

Hillsboro High School

Concert Choir/Chamber Singers

2019-2020 Handbook

Class Objective

The primary purpose of the choir program is to create an environment where students can develop a love of music. It is also intended to give students the tools to listen to and analyze music intellectually. Students will learn about basic singing posture, breath control, phrasing, tone color, dynamics, reading musical notation, and the physical development of the voice. The choir provides opportunities for students to perform for parents, peers, and at community functions. Students will also be taught proper etiquette for concerts and performances. These performances are designed to build students' confidence in performing, and also be an enjoyable, fun experience for them.

Attendance

Concert Absences

An absence from a concert, excused or unexcused, will require a makeup assignment to be completed to receive the full 100 points. This assignment will be a recording of the absent student singing all of his/her part from all of the choir pieces that were performed on the concert. This recording will be sent to Mrs. Lemons within one day of the student's return to school. **Students may email or share their recordings with alemons@hillsboroschools.net.**

School Absences

Since we rehearse during the school day, students' attendance is very important to ensure that they are prepared and contributing to the ensemble. Students receive 5 points for every day they are present, actively participating, and adequately prepared. Students will not be penalized for absences. However, if absences exceed **5 per grading period (beginning of quarter to midterm, midterm to end of quarter)**, students will be provided with a makeup assignment (at Mrs. Lemons' discretion) to account for the missed rehearsal time. **These makeup assignments will be shared as a Google document and should be completed and turned in as a shared document with Mrs. Lemons. It is the students' responsibility to check their school email for this assignment that will be shared with them.**

Grading Factors

The majority of your grade depends on your participation in class and at performances. Therefore, it is not difficult to get an "A" if you work hard during class, attend all performances, hand in all assignments, and complete any makeup work. However, it is also easy to fail this class if you choose not to participate and follow the rules during class, if you choose not to attend performances (or do the makeup assignment), or if you choose not to turn in notable points. In short, your grade completely depends on your hard work and commitment!

Grades are determined by the following:

1. Classroom participation and behavior (5 points per rehearsal)

- Are you on time for class?
- Do you have your folder and pencil?
- Do you have your music ready for rehearsal?
- Is your folder complete?
- Are you singing and not talking?
- Do you pay attention when Mrs. Lemons is talking to the group?
- Are you putting forth your best effort?

2. Notable Points

-Choir students are required to earn five notable points each quarter. See the attached notable points list. Points will carry over - for example, if you earn 10 notable points in the first quarter, you will be done for the first and second quarter. If you fail to earn all of your notable points per quarter, your entire choir grade will drop one letter grade from where it stands. For example, if you have an A before notable points are applied, and you earn 4 out of the 5 points, you will receive a B for the quarter. You must turn in Notable Points sheets to the drawers on the choir folder cabinet. Mrs. Lemons will be keeping track of Notable Points through a Google document that will be shared with all students so that they may view it. Students will need to periodically check this document.

There will be multiple opportunities for notable points throughout each quarter by volunteering for different fundraising activities. Mrs. Lemons will announce these in choir.

3. Concert/Performance attendance and behavior (100 points per concert)

-All concerts and performances will count as a large part of your grade! This includes, but is not limited to the fall variety show, the Christmas concert, the musical, and the spring concert. 10 points will be deducted for every 5 minutes you are late for the designated call time. **Students and parents are responsible for arranging transportation to the concerts. If this is an issue, please see Mrs. Lemons so that we can work something out! Do not wait until the day before a performance. There are many other students and parents who would be happy to provide a ride to and/or from performances.**

4. Operetta Performances (100 points)

-All students will be involved in the performances of the operetta, whether it be cast, crew, pit, concessions, ushering, hair and makeup, spotlights, etc. Mrs. Lemons will assign these jobs. Students **MUST BE ON TIME AND ARE NOT EXCUSED FROM ANY DRESS REHEARSALS OR PERFORMANCES.** Coming late or not at all will severely impact your grade. Each performance is worth 33 points. If you are late, you lose all 33 of those points. **Any attempt to sabotage the show or other actors will NOT BE TOLERATED. You will lose all points for this grade, and, depending on the severity of the act, may be dismissed from the show.**

5. Operetta Rehearsals (100 points)

-Students are given a schedule of rehearsals in October long before rehearsals begin in January. If a student has a conflict with these rehearsals, they must be listed on their audition contract. Everything else will be unexcused. If a student attends all of their rehearsals **ON TIME**, they will receive an A+. One unexcused absence will move the student's grade to an A. Two will move it to a B. **After three unexcused absences, the student will be dismissed and/or replaced in the show.** Students who are not in the cast or crew of the show will receive a no count for this grade.

6. Final Exam (20% of overall grade)

-There will be a written final exam at the end of each semester. There will be some questions about technique, singing, theory, vocabulary, etc. Students will be provided with a study guide. The exam may also be a concert critique where students will be required to provide constructive criticism of their performance.

Performance Attire Standards

It is the sole responsibility of each member to appear in proper performance attire for each occasion specified by the director. Members must observe these specific uniform standards and may not appear with the choir until the appropriate attire standards are met. No student will be excluded because of financial reasons. If you cannot afford the appropriate attire, please talk to the director immediately. Do not wait until the week before the concert to notify the director that you do not have the proper attire. Appropriate concert attire is required at all performances. Students who come to a performance inappropriately dressed may be asked to leave and will receive an unexcused absence for the performance. See below for specifics concerning concert attire.

Concert Choir - Christmas and Spring Concerts

Men:

Black shoes with black socks

Black pants

Shirt of your choice

Women:

Black pants or long black skirt

Black dress shoes or dress sandals

Shirt of your choice

Chamber Singers - Both Christmas Concerts and Spring Concerts

Men:

Assigned CLEAN tux with all parts

Black dress shoes

Women:

Assigned CLEAN dress

Black dress shoes

Chamber Singers - Memorial Day, informal Christmas performances

Men:

Black dress pants (these can be your tux pants)

Black dress shoes

White button up dress shirt

Women:

Short black dress

Black dress shoes

Variety Show dress code for both ensembles: solid black top, jeans, your choice of shoes

*If we are wearing robes, you may wear a T-shirt under the robe so that you stay cool. However, do not de-robe until the entire concert is over.

Inappropriate items include (but is not limited to!): halter tops, spaghetti straps, shirts cut too low, shorts/skirts that are too short or too tight, tennis shoes, jeans, etc. If you have to question whether or not it is appropriate, it is probably inappropriate!

Classroom Rules and Expectations

1. Be respectful to all people, places, and things. Treat others as you would like to be treated!
2. A break in rehearsal is not an invitation to talk to your neighbor.
3. Come prepared to class with your pencil, folder, and paper.
4. No gum, food, or drink in the classroom, unless permission is given by me.
5. All HHS handbook rules apply in the classroom.
6. Physical altercations between students will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal from choir.

*Students are to use the restroom between classes. If there is a medical condition in which you must use the restroom daily, please bring a note from your parents and/or doctor.

Classroom Behavior Consequences

As the teacher and director, I reserve the right to deal with behaviors as I see fit. The severity of the behavior will affect the consequence that I provide. Do what you are supposed to be doing at all times, and disciplinary action will not be necessary! In the event of an excessive or repeated behavior, such as talking, chewing gum, etc., I will issue warnings before issuing a referral.

Entering and Exiting the Classroom

Students are NOT allowed to leave the classroom without Mrs. Lemons' permission. Students will automatically be issued a referral if they leave the classroom without Mrs. Lemons' permission.

Cell Phones and iPods

The choir room is a "cell phone-free" zone. Students are to immediately put their phones in the holder labeled with their name upon entering the classroom. Mrs. Lemons will monitor students at the cell phone holder to prevent theft. Attendance will be taken using this method, so if a phone is missing, you will be counted absent. If you do not have a phone, you must take a colored index card and place it in the holder every day.

Performance Behavior Expectations

1. Students must be appropriately dressed.
2. Students must be on time (including warm-ups before the concert). The call time will be announced in class multiple times.
3. The Hillsboro High School Handbook policies and rules apply to students when a performance is given outside of school. You are responsible for knowing the rules and consequences in the HHS handbook.
4. The students' attendance is more than a physical presence. Bring your best effort to each performance.
5. Physical alterations between students will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal from choir.

Music Folders

Each student will be assigned a choir folder in which they share with a folder partner. Students are responsible for any damage done to their folders and music. If damaged music is turned back in, both students will share the cost of the music. Music folders will stay in the choir room and are not to be taken out without permission from me.

Parent Contact

Due to the high volume of activities outside of class, staying in contact with parents is vital to our success. I will be communicating with parents three different ways:

Remind – Remind is a program that allows me to text or email parents so that neither one of us will give out our personal phone numbers. You can sign up for text messages or emails, or both. This will be used to remind parents of due dates for permission slips, rehearsals, activities, concerts, etc. I hope this decreases the amount of notes that must be sent home with students. Please see the sheet attached with more information on how to sign up. I **highly encourage** parents to sign up for this service. Students are so busy that I hope reminders from me will help parents keep these busy schedules organized. Students may also sign up for this service. There are two Remind groups - HHS Concert Choir and HHS Chamber Singers. Both groups are the same that I have used in the past, so there is no need to sign up again if you already have in previous years.

Website – Please visit my website at <http://hillsboroschools.schoolwires.net/Page/1441> for important information. The syllabus, cast lists, and other important documents and announcements will be posted there. You may also go to hillsboroschools.net, go to “Activities” and choose “Choir” to access my website.

Email – I will occasionally send out emails. However, I hope that the Remind program will eliminate the need for most emails. Please provide your email on the signature sheet if you would like to receive these.

If at all possible, please avoid calling me at school. I go back and forth between the junior high, so I am rarely here to answer the phone. Email is always the best way to get in contact with me. Of course, if a phone call must be made, please leave a voicemail, and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Students are responsible for taking all notes, permission slips, etc. home.

Students are to turn in all permission slips, etc. to the tray on the top of the folder cabinet. This is to prevent slips from getting misplaced or lost. Do not place anything on Mrs. Lemons’ desk without letting her know first!

Notable Points

Students must acquire 5 notable points each quarter.

1 Point

1. Attending a concert/performance (This includes the HHS Band, but not the HHS Choir)
2. Performing a vocal/instrumental solo in class
3. One-page review on a magazine article chosen by Mrs. Lemons
4. Performing a solo at a concert/performance
5. Good behavior (no points deducted for the entire quarter)
6. Signed handbook contract by student and parent by August 25th
7. Auditioning for the operetta cast
8. Selling \$25 worth of items for the fundraiser
9. Filling out a "Notable Points Performance Critique" or a "Notable Points Performer" sheet

2 Points

1. Choir Accompanists
2. Section Leaders
3. Choir Officers
4. Singing the National Anthem at a home sporting event
5. Selling \$50 worth of items for the cheesecake fundraiser

3 Points

1. Auditioning for the ILMEA District Festival (band or choir)
2. Competing at IHSA Solo and Ensemble (band or choir)
3. Perfect attendance at operetta rehearsals
4. Selling \$100 worth of items for the cheesecake fundraiser

5 Points

1. Singing the National Anthem at operetta performances
2. Attending the ILMEA District Festival (band or choir)
3. Top seller for the cheesecake fundraiser
4. Being selected for the Millikin Vocal Festival
5. Competing in Millikin Vocal Festival Solo Competition
6. Selling \$200 worth of items for fundraiser

10 Points

1. Attending the All-State Conference in Peoria (band or choir)
2. Receiving a "Best of the Day" award at IHSA Solo and Ensemble
3. Winning the Millikin Vocal Festival Solo Competition
4. Selling \$300 worth of items for fundraiser

Watch and listen for announcements for other opportunities to earn notable points!

Handbook Contract 2019-2020

The purpose of this handbook is so that our choir program can be as successful as possible! Because of the size of the group we have and the many activities that we participate in, it is vital that choir parents and students abide by the guidelines and expectations laid out for them in this handbook. Parents, please take the time to read through this syllabus carefully with your son/daughter and return only this back page to Mrs. Lemons by **Tuesday, August 27th**. Please note that members from both ensembles must have this contract signed and put on file in the choir room in order for them to participate in the program.

"I understand that expectations of this classroom and music program. I will do my best to follow classroom procedures and the rules in the Hillsboro High School Handbook. Furthermore, I acknowledge that as part of this choral ensemble it is mandatory that I attend all concerts and performances or complete the makeup assignment."

Print Student Name

Print Parent Name

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date

Parents, please don't forget to sign up for the Remind service so that I can text and email reminders.

I may occasionally send out emails – please provide your email so that you can receive these:

Parent Email