

BCLUW High School
Choral Department
Handbook
2017-2018



Philosophy

Students in the BCLUW Choral Program will grow as musicians and as individuals while creating music together. The students will learn to successfully read music notation and will become accurate sight-readers. They will attain knowledge in proper vocal technique and in healthy voice use. Through participation in the choral ensembles, the student will develop discipline in the craft and responsibility in upholding his or her own tasks. These skills will aid the student not only in the choral setting, but in daily life.

Family of Choirs

Concert Choir

A large mixed gender ensemble open to all students. This ensemble will perform in multiple concerts throughout the year and compete at Large Group Contest. This choir meets during the school day.



Chamber Choir

A small, auditioned mixed gender ensemble made up of sophomore, junior, and senior students. Participation in Concert Choir is also required of students singing in Chamber Choir. The chamber choir travels to community outreach events, and competes at state solo/ensemble contest.

Show Choir

A mixed gender ensemble open to all students. The show choir is an extra-curricular choir that balances both singing and dancing. This ensemble travels to multiple community outreach events and competitions.

Co-Curricular Activities

All-State Choir Auditions

All-State Choir auditions provide a valuable opportunity to develop musical skills on an individual basis. Those that are interested should discuss this option with Mr. Jahn before July in order to get registered for a summer preparation camp. Students auditioning for All-State must be individually driven, and be able to dedicate time to work on the music, both on their own, and with Mr. Jahn

Solo/Ensemble Competition

All students are encouraged to prepare one or more songs for solo/ensemble competition. At this event, students and small groups will memorize a song with an accompanist. The song will be sung in front of a panel of professionals that will provide feedback on the performance.

Large Group Competition

All students in Concert Choir are required to attend a large group competition once a year. In the large group competition, the choir will perform a collection of songs for a panel of experts. As with solo/ensemble competition, this competition provides feedback that is important in developing as a choral ensemble.

Expectations and Procedures

1. Students will be in their assigned seat with all required materials when the bell rings. Leave bags, purses, materials for other classes, etc. away from the seats.
2. Students will respect everyone and everything in the room, including fellow students, directors/accompanists, and will be respectful of the space and equipment
3. Food and beverage are not allowed in the auditorium or vocal rooms. Bottled water is allowed.
4. Students should refrain from talking during rehearsals.
5. Cell phones and gum are not permitted in rehearsals. If you are afraid you will be tempted by your phone, Mr. Jahn will keep it in a safe place for you.



Classroom Management and Discipline Plan

1. Verbal warning
2. Detention
3. Parent contact
4. Principal referral

During any off-campus events, students are expected to strictly adhere to both school and choral regulations. You are a representative of the choir, and of BCLUW Schools, and should behave as such.

Grading

30% Daily participation. Up to 10 points will be given every week for participation and appropriate behavior in class.

40% Required performances. Points will be given for each required performance attended. Excused absences may be made up for 100% credit. Unexcused absences may be made up for 50% credit.

15% Tests. Multiple tests will be given during the year. These will include written tests, voice tests covering songs sung in choir, and sight singing tests.

15% Assignments. Any assignments given in choir.

High School Choir Concert Schedule/Events

- **Oct. 12, 7:00PM: Concert**
- Oct. 21, 7:00 PM: All-State Auditions
- **Nov. 10, 10:45AM: Veterans' Day Program**
- Nov. 16-18, all day: All-State Festival
- **Dec. 18, 7:30PM: Concert**
- **Jan. 16, all day: NICL Vocal Festival @ Dike New Hartford**
- **Mar. 2, 7:30PM: Coffee Concert**
- **Mar. 8, 7:00 PM: 5-12 Vocal Concert**
- Apr. 14, TBD: Solo/Ensemble Contest
- **May 4, TBD: Large Group Festival**
- **May 8, 7:30 PM: Fine Arts Concert**
- **May 20, 2:00 PM: Graduation**

Notes: This calendar is subject to change.

All bolded events are **REQUIRED PERFORMANCES**

Websites

The BCLUW Choir website will contain valuable information pertaining to dates, performances, etc. It will be updated periodically throughout the year and is located at this address: <http://bcluwchoir.weebly.com/>.

Concert Attire

Concert Choir will wear choir robes that will be assigned to students before the first concert. Robes should be handled with care. Each student should wear only his or her assigned robe. Students will be held accountable for any missing robes.

Under robes, men should wear the following:

- Black dress shoes
- Black dress socks
- Black dress pants
- White long sleeved dress shirt
- Plain black tie

Under robes, women should wear the following:

- Black knee-length skirt or dress (long enough to be appropriate for school, but not long enough to show below the choir robe)
- Black hose
- Black dress shoes with no heel (flats)

Chamber Choir attire will be formalwear primarily provided by the school. If any student would like to purchase their own tux or dress, please discuss this with Mr. JAHN. Tuxes and dresses need to be returned to the school by the end of the school year. Students are responsible for any missing formalwear.

Men in Chamber Choir will wear:

- Tuxedo pants, jacket, cummerbund, and bowtie (supplied by school)
- Black shoes and socks
- White collared shirt

Women in Chamber Choir will wear:

- Formal black dress and faux-pearl necklace (supplied by school)
- Black hose
- Black dress shoes with no heel (flats)

Lessons

Lessons will be required with Mr. Jahn. Three lessons are required per semester. Students will be assigned a time, which may be during or outside of school.

Lessons outside of school with a voice teacher are not required, but recommended. If interested in finding a voice teacher, speak with Mr. Jahn.

Lettering

Choir letters will be awarded to students who have distinguished themselves through their performance and participation. The director will assign these letters using the following point system as a guideline:

- I. Guidelines for lettering in choir are that each student earns 100 points. The choir director will consider these points when assigning letters.
 - a. Participation in BCLUW Concert Choir _____ # of years x **30 pts** = _____
 - b. Participation in BCLUW Chamber Choir _____ # of years x **20 pts** = _____
 - c. Participation in BCLUW Show Choir _____ # of years x **20 pts** = _____
 - d. Singing a solo at State Solo/Small Ensemble Contest **20 pts** _____
 - e. Participating in an ensemble at State Solo/Ensemble Contest (each group) **10 pts** _____
 - f. Participation in Musical in a principal role, **25 pts** _____
 - g. Participation in Musical in an ensemble role, **15 pts** _____
 - _____
 - h. Participation in Musical in the crew, **10 pts** _____
 - i. Earning awards for musical performances, state or local **15 pts** _____
 - i. List awards:
 - j. Singing solos at local concerts **10 pts** _____
 - i. List concert/solo:
 - k. Auditioning for all-state choir **20 pts** _____
 - l. Participating in an honor choir **20 pts** _____
 - m. Participation in musical activities outside of school (i.e. church choir, community choir/band, singing or playing for weddings, singing the national anthem as a solo at school events) – per activity **5 pts** _____
 - i. List activity:

Fees

Show choir currently requires a fee for participation. More information is given at show choir rehearsals.

Parent Letter

After reading through the handbook with a parent/guardian, please read and sign the following parent letter. This must be done and returned to Mr. Jahn no later than Friday, Sept. 1

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Thank you for the privilege of teaching your child this school year! I look forward to working closely with you and communicating with you, so that together we can make this year one of rewarding educational and musical experiences for your son or daughter.

Please take a moment to read the BCLUW High School Choir Handbook with your child. It contains important information regarding what is expected of students involved in the BCLUW Vocal Music Program, as well as important dates to remember. After you have read it, please sign and return the form at the bottom of this page, indicating that you have read the handbook, understand the requirements, and are aware of the other information it contains.

If at any time you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael Jahn

Director of Choirs, BCLUW High School and Middle School

Name of Student: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

We have read the Choir Handbook and understand the information about expectations, required events, and other choir policies.

Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

Signature of Student Date