



Bay Port High School Choir Handbook 2010-2011

Directors

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Performing Ensembles

Cantare

Chanteurs

Bel Canto

Men's Choir

Concert Choir

Vocal Ensemble

WELCOME!

Welcome to Bay Port High School's choral department! We hope your year spent with us will be filled with good times, good friends, good learning, good music, and good memories. Our Music Department is one of the most "visible" curricular areas in the school, as we are always striving to instill PRIDE into our department, as well as our school. Pride is not easily acquired! It must be earned, and it must be maintained. As a member of our Choral Department, YOU will be called upon to contribute all that you can; sometimes that will be easy, and sometimes it might not. Nonetheless, we expect that you at all times will be trying to do YOUR BEST! If you can do that, then PRIDE will certainly be OURS!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The ability to sing is a gift. The opportunity to use that gift with others in an organized choir is a privilege. Don't take it for granted.

The chance to perform for others, allows us to share that gift – the chance to bring others joy, happiness, and often (though you don't realize it), a "renewed" faith in young adults. Don't take it for granted.

For most of us, singing will add joy, meaning, and sensitivity to our lives. Some of your favorite times of the week will likely be spent singing. However, singing is still education; it is learning and discipline as well. It is also fun! But, let us not forget that the "fun" of singing is a natural "by-product" of doing your best! Don't take it for granted.

To actually "do" your best, you must "look" your best. To look your best, you must use your eyes! Your eyes are your most expressive feature! Use them lots, not just in performance, but in rehearsals as well, and . . . don't take them for granted.

And finally, let's not take each other for granted. A smile, a greeting, a hello or a good-bye, all go a long way to make us feel important, and that we matter to each other. Music is what draws all of us in this classroom together, but let us not forget that we are "people" first, and "musicians" second.

Philosophy

The Bay Port High School Choir Program will actively work to create quality musical experiences, to strive for excellence in both individual and group efforts, to develop a sense of community among its members, to foster the love of vocal music, and to share that appreciation with its audiences.

Through our rehearsals, we will instill a strong sense of self-discipline, self-motivation, and an inner drive for excellence.

From our performance opportunities, students will gain the self-confidence to know that there is nothing that cannot be achieved, and no obstacle that cannot be overcome, if they are willing to utilize all their talents and work together.

Through our social relationships within choir, students will develop life-long memories and friendships that are forged by the variety of activities they will share.

Most of all, students will learn to view music as a vital experience that will have a positive effect on their lives for years to come.

Bay Port High School Choir is intended to serve as a positive musical experience. Besides the obvious intrinsic values of music, our primary objectives are character building, cooperation, loyalty, respect, dependability, responsibility, punctuality, and self-control. These are but a few examples of the many rewards of being associated with the Bay Port High School Choir Program.

Course Description

This class is an exploration of the art of choral music. The majority of our exploring is done through the performing of a variety of different songs. This would include selections ranging from the classics up through popular music, selections written by American composers as well as by foreign composers, and selections written in English as well as in foreign languages. We will also explore choral music by learning how music is put together through the study of music theory and music history. Finally we will also work on improving our musical abilities including basic singing skills and the ability to learn and read music.

Goals

1. Sing a variety of music from popular to classic choral literature.
2. Improve Music Theory Skills
3. Improve Sight-Reading Skills (melodic and rhythmic)
4. Improve singing techniques
5. Improve tone quality
6. Continue to expand the knowledge base of the history of music
7. Learn to be a contributing member of a team
8. Learn and develop responsibility
9. Have Fun

Grading Policy

The purpose of the grade is to reflect...

1. What knowledge and skills the student's have acquired over the quarter, semester, and year
2. The amount of effort student's put into both their individual learning and progress as well as how much effort they put into the progress of the choir as a whole

In this class content is defined as...

Knowledge gained in music theory, music history, performance evaluations, personal reflections, music reading skills, and singing techniques.

In this class work ethic is defined as...

The amount of effort a student puts into their assignments; participation in class, sectionals, and performances; and individual practice time.

In this class you will be evaluated on...

The progress you make over the course of the quarter, semester, and year. We will use a variety of tools to track your progress which may include, but is not limited to, theory, lessons, vocal and sight-reading assessments, personal reflections, goal setting, class participation & contributions, performance participation & contributions.

Semester Expectations

- Participate:**
- *In class everyday**
 - *At all scheduled lessons, sectionals, and meetings**
 - *At all performances**

If you are absent from class you are responsible for completing a choir make-up sheet. If you miss a lesson, sectional, assessment, or meeting you are responsible for rescheduling immediately. You are expected to be at ALL performances. It takes a team to create a choir and an ensemble sound. Every person in a choir has a role. If you are not there it does make a difference and you are letting down your team!

- Put forth effort:**
- *Focus / attentiveness during class (i.e. no talking during rehearsal!)**
 - *Punctuality in getting to class, lessons, sectionals, meetings, and performances on time**
 - *Punctuality of completing assignments**
 - *Completion of all assignments**
 - *Attendance of concerts, performances, lessons, rehearsals, sectionals, and meetings**

Assignments will vary depending on the choir and the time of year. However, an example of assignments may include:

- Semester Assignments:**
- All Concerts/Performances**
- *1 written evaluation of each concert performed (1 per concert)**
 - *2 Theory Units successfully completed (done via computer)**
 - *2 Journal Entries per semester (1 per quarter)**
 - *2 Progress Reflections per semester (1 per quarter)**

- Semester Assessments:**
- *2 Theory Tests per semester (1 per quarter)**
 - *2 Vocal Assessments (1 per quarter)**
 - *1 Written Vocabulary Final (1 per semester)**

- Lessons:**
- *No more than 6 lessons per semester (3 per quarter)**
 - *Lesson #1 will be used as a meeting with me to plan out your semester**
 - *Lessons #2 & 4 will be used as lessons, sectionals or tutoring sessions**
 - *Lessons #3 & 5 will be used as vocal assessments**
 - *Lesson #6 will be used as a meeting with me to discuss your progress and grade for the semester**

- Concerts:**
- *Concerts by quarter (not including homecoming or solo/ensemble)**
 - 1st Quarter – Pops Concert (All Bay Port Choirs), Women’s Choir Festival (takes place during the school day and involves other Green Bay Area Women’s Choirs), 7-12 Choir Festival (All Bay Port Choirs)**
 - 2nd Quarter – Christmas Concert (All Bay Port Choirs)**
 - 3rd Quarter – Mid-Winter (All Bay Port Choirs)**
 - 4th Quarter – Sacred Concert (All Bay Port Choirs)**

Class Policies

Late work is always accepted. **However**, your director can only accept 1st and 2nd quarter assignments through the end of 1st semester and can only accept 3rd and 4th quarter assignments through the end of 2nd semesters.

Please note, if you are consistently turning in late work, this will be a factor when we discuss the effort part of your grade at the end of the semester.

Extra Credit is not accepted. Your director is more than happy to discuss things that can be done to help you improve your grade, **HOWEVER, the process must start with the student coming to us and expressing concern for their grade.**

Choir Make-up Sheets should be completed every time you miss a day of class regardless of the reason why! To do this you will need to complete 30 minutes of practice for every 45 minutes of class that you missed. (If you missed a block day you will need to complete 60 minutes of practice.) After you have completed your practice session you will need to record it on a choir make-up sheet and turn it in to your director. A parent or director must sign the make-up sheet as proof that you did indeed practice for the time you are indicating. Once this is complete you will earn back the participation points you lost (provided you were not truant). **Choir make-up sheets will not be accepted after a performance.** Again, please note, if you are not completing choir make-up sheets for your absences this will be a factor when we discuss the effort part of your grade at the end of the semester. Choir make-up sheets can be accessed on the choir wiki page.

Absences:

1. Come talk to your director to find out what you missed. We will not seek you out!
2. Check the assignment folders for any assignments or handouts that were given out on the date of your absence. Help yourself to any materials that you might need.
3. For every 45 minutes of class that you missed you must complete one 30 minute practice session on your own time. (See classroom policies for more information/clarification.)

Tardies: You will be marked tardy every time you show up late to class. Late to class is defined as NOT being in the choir room (not music department) when the bell rings.

1st Tardy: Warning
2^{nd+} Tardy: Lunch Detention

- If you are late to a lunch detention you owe me a 2nd lunch detention.
- Failure to complete a lunch detention will result in...
 1. Follow up with an Associate Principal
 2. Call Home

At **semester** your tardy slate will be 'wiped' to zero.

Expectations

- Be Positive! ☺
- Always **try!**
- Exercise **self-discipline**. **If you are not singing, you are actively listening.**
- **Respect** one another, myself, and the other directors. Treat others as you would want to be treated!
- **Support and encourage** one another regardless of grade level or choir.
- **Bring your choir folder, music, and pencil to class with you EVERYDAY!**
- **Be on time.** Some classes lose a minute of passing time during Tuesday's PLC schedule. Plan ahead.
- **Write in all** articulations, dynamics, breath marks, etc. in your music!
- **Take good care of your choir materials**, especially the music.
- **Food is not allowed in the choir room.** Water may be brought to class in a clear, sealable plastic container only.
- Please – **no primping** during class.
- **Do not place** your materials on the piano, overhead projector, folder cabinets, teacher's desks etc.
- **Cell phones and I-pods** must be placed in your cell phone/I-pod locker when you enter the room. If a director finds either a cell phone or I-pod on your person, whether or not you are using it at the moment, the item will be confiscated until you have completed a lunch detention.
- **All back packs and personal items must be left along the perimeter of the room** (out of the way) or placed underneath the tables. Under no circumstances should backpacks or personal items be brought to your seat with you - this includes I-pods and cell phones. Use of these items is prohibited and will result in confiscation of the item being used and will not be returned until the detention has been served.

FYI

- **Always write your name, in pencil, on your choir music.**
- **Choir music, folders, etc. may be taken home at any time – no permission necessary.**
- **Place all of your assignments in the correct box** by the due date.
- **You will be fined** for failure to return music and attire and for damaged music and attire. (\$3.00 per piece of music, \$70.00 for the dress, \$175 for the tuxedo).
- **If you need to talk to me before class you have until the bell rings.**
- **You do not need to ask for permission to get a drink of water** – there is a fountain right in the choir room. However, use common sense for when is an appropriate time (ex. Transitions).
- **Bathroom privileges are for emergencies only.** If an emergency should arise see your director for the key.

Choir Materials

- **Choir Dress/Tuxedo** (purchased by the school)
- **Black Binder, lined paper, staff paper, a pencil and rehearsal cds** - These materials need to be purchased through the main office (do not pay your director!), and will be given to you in class during the first week of school.
- **Choir Shoes** – Bel Canto and Cantare need to purchase tan character shoes and Chanteurs and Concert Choir members need to purchase black character shoes. Character shoes can be purchased through dance studios or online. Guys will need to purchase tuxedo shoes (we will order these as a group from Du Bois Formalwear).
- **Choir Slip** (ladies) – should be a 2-piece or full body slip (natural colored and black work best)
- **Choir Jewelry** (ladies) - All earrings and necklaces will be purchased through the school for uniformity. Pierced earrings will cost \$5.50, clip-ons will cost \$6.50, and necklaces will cost \$8.50.

Earn Your Letter In Choir!!

You can earn a letter in choir just like in sports. To earn a letter in choir you must meet all of the criteria listed below. Awards will be given out at the end of the year at Music Awards Night.

To earn a Letter in Choir students must...

- Participate in **ALL** concerts
- Participate in solo/ensemble
- Be Responsible
- Earn 450 points from any combination of the following ‘activities’
 1. Maintain a B average: 50 points per quarter achieved
 2. Participation (misses no more than 3 days): 50 points per quarter achieved
 3. Attends Lessons, sectionals, assessments, etc: 25 points per ‘lesson’
 4. Tutoring another students: 25 points per tutoring session

Students are responsible for documenting all points earned. Documentation must be presented within the 1st week of 2nd quarter, 3rd quarter, and 4th quarter in order to receive points earned.

Students who meet all the requirements will receive...

- Freshman – Choir Numerals
- Sophmores– Choir Letter
- Juniors – Choir Pin
- Seniors – Section Pin

Event Schedule for 2010-2011

Friday, October 8	Homecoming – Performance of the National Anthem (All Choirs) REQUIRED PERFORMANCE
Monday, October 18:	Women’s Choir Festival (All Womens Choirs, all day) Concert @ PAC 7:00pm REQUIRED PERFORMANCES
Friday and Saturday: (October 22 and 23)	Pops Concert (All Choirs) @ PAC 7:00pm REQUIRED PERFORMANCE
Monday, November 1:	Grades 7-12 Choir Festival (All Choirs) @ Bay Port Fieldhouse 7:00pm REQUIRED PERFORMANCE
Monday, December 6:	Christmas Concert (All Choirs) @ PAC 7:00pm REQUIRED PERFORMANCE
Monday, February 7:	Mid-Winter Choral Concert (All Choirs) @ PAC 7:00pm REQUIRED PERFORMANCE
Saturday, March 12	Solo/Ensemble @ Pulaski High School 8:00am-4:00pm (Must participate to earn your choir letter!)
Friday, April 8	Solo/Ensemble large groups @ Pulaski High School 3:00-8:00pm
Thursday, April 28	Large Group Festival Clinic (MC, CC and other schools) All day in the PAC
Saturday, May 7:	State Solo/Ensemble @ UWGB 8:00am-4:00pm
Wednesday, May 18:	Sacred Concert (All Choirs) Location TBD REQUIRED PERFORMANCE
Monday, May 23:	Music Awards Night @ PAC 6:30pm OPTIONAL EVENT – but you are strongly encouraged to attend!
Sunday, June 5:	High School Commencement (Concert Choir) @ BP Fieldhouse

Some dates for festivals and other performances are still being planned, and we will let you know about them as soon as we can.

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Name _____ Grade _____

E-mail address _____ Choir _____

Instruments Played (include years of lessons & years played) _____

(Student Signature) I have read the course outline and I understand the curriculum
and policies for which I will be held accountable.

PARENT INFORMATION

Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____

E-mail Address _____

(Parent/Guardian Signature) I have read the course outline and I understand the curriculum
and policies for which my student will be held accountable.

Jewelry Order Form

Name	Quantity	Amount Due
Pearl Necklace - \$8.50		
Pierced Pearl Earrings - \$5.50		
Clip-on Pearl Earrings - \$6.50		
Total Amount Due		

All students need both a necklace and a pair of earrings. If you still have your jewelry from last year you do NOT need to purchase new jewelry. Those students without pierced ears or with sensitive ears should purchase the Screw-Back Earrings.

You may pay in check or cash. Make checks payable to Bay Port High School. YOU MUST PUT YOUR MONEY IN A SEALED ENVELOPE. STAPLE THE ORDER FORM TO THE OUTSIDE OF THE ENVELOPE AND TURN IT IN TO YOUR DIRECTOR.

