

Benzie Central Middle/High School
Vocal Choral Handbook
2018-2019



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Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! I am thrilled to work with all of you. This handbook is meant to serve as a guide for the school year and support our students in the Fine Arts. Participating in music and other Fine Arts areas is a rewarding and fulfilling experience you will remember for a lifetime. You are now part of an exciting program which will continue to grow and develop both in quality and quantity. Our past choir members have worked hard to build an excellent foundation for a choral tradition and we will continue to build on that foundation!

The goals of choir are to develop good vocal technique and ensemble singing, while exposing the members of the ensemble to literature from many different periods of time and cultures. We will be working with a variety of sacred and secular music, as well as music from Broadway, pop, spirituals, foreign languages, and jazz, just to name a few genres. The music will be varied in difficulty and will occasionally require individual practice at home. We will always perform with the most professional standards and striving for the most musical and memorable experiences.

In this handbook you will find information on performances, rehearsal expectations, attendance, grading, and concert uniforms. Please read this information thoroughly and contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Musically Yours,
Kirsten Cline

“The only thing better than singing is more singing.”
-Ella Fitzgerald

GRADING POLICY

Your grade for each marking period will be based on your classroom participation and the evaluation of your ability to demonstrate musical knowledge and skills. Class Participation will include *effort, attitude, posture, preparation, and cooperation*. Any rehearsals and written class work will receive a grade out of 5 points unless stated otherwise. Concert Participation will include *attendance, punctuality, dress, posture, professionalism and concert etiquette*.

Semester: Quarter 1: 40%, Quarter 2: 40%, Exam: 20%

Quarter Grades: Class Participation: 60% Concert Participation: 40%

DAILY GRADING

Students can earn up to five points per day for participation.

5 points

Arrives on time and prepared to begin class when bell rings. Does not disrupt rehearsal. Contributes actively in all aspects of rehearsal. Shows leadership and appropriate musicianship.

3 points

Arrives on time but not ready in seat when bell rings. Does not disrupt rehearsal. Contributes to class but not actively 100% of the time.

1 point

Arrives for class late and not prepared. Some disruption of rehearsal or is a distraction to others. Does not contribute actively to rehearsal.

0 points

Consistently late and unprepared to begin class. Chewing gum, eating food, or participating in inappropriate behavior during rehearsal. Displays defiant attitude or refusal to participate. Does not sing.

CHOIR CONCERT PERFORMANCE RUBRIC

40 points	Present for the concert in appropriate concert dress
10 points	Arriving on time
10 points	Prepared to sing
10 points	Maintaining eye contact and responding to the conductor
10 points	Using correct posture while performing (looking like a singer)
20 points	Demonstrating appropriate concert etiquette on and off stage
Total Points:	100

REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

Each student is expected to consistently display appropriate and responsible behavior during the rehearsals or at any point of a school-sponsored performance or activity. This behavior involves good discipline for work during rehearsals and a discipline towards sincere communication in performance.

1. **Be on time to rehearsals and performances.** You are to be in your seat with folder and materials for class when the bell rings. Anything else is considered to be a tardy.
2. Class attention and proper posture, breathing and singing techniques are expected. (You can relax the posture if you are not singing.)
3. Concentration on your part while others are being rehearsed is imperative.
4. **No gum chewing** during rehearsal or performance is permitted. **No other food or candy** is allowed in rehearsal unless permission is given by the conductor. ***Students are encouraged to bring water bottles to use during rehearsal***
5. Students should use passing time for restroom breaks so that rehearsal time or instruction is not missed.
6. Stay positive and have fun! We all chose to be here because we have a love for music and singing.

ATTENDANCE & PRACTICE

1. Choir is a class for which credits can be earned for graduation at the high school level. Each student is expected to work on a daily basis to develop individual vocal and musical skills. ALL rehearsals are, therefore, imperative. If you know you are going to be absent, please email/call/let me know beforehand. If you are ill or missing class due to emergency, please email or call.
2. Students will participate in ALL performances and extracurricular activities involving the choir. Choir is considered an activity, as well as a class. ***It involves extra-curricular time.***
3. Choir is a physically demanding activity that is maintained through class rehearsals and practice at home. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 20 minutes at least three times per week outside of regular rehearsal. Sectionals are considered practice time.

4. **A student's performance affects the entire group.** We rehearse together and perform together. An absence from a performance hurts all of the other choir member's performance. ***Scheduled performances are required.***

SECTIONALS

Sectionals will be held during class time with Mrs. Cline. On these days, students will be permitted to bring other classwork or a book to stay busy and use their time efficiently.

MUSIC AND FOLDERS

1. All students will be provided a folder for the music that they will receive. If this folder is damaged or lost at any time in the school year there is a \$10 fee to replace the folder.
2. Music for all performances will be provided by the department. **Replacement fees will be charged to students who return damaged music or do not return music.**
3. *The only marks allowed on music are erasable pencil.* Those marks should be in proper form with score marking procedures. (Breath marks, etc.)
4. Folders may be stored in the choir room, however, it is suggested that folders be taken home to practice your music. Students are expected to bring their folders and music to class every day.
5. **Pencils are required every day. Please keep one in your folder.**

FACILITY AND SUPPLIES CARE

- 1.No food, drink or gum in the choir room, with the exception of water.
- 2.The piano may only be played for class demonstrations or when permission is given.
3. Music should be placed in a folder to avoid damage and in the correct slot.

CONCERT UNIFORM

High school choir students will be issued a school uniform. Uniforms are to be used for official choir performances only. Chamber Choir uniforms must be dry cleaned at the end of the year and returned per the uniform contract.

Only the length of pants and dresses may be altered. Please have any alterations done by a professional.

Concert Choir: concert robes (school provided) black pants, black socks, black shoes (student provided).

Chamber Choir: black dresses/tux (school provided) black shoes, black socks/nylons (student provided).

Middle School: White shirt with black pants/skirt(must be knee-length) with black socks/tights, and black close-toed shoes (student provided).

Replacement Cost:

Chamber Concert Dress: \$70

Tuxedo Ensemble: \$110 (jacket, tux shirt, pants, cummerbund, bowtie)

Concert Choir Robe: \$90

Bow tie and cummerbund: \$15

Pearls: \$15

CONCERTS

Concerts are required as part of your participation in choir. If you are unable to attend a concert please submit written notification to Mrs. Cline (with parent/guardian signature) **AT LEAST TWO WEEKS** prior to the missed performance. A no-show for a concert will result in a performance grade of zero and possible removal from the ensemble.

CONCERT DATES 2018-2019 School Year**#OneBenzie Night Friday September 21, 2018**

Chamber Choir Students will sing National Anthem with Marching Band before football game. Wear benzie shirt or choir shirt!

BC's Got Talent October 17, 2018 7:00PM: Required performance for HS Chamber Choir

10/2-10-4-Auditions during seminar in choir room

10/16- 3:00-4:00 Dress Rehearsal on stage

10/17-Performance 7:00-9:00 Call time: 6:30PM

Holiday Concert December 12, 2018 7:00PM: REQUIRED FOR ALL CHOIR STUDENTS

12/10-12/12-Rehearse on stage

12/12-Performance 7:00-9:00 Call time: 6:30PM

MSVMA D-2 Solo & Ensemble Festival January 19, 2019: Required for Chamber Choir

11/10-Music selection and \$20 registration due

1/19/19-Solo & Ensemble Festival 8:00-5:00PM

Valentine Grams February 14, 2019 All Day: Chamber Choir & Benzie Bellas

2/14/2019-During the school day. Students will travel in groups to perform. Students must be in good academic standing in all their classes to participate.

MSVMA D-2 Choral Festival February 27-28, 2019

2/27/19 or 2/28/19-During the school day: Participation pending

MSVMA State Solo & Ensemble Festival April 26-27, 2019: McBain High School

*Pending invitation and excellent rating at District Festival

Spring Pops Concert May 22, 2019 7:00PM REQUIRED FOR ALL CHOIR STUDENTS

5/20-5/22-Rehearse on stage

5/22-Performance 7:00-9:00PM Call time: 6:30PM

BCCS 2019 Graduation June 2, 2019 3:00PM CHOIR SENIORS ONLY

6/2/2019-3:00PM Commencement Ceremony 2:15 Warm-up

*Rehearsal during graduation practice

CONFIRMATION OF UNDERSTANDING

I have read and reviewed the policies as stated in the BCCS Vocal Choral Handbook. I fully understand the importance of our dedicated commitment to the success of our music program. I understand the policies of the classes and the importance of the attendance policy. My signature below indicates that I have read, reviews, and accept the policies indicated in this handbook.

(Parent/Guardian signature)
(Date)

(Student signature)

MEDIA RELEASE

I hereby give my consent to all photographs, audio recordings, and video recordings taken of my minor child or me by BCCS Choral Program staff. I understand that any such photographs or recordings become the property of the local school or district and may be used by the school, district, or others with their consent, for educational, or promotional purposes determined by the district in broadcast and media formats now existing or created in the future.

(Parent/Guardian signature)

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Age: _____

Parent Phone Number: _____

Parent Email: _____

Please return to Mrs. Cline by September 14, 2018. This document is worth 100 participation points.