

Brentsville District High School CHORAL HANDBOOK

2019-2020



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****After reviewing the Choral Handbook,
complete the [Google Form](#) with a
parent/guardian by Friday, September 6th to
indicate your understanding.****

Course Description

The Brentsville HS Choral Department is committed to cultivating quality in its ensembles, as well as developing life-long participants in music. Ensembles will rehearse, study, and perform music from various historical time periods, cultures, and purposes, both secular and sacred. Sacred music is performed for its historical and artistic merit and not for its theological content. The curriculum includes methods for developing appropriate vocal production, breath management, sight-reading, music theory, performance and rehearsal etiquette, stage presence, and overall musical artistry.

Class Expectations

In all BDHS choral ensembles, students will:

- Be positive and respectful of others, in and out of the choral classroom, and the BDHS facilities.
- Raise his or her hand to be recognized and wait to be called on to speak. There is to be no talking when the director is speaking, the group is singing, someone is asking a question, or after cut-offs.
- Sing fully every day. If you cannot sing in any particular rehearsal due to sickness, you will be required to mark your score accordingly to serve as your participation grade for the day.
- Bring sheet music and sharpened pencils to every rehearsal.
- Be in a seat at the time of the 2nd bell preparing to start rehearsal (getting out music, water bottles, pencils, etc.)
- Use the restroom only if necessary one at a time, leaving his or her cell phone on the piano when out of the room.
- Not chew gum, eat, or drink anything other than water in the choir room, unless specifically discussed with the director. There is to be NO food or drink other than water in the auditorium at any time.
- Not use cell phones during class or concerts unless asked to by the director.
- Not touch school equipment (pianos, SMART Board, etc.) unless given permission by the director.
- Wait to be dismissed from class by the director, not the bell.

*Failure to adhere to any of the above expectations will result in **one** warning, followed by an administrative referral if deemed necessary.*

Grading Policy

Students will receive a variety of grades throughout the year including:

- Weekly rehearsal technique grades
- Dress rehearsal and concert grades
- Sung part checks (repertoire and sight reading)
- Written work
- Projects
- Quizzes/Tests

For all grades, students will be assessed using a 100-point scale. Any late work (first attempt) may be completed within one calendar week of the student's return to school or the assignment's due date, and any make-up work (multiple attempts) may be turned in/redone within the 9-week grading period at the discretion of the director.

A	B	C	D	F
<p>Student is always participating. Student has all materials needed for class. Student is on time and respectful of the class rules and procedures. Student demonstrates outstanding achievement and mastery of the subject area. Student is self-directed in his/her attainment. Student evidences understanding and appreciation of the fundamental concepts of the subject area. Student shows originality in preparation of assignments.</p>	<p>Student is usually participating. Student has most materials needed for class. Student is on time and respectful of the class rules and procedures. Student is rarely reminded to participate. Student displays many of the same characteristics of the "A" student. Student demonstrates above-average scholarship and achievement. Student does his/her assignments thoroughly and accurately and makes creative contributions.</p>	<p>Student is sometimes participating. Student has some materials needed for class. Student is on time and respectful of the class rules and procedures. Student has to be occasionally reminded to participate. Student achieves many of the objectives developed for the class. Student frequently requires individual direction. Student achieves sufficient subject matter mastery. Student finishes most projects or assignments within the time allotted.</p>	<p>Student is rarely participating. Student has some materials needed for class. Student is tardy and/or disrespectful of the class rules and procedures. Student needs frequent reminders to participate. Student frequently falls below the level of achievement of which he/she is capable. Student demonstrates little understanding of instructional objectives. Student may be irregular in attendance and generally fails to make up missed work. Student submits poor work. Student shows little interest in the class and rarely contributes.</p>	<p>Student is never participating. Student has no materials needed for class. Student is tardy and/or disrespectful of the class rules and procedures. Student infrequently completes assignments. Student demonstrates no effort though he/she has ability. Student receives an "0/Missing" and does nothing to warrant its change in the time allowed. Student has excessive absences. Student fails to meet the minimum requirements of the course.</p>

Concerts

Attendance: Concerts are an integral part of the chorus curriculum. **If a student is unable to attend a concert, his or her parent/guardian must give written notice to the director at least one week prior to the date of the concert in order for the absence to be considered for excusal.** Extreme circumstances of illness or family emergency are considered excused absences. Avoidable scheduling conflicts such as work, babysitting, missing a ride, etc. will not be considered excused. **Any student who misses a concert with an excused OR unexcused absence will need to complete a make-up assignment assigned by the director within one week after returning to school. Students with an unexcused absence will only be eligible to make up part of the concert assignment for partial credit.**

Any student who misses a performance for an unexcused reason will find their Marking Period grade adjusted according to the grading policy, as explained in the PWCS Regulation 643.04-1: "Members of performing musical organizations are to be present at all public performances except when excused by the music teacher and/or principal. An unexcused absence from such a performance may lower the achievement grade which the student normally would have received not more than one letter grade for the marking period and, in no case, fail the student for the year."

Etiquette: Students are to be on time, wearing appropriate concert attire, with music prepared and memorized. Students must follow acceptable performance behavior and remain respectful to chaperones and other adults. Students may not use their phones as an audience member.

Attire: In order to give a polished, professional appearance for our performances, each student will be required to purchase and wear the designated uniform for his or her respective ensemble(s). If any student is unable to provide the resources for an outfit, his or her parent(s) can discuss this in confidence with the director. Any attire funds that are left-over after purchasing the uniforms and covering shipping charges are used for covering replacement uniforms for students in need and for class costs (replacing sheet music, etcetera).

Varsity Choir	Men's Choir	Concert Choir	Treble Choir	Vocal Ensemble
Debutante dress \$70	White long-sleeved, button-down dress shirt and black dress pants - to be provided by student	Debutante dress \$70	Debutante dress \$70	Ladies: Debutante dress \$70
Hair bow \$2		White scarf \$10	Bracelet \$10	Pearls \$10
Tiger Singer tee \$10		Tiger Singer tee \$10	Tiger Singer tee \$10	Men: Full tuxedo with orange bow tie/cummerbund \$100
		Striped tie \$10		Tiger Singer tee \$10
	Tiger Singer tee \$10			

Jewelry and Footwear: During performances, the only jewelry permitted is that required by the uniform, with the exception of small post earrings and/or rings. Required footwear is black dress shoes (no sneakers) with black socks for men. Ladies need black flat dress shoes without heels and black hose/knee highs.

Important Notes

Please be advised that current emails on file with PWCS will be used for student and parent communication. Please keep them updated as often as necessary to receive important messages throughout the year.

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BDHS Choral Calendar 2019-2020

September

21 - All-County Chorus Auditions - Patriot High School

October

12 - Senior Honor Choir Auditions - Longwood University

25-26 - All-County Chorus Event - Freedom High School (PWCS)

29 - Fall Concert Dress Rehearsal - BDHS - 2:15-4:30pm

30 - Fall Concert - BDHS - 7pm

November

5 - All-District Chorus Auditions - Potomac High School

21-23 - Senior Honors Choir - The Homestead, Hot Springs, VA

December

2 - Handel's *Messiah* Dress Rehearsal - Hylton Performing Arts Center - **VE** only

3 - Handel's *Messiah* - Hylton Performing Arts Center - **VE** only - rehearsal dates to come

14 - Brentsville Courthouse Concert - 7pm - **VE and TC** only

17 - Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal - BDHS - 2:15-4:30pm

18 - Winter Concert - BDHS - 7pm

February

7-8 - All-District Chorus Event & All-Virginia Chorus Auditions - Stonewall Jackson High School

28 - Stetson University Singers Exchange Day - Patriot HS - **VE** only - times TBD

March

10 - Pre-Assessment Dress Rehearsal - BDHS - 2:15-4:30pm

11 - Pre-Assessment Concert - BDHS - 7pm

20-21 - District Choral Assessment - Colgan High School

April

2-5 - Spring Trip to Nashville

23-25 - All-Virginia Band, Choir, and Orchestra Combined Event - Richmond, VA

May

27 - Spring Show Dress Rehearsal #1 - BDHS - 2:15-5:30pm

28 - Spring Show Dress Rehearsal #2 - BDHS - 2:15-5:30pm

29 - Spring Show/Cabaret - BDHS - 7pm

TBD - Senior Recital and Music Department Banquet - BDHS - 5pm

EVENTS IN BOLD ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL MEMBERS OF BDHS CHOIRS

Additional performance dates may be scheduled. At least two weeks notice will be given before a mandatory performance or rehearsal is added to the calendar.