

# Byron High School Choir Handbook

## 2020-2021

As we prepare for the upcoming school year we will know that the choir courses will look different than the past year. My goal is to offer an educational course while being as safe as possible following local and state guidelines for singing. Our health and safety is the number one priority.

Our classroom expectations will include:

- Students will be expected to wear masks at all times
- Students will be seated at the regulated 6 foot distance either outside or in the high school theater
- Concerts will be organized different than in the past, we will have performance opportunities but they will more than likely be recorded and then viewed by students and family members at home
- If regulations change there may be an opportunity for a socially distanced outdoor concert
- Students will be expected to carry their music with them, there will not be storage offered for folders. It is expected that students will have their music with them for every class
- Students will be expected to join remind and google classroom
- Students will need to provide their own pencil for class. These can be kept inside the music folders

Plan for remote learners:

- Students will participate in class with livestream Zoom, with the camera on but muted mic.
- Students will be expected to remain on Zoom for the duration of the class period
- Students will be expected to sing if the class is singing and participate in all classroom activities
- Students will need to come in to pick up their choir folders from the main office of the school between the hours of 7:30 and 4:00 the first days of school
- Students may be asked to submit a recording of themselves singing any of the music we are learning for a check of understanding
- Students will be expected to record themselves singing the programed concert songs and submit by due date
- Students may use the chat or raise hand if they have questions or need assistance
- Students may have additional assistance during my remote learning time from 2:30-2:50
- Students may reach me by remind, google classroom, or email
- If the class goes remote all students will be expected to follow the above

## GOALS:

- To provide quality music experiences to as many students as our resources allow.
- To help students develop a degree of musical independence which will enable them to read and perform music.
- To provide representative examples of music from the various style periods of music history, including music composed by the recognized master composers.

## GRADING POLICIES

Summative Assessments – 80% of student's grade

- A. Public Performances- or recorded performances
- B. Individual performance tests
- C. Semester Exams

Formative Assessments – 20% of student's grade

- A. Weekly Skill Grade (Ensemble skills, Rehearsal skills, Audience skills)
- B. Weekly Sight Reading Lessons
- C. Quizzes
- D. Music Composition – 1 per semester

Extra-credit

- A. No extra credit opportunities can be given; they will be recorded as additional performance opportunities. Examples of these are: ILMEA auditions, ILMEA festival, Conference Festival, Honor Choirs, etc.

## ATTENDANCE AT PERFORMANCES

As the year develops so may our opportunity to perform publically. The initial performances will begin as a recorded session, during our class period. They may evolve into an outdoor performance which will include an audience. By spring they may be a more traditional public performance in the theater. This all depends on guidance from local and state agencies. When we return to traditional performances the attendance in these will be mandatory. Remote learners will be required to submit a recording of themselves singing the concert songs but the date of the concert performance.

## CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Students will arrive in the theater. If we are going outside we will use the garage door to exit the building. If we are staying inside students will find their assigned seats in the theater. Each student will bring their own folders with them. The folder should have a pencil in it. Students should also have their computers and have it fully charged. There is no opportunity to charge a computer outside or in the theater. If outside, students will be expected to bring their chair outside and inside, as well as help carry other necessary audio equipment out for class. Bathroom

breaks should be taken care of before class. Students will remain masked at all times during class.

### MUSIC BOOSTERS

As the parent of a music student, you are automatically a member of this organization. The Boosters meet on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 PM. There is a **great need** for the attendance of choir parents to come to the meetings to represent the choir. The booster's main activities are the football concession stands, if you work concession stands you will receive credits toward the trip taken every other year.

### FIELD TRIPS & TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

There will not be any organized field trips to Chicago to attend a musical theater performance. We are hoping to still get a choir tour in the spring. I will discuss this with administration and follow regulations from state and local guidance. We will either travel 4 days during spring break or 4 days at the end of the school year. Place to be determined once we know we can travel. There may be fundraisers as the year progresses.

### CHORAL UNIFORMS

Choral uniforms will be determined as the year progresses. Traditional uniforms in the past include:

#### **Chamber Choir & Treble Choir:**

Each ensemble has a specific uniform for their performance opportunities. The Chamber Choir and Treble Choir will be dressed in formal attire. They will be fitted for their uniforms in September and will be responsible for their upkeep during the school year. Any damages, or parts lost, are the responsibility of the student the uniform is assigned to. There should not be any eating or drinking (except water) while in uniform. When the last performance has been completed, uniforms will be turned in and I will be dry cleaning them. A dry cleaning fee will be collected at the beginning of the year for this. Each member of these ensembles will also be given a suit bag that their formal attire should be transported in all times that they are being carried outside. The girl's also will be issued a necklace that they will need to wear at each concert, if this is lost it will need to be replaced.

#### **Concert Choir:**

The Concert Choir will be issued a robe and will be responsible for its condition. Damages will result in a fine based on current repair/replacement costs. There should not be any eating or drinking (except water) while in uniform. Robes must be hung up properly after each use. Chorus members wearing robes are required to wear appropriate clothing under them. If there is a financial need for uniform clothing contact the director.

Gentlemen: black dress pants, black socks, and black dress shoes (no tennis shoes, no jeans)

Ladies: black dress slacks, black nylons or socks, and black dress shoes (no tennis shoes or open toed shoes, no skirts or jeans)

#### **Show Choir:**

Students in Show Choir will be responsible to find and provide their own uniform, as decided by the group, to coordinate with the songs performed. The costume closets at the high school and middle school may be utilized if a student cannot find a necessary outfit.

## THE CHORAL DEPARTMENT STUDENT CONTRACT

I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
confirm that I have read and understand all of the  
information contained within this Choral Department  
Handbook. I understand that all of the rules and  
regulations will apply while I am present at any function in  
relation to the choral department. I agree to make any  
necessary arrangements so that I can attend each function.  
If I have an excused assignment, I will complete it in a  
timely manner. I understand that it is my responsibility to  
share the information in the handbook with my parents  
and/or guardians.

Signature of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Email of student: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Email of parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number for parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Email of 2<sup>nd</sup> parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number for 2<sup>nd</sup> parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Return by August 28

