absent from school that day, participating in a required school event, or checkout out that day due to illness. They are excused from the rehearsal in those cases.

Friday March 13th, 2026 Honor Chorus Workshop and Performance at Berkmar HS.

The two choirs will have different schedules. Please check all information through email about each choir's schedule for the day, including teacher arrival times.

 [Honor Chorus 2026 Schedule](#)

Clinicians

Dolce - Rebekah Castner

Giocoso - Alex Ubiera

Music will be distributed digitally this year. You may make copies as you need. The music and the rehearsal tracks are located in the Elementary Music Teachers shared Google Drive under Honor Chorus 2026 in your choir's folder.

Important Reminders

Please arrive at Berkmar HS at the correct time, based on the Choir that you are participating in. **Any student arriving an hour late or later from the start of the first rehearsal will not be allowed to participate in Honor Chorus. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES ARE AWARE OF THIS.**

STUDENT REMINDER LIST

- Honor Chorus shirts will be handed out at the event. Students will change upon arrival.
- On March 13, students must wear plain black pants, comfortable shoes, and no distracting jewelry or accessories.
- Bring a water bottle, lunch (if not purchased from the school), and snack.
- Parents can enter the auditorium 30 minutes before the Concert time. After the concert, parents will take their children home!

TEACHER REMINDER LIST

- Bring a laundry basket or large tote to store student belongings
- Wear your teacher polo so students can find you if they need help
- Bring student information, including medical/allergy concerns
- You have the option to attend at least 2 hours of rehearsal and turn in the PD form to David to get credit
- Check the job list to see your responsibilities for the day

You are cordially invited to
attend the
***Gwinnett County
Elementary Honor Chorus***

Friday, March 13, 2026
Berkmar HS Performing Arts Center
405 Pleasant Hill Rd. Lilburn, GA 30047

*We look forward to showcasing
the top fifth grade singers
from every elementary school in
Gwinnett County Public Schools!*

SAMPLE AUDITION PERMISSION SLIP (2 Pages)

2026 GWINNETT COUNTY ELEMENTARY HONOR CHORUS

Dear Fifth Grade Chorus Parents,

Your child is eligible to audition for the 2026 Gwinnett County Elementary Honor Chorus. This year, the Honor Chorus will include over 200 excellent 5th Grade singers from schools in Gwinnett County. There will be four participants chosen to represent (Your) Elementary School. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to experience music activities at a higher level and to further his or her musical exploration.

The Gwinnett County Elementary Honor Chorus will perform concerts on Friday March 13, 2026. To prepare for this performance, we will rehearse our music locally at (Your ES name). Additionally, your child will be required to attend an area rehearsal at (Your Site) on Friday, February 20 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

On March 13th, participants will spend all day working with two professional choral clinicians. The students will perform a concert for family and friends at Berkmar High School (405 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lilburn, GA 30047)

If your child is interested in participating, please read this letter carefully for important information.

Audition: Date and Time (at your Elementary in the music room)

I will send out a reminder email to you if you provide your email address on the form below.

Workshop/Concert: Friday March 13th Students arrive at (Time of your choir arrival) a.m. to work with clinician. Family and friends return for concert at (Time of your Concert)

I will audition interested singers individually on (date) _____. I will be listening for vocal tone quality and the ability to match pitch consistently. A congratulations letter will be sent home with the four students chosen for the Gwinnett County Elementary Honor Chorus (on this date)_____.

BEFORE AUDITIONING, PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Students must be on time to the Workshop/Concert. Students will not be allowed to perform at the workshop/concert if they are more than an hour late on Friday March 13th.
- Students must be present and participate in the Honor Chorus Area Rehearsal on Friday, February 20, 5:00 - 6:30 pm. They will not be allowed to participate if they miss more than 30 minutes of the area rehearsal.
- Parents must provide transportation to the area rehearsal and workshop/concert.

- If your child is chosen, he or she will receive a T-shirt and a certificate of participation. There is a \$30.00 fee associated with the Honor Chorus. This money goes toward the facility fees, T-shirt, music ordering, and hiring professional clinicians.
- Your child must have a media release signed to participate in Honor Chorus. There will be photography and video taken during the workshop/concert.
- Each year we have numerous students audition for Honor Chorus. Unfortunately, we are only allowed four students to present our school for this event.

If your child would like to audition for the 2026 Gwinnett County Elementary Honor Chorus, please fill out the form below and return it by the morning of _____. I must have this form so I know which children to audition. I will send home a congratulations letter if your child is chosen to participate in the Honor Chorus on the _____. Please let me know if you have any questions – you can email me at _____ or call the school at _____.

Sincerely, _____

NO STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO AUDITION WITHOUT A SIGNED PERMISSION SLIP.

Student Name: _____

Classroom Teacher: _____

Parent E-Mail:

My child has permission to audition for the 2026 Gwinnett County Elementary Honor Chorus. I understand that if he/she is chosen to participate in the Honor Chorus, he/she is required to attend an Area Rehearsal at (school of Area Rehearsal) on February 20th and the March 13th Workshop/Concert listed in the letter above. I also understand that if my child is chosen to participate, I will need to provide his/her transportation to the Area Rehearsal on February 20th and the March 13th Workshop/Concert.

Parent Signature _____

SAMPLE REGRETS LETTER

Dear _____, I regret to inform you that you were not selected to participate in the Gwinnett County Honor Chorus. This year, we had so many amazing singers and very high scores across the board. Thank you for doing a wonderful job at your audition. You are a talented singer and I am so glad you are in the Fifth Grade Chorus. Unfortunately, I could only select 4 students for Honor Chorus. Please keep trying out and auditioning. We had a student several years ago who did not make the 5th Grade Gwinnett Honor Chorus but then went on to make the Georgia All-State chorus in 6th grade. Keep up your hard work and keep singing!

Sincerely, _____

Dear _____, I regret to inform you that you were not selected to participate in the Gwinnett County Honor Chorus. This year, we had so many amazing singers and very high scores across the board. Thank you for doing a wonderful job at your audition. You are a talented singer and I am so glad you are in the Fifth Grade Chorus. Unfortunately, I could only select 4 students for Honor Chorus. Please keep trying out and auditioning. We had a student several years ago who did not make the 5th Grade Gwinnett Honor Chorus but then went on to make the Georgia All-State chorus in 6th grade. Keep up your hard work and keep singing!

Sincerely, _____

SAMPLE PERMISSION SLIP (PAGE 1)

Dear Family of _____,

Congratulations! Your child has been chosen to represent (your school) Elementary in the 2026 Gwinnett County Elementary Honor Chorus. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to experience musical activities at a high level and to further his or her musical exploration.

Honor Chorus will take place on Friday, March 13, 2026 at Berkmar High School at 405 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lilburn, GA 30047.

The day-long workshop will culminate in a concert that afternoon. The Honor Chorus will be made up of over 200 children from public schools around the county. There will be two clinicians that will work with your child throughout the day on March 13 to prepare the students for the afternoon concerts. Your student will need to arrive on Friday in black pants, black socks and black shoes. They will receive their Honor Chorus shirt at the event. Please make plans to have these items before the concert.

To prepare for our Honor Chorus day, there will be a mandatory Area Rehearsal at (school of area rehearsal) on Friday, February 20 from 5:00pm-6:30pm.

Please fill out the attached form and return it as soon as possible. There is a fee of \$30.00 associated with the Honor Chorus. This money goes toward the ordering of music, facility fees, and hiring of professional clinicians. Please send in cash or a check for \$30.00 made out to (your school) Elementary.

This is an exciting opportunity for your student to meet children from around the county who share his/her interest in music and to work with high caliber teachers who can expand his/her thinking about and appreciation of music. I look forward to attending this event with your child. Again, please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)

(Your e-mail)

DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

February 20th (Friday) Area Rehearsal at (school of area rehearsal)

March 13th (Friday) at Berkmar High School

****You will not need to stay with your child during these times, but you will need to provide transportation to and from the event. ****

SAMPLE PERMISSION FORM (PAGE 2)

Gwinnett County Elementary Honor Chorus Permission Form

My child, _____, has permission to attend the Gwinnett County Elementary Honor Chorus Area Rehearsal at _____ on Friday, February 20th and workshop/concert on Friday, March 13th at Berkmar High School.

Signed, _____

Please fill in the following information:

Parent(s) Name: _____

Parent(s) Email: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

Additional Numbers or E-Mail Addresses

Does your child have any medical or dietary issues that I should be aware of? Anything important that I need to know?

Child's Height **in inches** _____

Child's T-shirt Size _____

Please keep the first page and send this page back with cash or check for \$30.00.

Thanks!

SAMPLE AUDITION FORM

I. Pitch Matching 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

PIANO- STUDENT VOICE then TEACHER VOICE- STUDENT VOICE

II. Tonal Memory 1 2 3 4 5

III. Hearing Harmony 1 2 3 4 5

IV. Sing "Happy Birthday" 1 2 3 4 5

V. Vocal Quality 1 2 3 4 5

Point Totals:

I. ____/10 II. ____/5 III. ____/5 IV. ____/5 V. ____/5 VI.
____/ 5 (Participation in Music Class)

TOTAL POINTS