

Bennington High School Vocal Music Department Choral Hand Book



**Concert Choir
Treble Choir
Bass Choir
Out of the Blue
Music Theory & Musicianship
Intro to Theater/Stage Craft/Theater Production**

2020-2021

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Performing Ensemble Objectives

- Students will learn the mechanics of music theory.
- Students will sight singing using kinesthetic rhythm counting and solfege.
- Students will use healthy vocal pedagogy while singing.
- Students will use critical thinking skills to analyze and interpret musical scores.
- Students will collectively use these skills to perform choral literature.

Music Theory & Musicianship Objectives

- Students will learn the advanced mechanics of music theory.
- Students will compose and arrange music.
- Students will be able to write on paper and in notation software.
- Students will develop musicianship skills through dictation, individual and group performances, and independent literature study.

Introduction to Theater/Stage Craft/ Theater Production

- Students will be introduced to basic acting techniques through hands on performance.
- Students will use and learn basic stage craft and design skills.
- Students will use and learn about theater production: lights, sound, management.

Classroom expectations

You will need the following every day in class:

- A pencil
- Music folder & music
- Course materials

Phones are not to be out during rehearsal. It is disrespectful to our ensemble and each other if we share our time with our phones. If there is an emergency that requires you to be in contact with someone, I need to know about it, and approve it before rehearsal, then you will make that communication in the hallway.

Restroom use should be taken care of before or after class. If a student has to use the restroom during class, he/she can go whenever he/she wants, but will make up 5 minutes for every minute he/she is out of class. Choir is a performance driven class and students must be in the room to contribute to our team.

Choir is a team activity and it is essential that we honor our time together by being to class on time. Students must be in the room when the tardy bell rings and in their place with needed materials when the director, officers, or section leaders begin the rehearsal. There will be consequences for chronically tardy students in choir.

There is no gum, candy, or food in our rehearsal space during class unless you are told otherwise.

Choir members are responsible for their folder and all sheet music that is in it. Students may take their folder and sheet music out of the room, but must have it back for the next rehearsal. Students that do not have their folder are not be prepared for class and will notate this on their weekly performance evaluation. Students are responsible for the replacement cost of music and folders if they are missing or damaged, just like a text book.

The director has the right to restrict students from a performance due to absences, lack of participation or preparation which could negatively impact the success of the rest of the ensemble.

Grading

Homework Written work must be completed before class starts the day it is due. Homework is an opportunity to practice.

Quizzes (20pts) will be completed during class on the designated date. If a student does not like his/her quiz grade, he/she may retake the quiz as many times as the student wants outside of class. The highest quiz grade will be recorded in the grade book.

Performance Assessments (10pts) are used to track music mastery in performing ensembles and to show skill mastery in sight reading assessments. Students are responsible to know the music for their voice part on a performance assessment day. Students will be recorded while singing with the entire group and are responsible for all notes and rhythms in the passage. This is a pass/fail assessment. Students who do not pass the first time, have 1 week to come in for a retake or the student can record the passage on their own and submit a recording.

Projects (variable) are practical application of skills or concepts that are explored from class. Students will be asked to work in groups and independently on projects.

Weekly Performance Evaluation (10pts) Choir is a performance based class and students must demonstrate rehearsal skills. The weekly performance grade is a measure of the students' rehearsal technique and will be evaluated using a rubric. Once the rehearsal

environment is established, students will fill out the rubric as a self-assessment. Mr. Hanke will maintain the ability to make changes to their rubric to reflect their performance in class. Students who are absent the entire week need to email Mr. Hanke stating they were absent for the week, and their WPE grade will be excluded from the gradebook. Late performance evaluations are lowered by 20% and are no longer a self-assessment.

Performances (40pts) are worth about twice the quiz grade. Performances are a comprehensive assessment. Students must demonstrate skills on stage and in the audience which requires them to stay for the entire performance and complete a concert reflection to finish the assessment. Performances are pass/fail grade. Students with an unexcused absences from a graded performance may be removed from Concert Choir.

Concerts & Performances

Concerts are a culminating experience that allows the students to demonstrate skills they have practiced throughout the class. Students must be on time and in concert dress for the performance. Graded performances are mandatory attendance for all students. If there is a scheduling conflict and the student cannot attend the concert, a written notification from a guardian is required to excuse the absence **one month before the concert**. The student will complete a music performance check-off in place of the performance. Work is not an excuse to miss concerts. **Students who are absent from school or sick on a concert day will need to complete a music check-off as well.**

The performance check-off is a way for students to make up missing concert points by demonstrating music mastery of the performance literature. Students are responsible for recording their vocal part for all song selections that are part of the performance. It is expected that the student is able to perform all notes, rhythms, diction, pronunciation, phrase shaping and musical interpretations during the check-off. The music check-off is pass/fail (Just like the performance grade). If a student fails a music check-off, they will earn 20 of the 40 points, and will have the opportunity to resubmit a new performance check-off after they have practiced. Music performance check-off needs to be submitted before the performance. A late music check-off will receive at max, 30/40 pts.

Concert Attire

What we wear during a performance reflects upon the unity of the ensemble and helps dictate how our music is perceived. If a student needs clarification about the dress code, ask at least one week before the concert. If a student is not dressed appropriately for the performance, he/she may not be allowed to perform. The purpose of the dress code is to create a unified visual image that allows the audience to focus on the music.

Concert Choir

Members in this ensemble wear concert black.

Tops: black shirts or blouses (only black including buttons). Sleeve length should be between the elbow and wrist. Short sleeved and sleeveless tops may be layered under a black cardigan or over shirt. Sleeves should not be rolled up. A black neck or bow tie is optional.

Bottoms: pants with black dress socks or below-knee or longer skirts/dresses with black tights or hose underneath. Black should go all the way to the shoe.

Shoes: black, close-toed dress shoes with black dress socks or tights. Shoes should be flats or short heeled.

Treble Choir

Members in this ensemble wear formal black, white and royal blue dress clothes.

The school dress code should be followed.

Tops: black, white and blue shirts or blouses. Short sleeved and sleeveless tops may be layered under a cardigan or over shirt. Sleeves should not be rolled up.

Bottoms: black, white and blue pants, long skirts/dresses.

Shoes: black, white and blue, close-toed dress shoes. Shoes should be flats or short heeled.

Bass Choir

Members in this ensemble wear black, white and blue dress clothes. The school dress code should be followed.

Tops: black, white and blue dress shirts or polos tucked in. Sleeves should not be rolled up.

Bottoms: black dress pants.

Shoes: black, close-toed dress shoes with black socks.

All Students

Minimal jewelry should be worn while in concert dress.

Hair style and color should not distract from the ensemble.

No cologne or perfume should be worn, but please wear deodorant.

No denim.

If you have concerns about getting the concert attire, talk to Mr Hanke at least 2 weeks before the performance date and we can provide concert attire for you.