

2019-2020 BHS Choir Handbook

Welcome to the Bettendorf High School Choral Department. Each singer is a vital part of the success of our choirs and we look forward to having you as a member of our program this year!

The BHS Music Department is comprised of students...

- Striving for mastery in music performance by:
 - Developing independent musical skills;
 - Enabling confidence to give generously of their talents and gifts
 - Belonging to a supportive, accepting ensemble of peers
 - Providing an environment in which each student can find success

CONTACT INFORMATION

Andrea Cooper – acooper@bettendorf.k12.ia.us
309-781-0933

Mariah Chapdelaine – mchapdelaine@bettendorf.k12.ia.us
309-235-3106

Choir Twitter - @BettChoirs

Surround Sound Twitter - @BHSurroundSound

Audio Intensity – @AudioIntensity

Instagram - @BettChoirs

Coming events and important information will be sent periodically via email (concert reminders, etc.).

COURSE OFFERINGS

Concert Choir: Grades 10 – 12 1.5 credits / 4 terms

Prerequisite: audition only

Uniform usage fee: \$15.00

Concert Choir is an advanced mixed chorus consisting of sophomores, juniors and seniors. Students must audition to be a member of Concert Choir. Instruction in choral techniques and note reading is continued on an advanced level. The Concert Choir has a minimum of four major performances per year, participates in State Large Group Festival among other musical activities. Concert choir students will be required to participate in a solo or ensemble at the state sponsored solo/ensemble festival in April.

Women's Chorale: Grades 10 - 12 1.5 credits / 4 terms

Prerequisite: audition only

Uniform usage fee: \$15.00

Women's choir is an intermediate women's ensemble consisting of sophomores, juniors and seniors. Placement is based on audition or by the consent of the director. Instruction in choral techniques and note reading is continued on an intermediate level. The Women's Chorale has a minimum of four major performances per year, participates in State Large Group Festival among other musical activities.

Chorale: Grades 9 – 12 1.5 credits / 4 terms

Prerequisite: audition only

Uniform usage fee \$15.00

Chorale is an ensemble open to students by audition to further work on their vocal technique and knowledge of music. At least four major concerts are given per year including Large Group Contest. Chorale may participate in Solo and Ensemble among other activities.

Bettendorf Singers: Grades 9 – 12

1.5 credits / 4 terms

Prerequisite: none

Uniform usage fee \$15.00

Bettendorf singers is an ensemble open to any students at BHS to participate in meaningful performance and further work on their vocal technique and knowledge of music. At least four major concerts are given per year potentially including State Large Group Contest.

CO-CURRICULAR CHOIRS

Chamber Choir: Grades 9 – 12

Prerequisite: Audition only

No fee required

Students in Chamber Choir will meet twice a week before school starting second quarter as well as periodic PRIDE rehearsals. The chamber choir will perform at concerts, school events, and many events around the holiday season. This is an opportunity to perform complex music in a small ensemble.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Men:

Concert Choir/Chorale - A black tuxedo is provided by Bettendorf High School. It is the responsibility of the student to provide a white tuxedo shirt, black dress shoes, and black socks. Absolutely no jewelry is allowed on stage. The student will be financially responsible for any damage that occurs to formal attire during the academic year due to neglect.

Bettendorf Singers - A concert robe and stole is provided by Bettendorf High School. It is the responsibility of the student to provide black dress pants, black socks, and black dress shoes. Absolutely no jewelry is allowed on stage. The student will be financially responsible for any damage that occurs to the robe during the academic year due to neglect.

Women:

Concert Choir/Chorale/Women's Chorale - A formal concert dress is provided by Bettendorf High School. Shoes should be black closed-toe shoes (flats, no heels). Absolutely no jewelry is allowed on stage unless it is provided by the choir department. The student will be financially responsible for any damage that occurs to formal attire during the academic year due to neglect.

Bettendorf Singers - A concert robe and stole is provided by Bettendorf High School. It is the responsibility of the student to provide black dress pants, black socks, and black dress shoes. Absolutely no jewelry is allowed on stage. The student will be financially responsible for any damage that occurs to the robe during the academic year due to neglect.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Grades will be broken down by categories as follows:

- 40% - Rehearsal Skills
- 15% - Lessons
- 20% - Performances
- 20% - Assignments/Quizzes/Tests (written assignments, vocal benchmark assignments, etc.)
- 5% - Semester Exam

The students will be graded quarterly on the following:

- A. **Rehearsal Skills** - Students will be assessed on their ability and consistency to demonstrate rehearsal skills at a proficient level during class time. Rehearsal skills include successfully applying singing technique and fundamentals on a consistent basis and working successfully in a collaborative group setting.
- B. **Lessons** –Lessons take place during the school day or before/after school as needed and scheduled with the director. The lessons will last fifteen minutes and the student will be given a pass if the lesson occurs during another class. Students will fill out an electronic form upon arriving to and leaving from their lessons in order to receive credit for the lesson.

Finally, if a student is scheduled for a lesson on a day of class they cannot miss, the student may miss the lesson without penalty. The student will then be expected to sign up for an additional lesson. Students will also understand lessons will need to be completed within certain time parameters to receive full credit. These dates and expectations fluctuate by quarter and will be explained and posted with the lesson sign-up.

- C. **Performances** – Choir is a performing arts class which includes required concert performances outside of the school day, typically in the evening. These performances are required elements of the course. Students enrolled in a choir class at BHS understand their responsibility in attending required performances associated with this class. Your grade for a performance is determined by your punctuality, appropriate attire and concert etiquette while you are performing as well as while watching other groups. Students are required to attend performances in their entirety even after their portion is complete.
- D. **Assignments** – This category will include performance reflections, music literacy packet, vocal benchmark assignments and sight singing packets.
Performance Reflections – These assignments will be completed in class after viewing the video or listening to the audio of the performance. Students will also self-assess after each performance using the IHSMA Large Group Adjudication Forms.
Vocal Benchmark Assignments – You will be required to complete 2 vocal benchmarks each quarter (total of 8 for the year). Vocal benchmark assignments will be completed on your own time and submitted to your director via Google Classroom. ***If a student wants to advance to higher level choir and/or remain in a higher level choir they MUST complete all of these benchmarks at a proficient grade for the year.***
Music Literacy and Sight Singing Packets - Students will be completing music literacy and sight singing assignments as a part of the daily rehearsal in choir. At the end of every quarter students will turn in their packet to be graded.
- E. **Semester Exam** - Students will complete a semester exam both semesters that covers all the content covered in class. Semester exams will be a combination of written work and individual aural/sight singing assessments.

ATTENDANCE

Concerts and Performances

Choir is a performance-based class; therefore concerts are an integral element of the choral music curriculum. Absences will only be excused in extreme cases. Please see the attached performance schedule and mark these dates on your calendar as soon as possible.

Rehearsals

The success of any group is directly related to the attitude, participation and quality of work accomplished during rehearsals. Since our rehearsal time is limited, it is important that we utilize the time we do have as effectively as we can. In order to do so, it is imperative that all students follow classroom rules and come to class ready to make the most of each rehearsal.

ABSENCES

As with any group or team activity every member is crucial to the success of the group. Choir is no exception. We understand that many students are involved in numerous activities both in and out of school and we encourage students to be as involved as they can be. Now is the time for students to take advantage of the many activities/athletics that they can be involved in. We will be as flexible as we can be to work with other schedules, however communication is crucial. Here are some examples of excused and unexcused absences from a practice or a performance:

Excused Absences – Excused absences can be made up for full credit

- Excused absence from school (illness, death in family, etc.)
- School sponsored athletic competition that has been discussed with the director ahead of time and has been approved
- A personal or family problem that has been discussed and approved with the director by a parent or guardian before the practice or performance that will be missed
- A personal or family problem that arises and cannot be discussed before the event. This must be discussed with the director by a parent or guardian ASAP. A phone call or email would be appreciated before the performance if at all possible.

Unexcused Absences - Unexcused absences can NOT be made up and credit will be lost

- Work is always unexcused, mark your calendar now
- Missing a scheduled practice or performance with no prior contact or explanation (other than emergency situations)
- A general excuse such as “I forgot,” “I had another event to attend,” etc.
- Missing a performance due to another commitment scheduled after the choir performance was scheduled
- Missing a performance due to an athletic **practice** or other non-school sponsored event (see director for further information regarding athletic conflicts)

Any other questionable absences will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Do not hesitate to contact your director; it is better to be safe than sorry.

GENERAL CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Gum, Candy, and Beverages – The student will refrain from chewing gum, eating, or drinking beverages except water during the rehearsal period. If the student has been warned, the director may ask the student to throw food in the trash at the start of rehearsal.

Warm-ups – The students begin every rehearsal with vocal and physical warm-ups. Everyone stands, everyone participates. If you are in the room, you rehearse.

Illness Policy - If you are experiencing illness and/or throat problems that would impact your participation in class, please:

1. Tell your director before class begins. Don't assume that your director already knows.
2. Take your music out and follow what is being rehearsed *silently* –audiation should take place in your head. You should also participate in physical warm-ups as you are able.
3. Illness that exceeds multiple days will need to be evaluated by the school nurse.

Books – The student will place school books under their chairs. Students should not work on anything for another class during choir unless given permission to do so.

Music/Folders/Pencils – You must have your choir folder and a pencil with you every day in class. You will be assigned a folder number and your music will be numbered to correspond to your folder. At the conclusion of the year whatever music you have misplaced or damaged will be **your financial responsibility** to replace. Music costs anywhere from \$2 - \$5 per piece and folders cost up to \$30 each.

Classroom Discussion – The students will refrain from talking without permission A mutual respect among students and the directors is expected. Respect others, so they will respect you. Negative talk is not tolerated. Take the positive approach instead. *Individual questions and concerns should be addressed between classes or, if it applies to the music, by raising your hand.*

Bathroom Policy - Due to previous issues with many students leaving class frequently to use the restroom, students will be given a limited number of bathroom passes this year. It is important for students to be present during instructional time for their individual growth and success as well as the growth and success of the whole group; it is also a safety concern to have students frequently out of the classroom. If you/your student has medical concerns with this policy please ensure that our school nurse is aware. This policy will be explained in more detail during the first days of class.

ChromeBooks / iPads / Cell Phones / SmartWatches– Students will not be allowed to have ChromeBooks or iPads at their seat unless previously instructed that we will use them in class that day. They can leave these items in their locker or stow them in their folder slots when they arrive to class. Cell phones should not be visible during rehearsal (as soon as the bell rings to start class until students are dismissed). Using your cell phone during passing period is acceptable, but as soon as the bell rings, your phone **SHOULD BE STORED IN YOUR FOLDER SLOT**.

- 1st offense – phone will be taken by the teacher and returned to student at the end of the class
 - 2nd offense – phone will be taken by the teacher and given to the office to be picked up by a parent at the end of the day (school cell phone policy)
 - 3rd offense – phone will be taken by the teacher and given to the office to be returned to a parent during a parent conference the following day – no exceptions. Student will be issued additional consequences (school cell phone policy)
- Additional offenses - Administrative action will be taken at the discretion of the teacher and appropriate administrator.

Smart watches and devices linked to cell phones should be in do not disturb or theatre mode during class.

BHS Choir Letter Award Criteria

Letters are presented at the end of the year. Students must accumulate 750 points during that school year to receive a letter. Points are acquired by attending lessons regularly, attending all performances, participating in extracurricular music activities, participating in solo/ensemble festival, volunteering for the department, etc. Students will fill out a google form at the end of the year to “apply” for their letter.

2019-2020 BETTENDORF HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*****Bolded Events are Required for All Choir Students*****

September 11 – Honor Flight (Required for <i>Concert Choir</i>)	TBA (PM)
September 14 – District All State Camp at Muscatine H.S.	TBA (AM)
October 7–Metrofest @ Davenport North (All State, OPUS and Women’s Chorale)	Performance: 7PM
October 26 – All-State Auditions	All Day
November 21 – OPUS (for selected freshman students)	All Day
November 21-23 – Iowa All-State Festival (for selected students)	All Day
November 25- Festival of Trees (<i>Concert Choir</i> only)	TBA
December 9 – Winter Concert	7 PM
March 5 – Bettendorf Choral Extravaganza	7 PM
April 18th – Solo/Ensemble (Required for <i>Concert Choir</i> , <i>Women’s Chorale</i> and optional for <i>Chorale</i>)	
May 9 – IHSMA Large Group Contest	TBA
May 12 – Spring Concert	7 PM
May 21 – Fine Arts Banquet	6 PM
May 31 – Graduation (<i>Concert Choir and other ensemble Seniors</i> only)	noon call time

**Additional concert dates will be added as needed. Bold faced dates refer to dates and events that all choir students need to reserve.*

Mark these dates on your calendar. Do not schedule work or outside activities on these dates. Makeups will be available for students with excused absences.