

Blanchester High School Music Department 2016-2017 Concert Choir Course Policies

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to, and welcome back to, the Blanchester Concert Choir. I look forward to working with you through out the year and welcome the musical challenges ahead. Thank you for choosing to come along on this musical journey!

Attached you will find classroom policies and procedures designed to help rehearsals run smoothly and efficiently, instill a strong sense of personal responsibility in the students, and continue to challenge us all to higher standards of musical achievement.

The choir will study a variety of literature in many styles, periods, genres, and varying difficulty levels to assure a well-rounded musical experience for all. Each student will be issued a method book to increase each student's knowledge and skills in both individual music reading and overall ensemble performance.

Students will be assessed in a number of ways including a weekly classroom assessment, recorded assignments, individual singing quizzes (quick checks), as well as performance achievement and attendance. Please note the attached performance schedule, classroom expectations, assessment procedures, and the student-parent contract. Please note the weekly musicianship and concert performance checklists can be found on the music department website listed below.

Students are required to attend performances as scheduled. Any additions to the rehearsal/performance schedules will be announced well in advance. Additional performances may include community events, festival appearances, small ensembles, and community service opportunities.

Please contact me with any questions you have at the number or email below. I usually check my messages before and after school.

Please carefully read over the attached forms, note performance dates on your home calendars, then sign and return the attached form by Friday, August 19 to indicate you have read and understand the Concert Choir Course Policies.

Musically Yours,

David K. Wood, Choir Director
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Concert Choir Classroom Expectations

1. Be on time, in your assigned seats.
2. Be respectful to receive instruction, and allow others to receive instruction.
3. Have classroom materials: PENCILS, assigned folder with sheet music, sight reading book(s), and materials. Each tardy will receive a 15 minute teacher detention (after school) to be served that day, or the following school day. At the third unexcused tardy the student will lose one letter grade according to school policy.
4. Students are expected to keep materials issued to them in good condition. These materials include a folder, sheet music, and method books. Students are issued a numbered slot in a cabinet to store these when not taken home for study. Students will be required to pay for missing or damaged folders, music, books, or other school materials used.
5. Students **will not** be permitted to leave class to go to their lockers.
6. Restroom: School policy is for restroom trips to be in the last ten minutes of class. If a student needs the restroom, the student will ask, fill out **their own planner**, and wait to be given permission to leave for this reason. Students will also fill out a classroom Sign-out sheet.
7. No gum/candy, food, or drink in the rehearsal room or onstage at anytime.
8. No cell phones or electronic devices in the rehearsal room or onstage. They will be confiscated according to school policy.
9. The music room is our place to come together to make music; treat it as you would your own home. This serves as a reflection of our pride in our choir. Creative corrective actions will be issued to students for infractions.
10. No other class work is done in choir. We have choir to focus on choir!
11. Concert dress is formal in nature. Students must follow these guidelines to maintain a classy appearance for the group. ALL ATTIRE MUST BE PROPERLY BUTTONED and TUCKED IN.
Ladies: comfortable, not close fitting, white blouses with long sleeves and shirt tails that tuck in (spring time short sleeves), long solid black skirts (BELOW THE KNEE WHEN SITTING), preferably floor length, hose, and closed-toe black shoes. Ladies may choose to wear solid black dress slacks instead of a skirt.
Gentlemen: white long sleeved shirt and seasonably appropriate tie, solid black dress slacks, black socks, black dress shoes, and a black jacket if desired.
12. Absences: It is the student's responsibility to contact Mr. Wood to make up any required work missed during absences of any kind.
13. Inappropriate actions will result in: A) Grades lowered according to the attached rubrics AND/OR B) 1st offense – verbal reprimand/warning, 2nd offense – one hour detention assigned, 3rd offense – parent call, and/or 2 hour detention, 4th or higher offense – Discipline Referral to the Assistant Principal/Principal. Please remember students earn a grade for choir, choir is a team effort, so holding the choir up with your poor choices is unacceptable.

Assessment

- ❖ 40% Musicianship
- ❖ 40% Performances
- ❖ 15% Singing test/quizzes
- ❖ 5% Written assignments

Singing tests will sometimes have a rubric that gives descriptors of various levels of performance achievement. Written assignments beyond straight forward worksheets will have rubrics assigning point values to various content areas for that assignment. Some singing tests will in some cases require recording using digital media. For this we have access to SmartMusic software, for which you will need to create a student account.

Any written work is to be neat and legible. Late work **will not** be accepted. In the case of student absence one extra day will be given to make up work assigned during the absence. Unexcused absences result in a zero. Cheating, or copying work for any assignment will result in disciplinary consequences and receiving a zero on the assignment.

Extra credit will only be offered to students who have at least a 70% average. Extra credit can be earned by attending **pre-approved** cultural events. Following the event you must write a one page summary of the event, and present a ticket stub or program. Extra points awarded may vary by event.

Various opportunities will come up through the year to attend honor choir events outside of school. For consideration in these events, students must be earning a 93% or better, and have ZERO discipline issues. This may seem like a high expectation, but when students attend these events, as always they represent themselves, Blanchester Schools, their church if they have one, their parents, the Blanchester Choirs, and their choir director. Therefore, only the most well-behaved, responsible, and highly qualified student musicians will be selected for nomination and recommendation to honor choirs.

Attendance Policy

1. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required.
2. Excused absences will include personal illness, illness in the family, death in the family, or some other unforeseen emergency as determined by the director.
3. Directors must be notified in advance of a performance absence.
4. Work is not an excused absence from rehearsals or performances. Arrangements must be made with the employer well in advance to allow students time for choir. Employers are usually cooperative if they know of the conflicts well in advance.
5. Attendance at school the day (at least ½ day) of a performance is required. (Weekend performances are exempt from this rule)
6. Unexcused absences will result in a grade of “0” for the rehearsal or performance.

Weekly Musicianship Rubric

Each choir student earns a weekly musicianship grade.
Listed below are the criteria for determining each week's grade.

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| 20 Points | The student always has needed materials at hand and in order for class: pencil, music folder, sheet music, and method books.
The student always actively engages in rehearsal without hesitation.
The student consistently demonstrates proper posture for singing. |
| 15 Points | The student wastes valuable time by having to search for materials once.
OR
The student is found not using proper posture once during the week.
OR
The student is found not actively engaging in rehearsal once. |
| 10 Points | The student is missing materials or has to search for them on two occasions.
OR
The student is found not using proper posture on two occasions.
OR
The student is found not actively engaging in rehearsal two times. |
| 5 Points | The student is missing materials or has to search for them on three occasions
OR
The student is found not using proper posture on three occasions.
OR
The student is found not actively engaging in rehearsal three times. |
| 0 Points | The student is missing materials or has to search for them on four occasions
OR
The student is found not using proper posture on four occasions.
OR
The student is found not actively engaging in rehearsal four times. |

Performance Assessment Rubric

Listed below are the criteria for determining each performance grade.

- 100 Points The student knows his/her musical parts and is able to perform them well.
The student always has needed materials for the performance.
The student engages in performance without hesitation.
The student consistently demonstrates proper stage etiquette.
The student is on-time (referred to as “call time”) for the warm-up or loading time for the performance.
The student wears proper attire as outlined in the course policy.
- 75 points The student knows his/her parts, but does not perform them well.
OR—The student does not have needed materials readily available for the performance.
OR—The student causes definite hesitation to the performance.
OR—The student must be reminded to demonstrate proper stage etiquette.
OR—The student is late for the call time.
OR—The student is missing one item of the proper attire. The student will only be allowed to perform at the discretion of Mr. Wood.
- 50 Points The student does not perform well due to not knowing his/her parts
OR—The student is missing one of the needed materials for the performance.
OR—The student causes any distraction during the event.
OR—The student is reminded more than once of proper stage etiquette.
OR—The student is more than 10 minutes late for call time.
OR—The student is missing two items of the proper attire. The student will only be allowed to perform at the discretion of Mr. Wood.
- 25 Points The student does not contribute musically to the performance.
OR—The student is missing two needed materials for the performance.
OR—The student causes more than one distraction during the event.
OR—The student refuses to use proper stage etiquette.
OR—The student is more than 15 minutes late for call time.
OR—The student is missing three items of the proper attire. The student may not be allowed to perform.
- 0 Points The student misses the performance with no medical or true family emergency explanation. “I did not have a ride” is a not a true emergency when the calendar is published so far in advance.
OR—The student is missing three or more needed items for the performance.
OR—The student causes more than two distractions during the event.
OR—The student is more than 20 minutes late for call time.
OR—The student is not in proper attire whatsoever for the performance.
In this case the student will not be allowed to perform.

2016-2017 Blanchester HS Choir Calendar

Every attempt will be made to supply any additions or changes to this calendar three to four weeks before an event.

Friday, September 30	Homecoming Pregame Performance
Friday, November 11	Veteran's Day Ceremony—HS Band and Choir
Wednesday, December 14	Holiday Concert-HS Gym-7:00pm- 6 th -8 th bands Back up date-Wednesday, December 21
Saturday, February 11	Hosting OMEA HS Solo and Ensemble at the MS
Tuesday, February 28	High School Winter Concert 7:30pm Back up date, Thursday, March 2
Tuesday, March 7	Marching Band Parent Meeting 7pm
March TBA	Additional Music in Our Schools Month Performances
Friday, March 24	Variety Show, Auditions probably March 6, 7, 8
Fri/Sat, April 7/8	Musical
May TBA	Music in the Parks Festival
Monday, May 15	Band and Choir Concert and Awards Ceremony-7pm (maybe move this later depending on seniors last day)
Sunday, May 28	Graduation

2016-2017 Blanchester Wildcats Choir Course Agreement

Please return this form by Friday, August 19, 2016

We have read and understand the policies contained in **2016-2017 Concert Choir Course Policies**, as well as the performance dates and times provided.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Student email: _____

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Parent email: _____

Parent phone: (_____) _____