

CCP Class Auditioner's FAQ-

-What am I doing here?

You are auditioning to place into one of the 2 choral classes at Calhoun.

-What are the 2 classes I'm auditioning to be placed in?

There are 2 classes in the Choral Program- each is unique and has its positive points, and its drawbacks:

Concert Choir- is a 1-period class made up of about 80 10th-12th grade students. If you were at the concert, this is the group that wears the robes. We do a lot of tight a cappella and accompanied music, with styles that range from traditional classical to gospel to contemporary popular. We sing 3, 4, 6, or 8- part harmony. Positives- this class does a lot of performances throughout the community and elsewhere, and gets much recognition. Drawbacks- this is a hard-working class, and I am VERY demanding with regard to non-musical aspects, like maturity and responsibility. We have fun, but if you're looking for an easy, social class, this isn't it. Also, you need to be able to make the performances throughout the year. If you can't make the commitment to attend performances, you won't succeed in this class.

Chorale- is held at 3 different periods during the school day. Each of the 3 periods learns the music at the same speed, and then come together for the concerts. It is comprised of 9th-12th grade students. If you were at the concert, this is the group in all black. We sing 2 or 3- part harmony, sometimes a cappella. While we do some traditional, the music tends to be lighter, and more contemporary. Positives- since there are 3 periods in this group, when we put the 3 periods together, we form a huge, powerful 120 voice chorale. We have a lighter time here during class; while we work hard, we also socialize, and do other types of music-learning. Because of the 9th graders in this class, you can be a "big fish" here much easier than in Concert Choir. Drawbacks- there are also students here that just "need the credit", so there are varying degrees of talent, and "work ethic" in Chorale.

-I just signed up for (insert class name here) with my guidance counselor. Isn't that enough?

Unfortunately, no... not anymore. There was a time, years ago, when I'd be able to take anyone in either class, but times have changed. Now, there are over 140 students that want to take Concert Choir, but I can only take 80. So more auditioners WON'T make Concert Choir than will- which is why I audition everyone- even students that are already in Concert Choir have to reaudition for next year. It doesn't matter which class you signed up for; I will be giving Guidance an updated class list after the audition process.

-When do I find out what group I placed into?

The list will be posted on my door a few days after the Blue-Grey Spring Music Festival in late May.

-Why does it take so long?

Because I reaudition my current students, I don't want their performance at the Spring Concerts to be affected by whether they made the group they wanted. So unfortunately, you'll have to wait as well.

-Turn Over-

-Can't I just ask my counselor what group I placed into?

No, because your counselor won't have the correct info until May; they'll only be able to tell you what you signed up for, which may change, so they will have the wrong info.

-What if I don't get into the class that I wanted?

Well, you have a decision to make. If you still want a choral experience, take the class you were placed into anyway. You may enjoy it, and if a spot opens up next year in the other class, I may ask you to change your schedule. If instead, you choose to drop the class that you placed into, your counselor can do that for you. Truthfully, in that case, I probably wouldn't want you to be in the class, anyway.

-If I don't place into Concert Choir, does that mean I'm a bad singer?

Absolutely not! As I mentioned, there is a "hard cap" of 80 students in Concert Choir. That 81st singer, even if they're incredibly talented, is placed into Chorale. Because Chorale is held during 3 different periods, it can be 90, 100, or even 120 people. With the increased popularity of the CCP, the amount of talent in Chorale is growing and growing each year. Actually, if you listen to Chorale the past 2 years, compared to 5 years ago, you'll notice that this year's group is much, much better. That's because there are so many more "good singers" in Chorale right now, compared to back then, when I used to go down the hall, begging people to join the CCP.

-The list was posted, and I'm not on it!

As Chorale's enrollment has grown the past few years, it has become necessary to make a cut-off line for this group as well. Believe me when I say that not placing a student into any group is the hardest decision I have to make. I truly hope that you decide to audition again next year.

-What about "Crescendo" (Show Choir)?

Auditions for the extracurricular (after school) groups will be held at various times next year. Listen to the morning announcements next year for details.

-What factors help you decide what class I place into?

For those that aren't currently in a choral class: I listen to pitch recognition, tone color, projection, diction, and overall musical talent. (Yes, I can tell all of that from hearing you sing triads.) Also, I note how well you follow directions, and what type of a student you are while I talk to you before and after you sing.

For those that are currently in the CCP: I listen to all the above, plus your musical independence (which is why I sing a different part against you). As stated in the CCP Handbook, non-musical factors are factored into equation are observed throughout the year in class and at performances.

-Is there anything else I need to know?

Yes! If you have any friends that would like to audition, they need to see me soon! If they come to see me after I've made the list, Concert Choir will be CLOSED, and they'll automatically place into Chorale, no matter what they sound like.

Any other questions, visit www.ccp1.org