

Hortonville High School

Choir Handbook

Director: Justin Foth

Voice Lesson Assistant: Beth Krepline



Choir Handbook



Welcome HASD Choir Students!

I am looking forward to a great year working with you and helping to provide and foster growth toward musical excellence. You are now a part of a long tradition of high quality music here at Hortonville High School. We will strive to understand music, and ourselves more deeply throughout this year's musical journey. The rewards of being a choir member are numerous: the thrill of performing in concerts at school and in the community, the excitement of working with guest clinicians, and most importantly, the enjoyment of learning, creating, and expressing yourselves through music each day. Hard work and commitment make these rewards a reality. A choir is a community of learners dependent on working together effectively to achieve the best musical experience possible. The purpose of these first few pages is to outline our plan for success. Being excellent boils down to hard work and passion. Let's work together to make this year a great one!

- Mr. Justin Foth
Choir Director

Grading

This year, we will be continuing with standards based grading system for the second year here in the HHS Choir program. The goal of standards based grading is to more accurately describe what you, as a student, has mastered and identify additional work that can be done in order to reach success. The detail in the standards allows you, the student, to more readily address the specific strengths and areas of growth you personally possess.

With standard based grading, your grades will not be solely based attendance, or how much effort a teacher perceives the student is putting forth, but instead it is based on the student's true ability to perform a specific skill. This is the rubric we will use per standard assessed:

| 0-No Evidence | Level 1-Beginning | Level 2-Approaching | Level 3-Proficient | Level 4-Exceeds Expectations |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| Student did not provide enough evidence of learning. (Student must be reengaged in the learning process.) | Student provided simplistic evidence of learning with many errors and/or omissions. | Student provided simplistic evidence of learning with some errors and/or omissions. | Student independently provided both simple and complex evidence of learning with accuracy. | Student independently provided evidence of accurate learning, in-depth inferences, and interactions with concepts in ways that exceed what was taught. |

The standards that the student will be assessed on based on the Wisconsin Standards for Music. A full list of the standards can be seen on the choir website:

www.hasd.org/faculty/justinfoth/choirstandards.cfm

These standards will then be converted and averaged into an alphabetic representation for report cards and progress reports. Students and parents can see their progress on Skyward as they are updated.

| Letter Grade | Rubric Score |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| A Range | All 3&4's |
| B Range | 2.67-2.99 Average with no 1's in a LT |
| C Range | 2.33-2.66 Average with no 1's in a LT |
| D Range | 2.0-2.32 Average with no 1's in a LT |
| F | Any 1's in any Learning Target |
| +/- determination will be based on the final exam and teacher discretion. | |

Make-up Work Policy

Students will be allowed to retake any failed quiz or assignment. They must provide an example of what they have done to prepare for the make up work and how they are better prepared for the task before being allowed to re-assess.

Behavior

Each student is expected to consistently display appropriate behavior during rehearsals, performance, and school related activities. All school rules also apply during all music related activities.

Specific Expectations:

1. Have all your materials (i.e. folder, pencil, choir booklet, etc.) in your spot and be ready to learn by the bell.
2. Support your instrument (voice) with proper posture and breath.
3. Leave all food and beverages, except water, outside of the classroom.
4. Make sure all of your materials are in good order (sharpened pencil in folder, music and booklet in bindings in folder).



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5. Practice good listening skills and wait to be called on with raised hand.
6. Encourage one another with positivity and kind words, even when the going gets rough.
7. Practice proper Concert Etiquette (see page three).

Discipline Guidelines

Behavioral consequences for not following classroom expectations.

- Warning (may just be a look or a point)
- Conversation at the bell and email/call home
- Write up for referral

Cell phone use:

- If the red sign in out I shouldn't not see a phone even if it's just sitting next to you.
- If yellow you can have your phones but they should not be out unless told to do so.
- Green you can have your phones out if it doesn't distract from the class.

Consequences for improper phone usage

- If your phone is out at non-permissioned time it will be mine until the end of the hour.
- If your phone is out more than once in any week it can be collected at the front office at the end of the day.
- If there is arguing about the phone or arguing about handing it over there will be an automatic referral.

Attendance

1. Students are expected to attend class each day. Students are responsible for all work that is missed:
 - a. Choir is a class with credit toward graduation. Students work daily to develop individual vocal and musical skills as well as contribute to the group sound. All rehearsals are important-this is a participation AND performance based class!
 - b. Students should make up any missed work within two class periods of returning from any absence.

- c. Students are encouraged to meet with others in their section to rehearse and review any notes from a missed rehearsal.
2. Students will participate in all performances and after school activities that involve HHS choir. Choir involves a commitment of time outside of the school day. ***Please refer to the choir calendar for a list of these requirements!***
 - a. Pre-excused absences from a performance, or extra rehearsal, is required with two weeks' notice.
 - b. Emergency circumstances will be considered on an individual basis. Please notify Mr. Foth if an emergency arises that prohibits you from attending a performance.
 - c. Missed excused performances will require a make-up assignment to be obtained from Mr. Foth before the excuse is processed or immediately upon return after an emergency absence.

Homework

1. Written homework will be limited, but time and energy will be made up in mental concentration, and physical effort in rehearsal, performance, and practice time.
2. Written work from this booklet will not be graded but is considered practice for the test. It is highly encouraged to go over the concepts taught in class and practice the materials on your own. Quizzes and tests (**other than quarter or semester finals**) can be retaken one time. Material in this booklet and material presented in class is exactly what will be presented on tests and quizzes.
3. No extra credit will be available.



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Lessons

1. Students will have six to seven weekly lessons per quarter. Lessons will be ten to fifteen minutes in length and fall during a study hall, choir, or before/after school.
2. Students will sign up for a lesson time the first week of the semester. This time will remain for the entire semester. If a change in scheduling needs to occur, please speak with your lesson instructor.
3. Lessons allow for individualize instruction and allow the student to grow more quickly. Lessons are also used to diagnose individual errors and to allow for performance quizzes and tests.
4. Students who miss a lesson will fill out a missed lesson form which includes why the lesson was missed, and a plan for making the lesson up. **No more than two lessons can be completed in a week and lessons must be have at least one break day between them.**
5. If a student misses more than two lessons in a quarter, an email or phone call will be made to the parent to inform them of failing expectation.

Music & Supplies

1. Students will be assigned a folder with music for class. Each individual is responsible for the folder and its contents. Charges will be assessed for missing or damaged music.
2. Only erasable pencil should be used to mark music. We will go over proper marking symbols in class. ***Any artistic drawings should occur in a separate portfolio or notebook, but please share!***
3. You may take your folder home to practice, but be sure to bring it to class each day.
4. Please treat all equipment in the choir room as if it is your most beloved and used object (e.g. your cell phone).
5. Practice rooms are available for practicing music during study hall, they are not places to hang out with your friends. Students need a pass from Mr. Foth to use these rooms.

Concert Attire

1. Robes for Polar Voices will be assigned to each student in class.
2. In addition, ***ladies*** must wear:
 - a. Black pants
 - b. Black skirt with black/nude stockings.
 - c. Tops will be covered by the robe, but must be school appropriate and tasteful (no hooded sweatshirts or bulky material may not be worn underneath the concert robes).
 - d. Black closed toed shoes with no more than 1-2 inch heel are also required (*remember, we will be standing on risers for the entire performance!*).
3. In addition, ***gentlemen*** must wear:
 - a. Black pants and black socks.
 - b. Tops will be covered by the robe, but must be school appropriate and tasteful (no hooded sweatshirts or bulky material may not be worn underneath the concert robes).
 - c. Black closed toed **dress** shoes that are comfortable are also required (*remember, we will be standing on risers for the performance!*).
4. All Arctic Singers members will be fitted for a tux or concert dress. Extra jewelry not in the uniform should not be worn. All hair must be out of the faces of the performers. If this is not the case students will be provided with a rubber band to tie their hair back before the concert.
 - a. Ladies must wear black **closed toed** shoes with no more than 1-2 inch heel with either black or nude colored stockings.
 - b. Gentlemen must wear solid black dress shoes with black socks.
5. Uniforms are to remain at the school and cannot be taken home. If there is damage or excessive staining, you will be charged a replacement fee.
6. **All assigned necklaces, button covers, and other uniform pieces must be returned, or you will be charged a replacement fee.**



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Concert Etiquette

Thank you to all adult audience members for your support of our efforts to teach concert etiquette to the students in the Hortonville Area School District.

1. Please come early to find your seat- this is a great time to read program notes or visit with concert-going friends. If you are detained, please wait until the music has stopped and there is applause to find the nearest available seat. Please also remain seated until the intermission or end of the performance. If you must leave, please wait for an appropriate time between sections or ensembles. The doors slam loudly and can be distracting to other concert goers and performers.
2. Silence is golden during the performance – music is created on a canvas of silence! Please turn off phones, pagers, watches, etc. Talking during a music performance in a concert hall is not appropriate. This can be difficult for young children. If a child begins to cry or fuss, he/she should be immediately taken out of the concert hall, comforted and settled before returning.
3. Applause is encouraged but please hold your applause until the very end of any multi-movement work. Also, if you anticipate the applause you may miss the final statement of a work – many composers feature extended cadences or long silences in the works (Watch the conductor’s hands!). It is not traditional to applaud for soloists in the middle of a piece, unless it is an improvised solo in jazz. Whistling and yelling are not appropriate when applauding a concert performance.
4. Food or drink are never allowed in an auditorium or concert hall. Please also refrain from using flash photography as it distracts the performer.

Contact Information

1. HHS Choir will send out important information via skyward. Please be sure your email address is up to date in the program.
2. The choir website is a great way to keep up-to-date with events going on in the choir. This is also the place where you can find the parent volunteer form, and any other important information regarding the choir.
www.hasd.org/faculty/justinfoth/index.cfm
3. Please sign up for the remind app to get updates and reminders of events in the choir. You can sign up for any and all of the classes below. Messages will be specific to each group.
 - a. Polar Voices Students Text
“@hhs pvchoir” to 81010
 - b. Arctic Singers Students Text
“@hhs aschoir” to 81010
4. The best way to reach us is through email. Be sure to leave an appropriate subject line so if your email gets caught in the spam filter I will be able to quickly identify it as a parent or student.
5. Please feel free to contact us with any questions, concerns, or positive notes.
 - a. **Justin Foth**
Choir Director
Email: justinfoth@hasd.org
(920) 779-7933 ext. 11133
 - b. **Beth Krepline**
Choir Lessons Assistant
Email: bethkrepline@hasd.org
(920) 779-7933 ext. 11108



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Performance Dates: (be sure to add these dates to your calendar)

| | |
|---|---|
| Friday, September 20 th Time: During Class | International Peace Day Auditorium |
| Friday, September 27 th Time: Arctic Singers 6:30 in Choir Room | Homecoming "Star Spangled Banner" Football Field |
| Friday, October 11 th Time: 5:00 | Tailgate Party Football Field |
| Thursday-Saturday, November 7 th -9 th Call: TBA Performance: 7:00pm | "Seussical" Auditorium |
| Sunday, November 10 th Call: TBA Performance: 2:00pm | "Seussical" Auditorium |
| Friday, December 13 th Time: 12:30pm – 3:00pm | HHS, HMS, GMS Choir Workshop Auditorium |
| Thursday, December 19 th Call: 6:30pm Performance: 7:00pm | HHS Choir December Concert Auditorium |
| Friday, December 20 th Time: All Day | Caroling Tour Various stops and all HASD schools |
| Saturday, February 29 nd Time: All Day | Solo/Ensemble Festival Seymour |
| Friday, March 13 th Time: 7:00pm | Senior Recital Auditorium |
| Tuesday, March 17 th Call: 6:30pm Performance: 7:00pm | HHS Choir Concert Auditorium |
| Saturday, April 25 th Time: All Day | State Solo/Ensemble UW Oshkosh |
| Thursday, May 14 th Call: 6:15pm Performance: 7:00pm | HHS Choir Concert Auditorium |
| Friday, May 15 th Time: All Day | Caroling Tour Various stops and all HASD schools |
| Wednesday, May 27 th Seniors only | HHS Graduation HHS Field House |



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Student Contract

Please read the handbook, complete the information below and return to Mr. Foth by Friday September 6th. By signing this form you acknowledge that you have read, accept the guidelines outlined in this booklet and you have confirmed all performance dates.

Date: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian's name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Student unisex adult T-Shirt Size: _____

Does the student have piano experience Yes No If Yes how long have they studied? _____

Who is their private teacher and what do they teach if the student takes lessons?

Please enter your information into this form to volunteer: <https://goo.gl/forms/yIDhwAhMZJ0baqf42>