

Onyx Handbook



2019-2020

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www.bearcreekchoirs.com

Jose Martinez, Activities Director
Lynn Torr, Principal

Welcome to Onyx! I'm looking forward to a great year of music making together. We have some exciting things in store for this year. My hope is that you are here because you love making music and want to invest in this program to make it the best possible.

Office Hours:

I am available during before or after school or during my plan period (1) by appointment.

Course Description:

Onyx is an auditioned, treble small ensemble of 18-40 voices. The members of Onyx will develop advanced vocal technique, as well as a broad, advanced knowledge and skill in music. Students will learn the nuances of choral literature and technique, along with the benefits of working closely with others within an ensemble, accomplishment through hard work, and the skills necessary for independent ensemble singing. The members of Onyx will also demonstrate a refined aesthetic sensitivity through the study and performance of a wide range of advanced four- to eight-part choral literature from various cultures, styles, languages, and time periods. My expectation for this group is create music at the highest level. The vision is to see students passionate about working together in an ensemble to become one of the best high school choirs in the state of Colorado. Onyx will perform at all four school concerts as well as other contests and festivals. Other various performances are likely to arise and will take place outside of the school day. These performances will be announced with as much advanced warning as possible. It is an honor to be a part of this ensemble and students will need to exhibit a very high level of commitment.

Please read this handbook carefully. The following signed forms are due on Friday, August 23, 2019:

- Student Information Form
- Parent Profile Form
- Choir Handbook Agreement Contract

Sincerely,
Brady Loyd
Vocal Music Director
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Website: www.bearcreekchoirs.com

Choir Course Grading

Grading Scale

90-100% = A 80-89% = B 70-79% = C 60 - 69% = D 59% or below = F

Grading in vocal music is a little bit different than most classes because it tends to be more subjective. It is based on the student's individual performance and willingness to actively participate within the ensemble. Here is a basic outline of the areas in which each student will be graded on:

- **In-Class Participation (5 points/day - 10 points/block day)**
 - Students are expected to come on-time and prepared to class rehearsals with all materials. Every student is vital to the ensemble as a whole, and one person being gone has an effect on the group. This is why attendance is so important! For every non-participation or absence (excused or unexcused) the student will receive 0 points. ***A student with an excused absence can make up the points by doing a special project given by the instructor. Students need to see the instructor to make up points.** All make-up work will benefit the ensemble as a whole.

- **Concert Performances (200 pts. each) & Dress Rehearsals (50 pts. each)**
 - Performances are the culmination of classroom learning. They are an important assessment and significant part of a student's grade. All concerts & dress rehearsals written in bold on the calendar are mandatory. Absences from concerts for any reason other than an emergency (excused or unexcused) will result in a zero for that performance. Family vacations, birthdays, visiting relatives, too much homework, and work do not count as an emergency. Also, if you have 5 or more unexcused rehearsals, it is the director's prerogative to determine whether you perform in the next concert or festival. ***In the case of an emergency (an illness, death in the family, etc.), the student will need to make up the points by writing a paper and doing a project designated by the director. Excusable concerts are VERY rare and need to be discussed with the director prior to the performance!***

First Excused Absence from a Scheduled Performance –

*****Make-Up Paper due the day of the concert.*****

Definition of excused absence from a concert or dress rehearsal:

1. *Jury duty or court appearance.**
2. *Observance of a religious holiday.**
3. *Severe illness with a doctor note.+*
4. *Serious illness/hospitalization of family member +*
5. *Bereavement +*
6. *Pre-approved BCHS CHSAA-sponsored school function.**

** A written notification from student and /or parent to all involved adults (teacher, coach, advisor, etc), must be submitted at least 2 weeks IN ADVANCE. It would be best to do this on one email so that the adults are able to contact one another. The adults will attempt to reschedule in order to eliminate the conflict. These conflicts can almost always be worked out. When the conflict cannot be resolved, the school policy is as follows: The student will be expected to attend any activity that is curricular in nature and part of the students overall performance grade for a class. Exception; If the conflict occurs during playoff or state competition the student will be excused from the performance/activity and an alternative assignment will be afforded to the student.*

+ In the event of a last minute emergency, please contact Mr. Loyd before the concert (if possible) and as soon as possible. Upon your return to school, please provide a letter of explanation from the parent and see Mr. Loyd to arrange the make-up assignment.

Examples of UNexcused absences:

- Failing to request time off of work*
- Family or friend social events (even when "Called in" by parents)*
- Any event in which the directors were not notified in the proper manner or timeline*
- A practice on a sports team or other activity (a concert performance takes precedence over a practice or rehearsal).*
- Failure to plan ahead for homework or other school commitments.*
- An event that's a non-CHSAA or non-school related.*
- Birthday celebrations*
- Lack of transportation.*

Multiple absences on concert days are unacceptable and will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

****The full year choir calendar is attached at the back of this packet and can be found at www.bearcreekchoirs.com*

- **Live Performance Review (100 points per semester)**
 - Students are required to attend 2 music performances per semester and write a review/critique of the performance. A list of performances will be provided for students and a set of guiding questions will be provided for the review. ***At least one of these performances must be a choir concert outside of BCHS (any level). Performances in which the student is involved cannot be used for this assignment.
- **Other assignments as given**
 - Points are determined per assignment.

Late Work and Grading

Excused Absences - In the event that a student misses an assignment or test in class due to an *excused* absence from school, the student will be given twice the number of days missed to complete make-up work. Work that has been assigned prior to the absence and is due during an absence must be turned in on the day the student returns to school. *It is the student's responsibility to be aware of all class assignments and to contact either other students in the class or the the instructor immediately when an assignment or class period is missed and work is to be made up.*

Unexcused Absences - If a student does not turn in an assignment on time due to an unexcused absence, the student may submit the assignment for a grade with a two letter grade reduction. If a student misses class when an assignment was given, it is their responsibility to contact the instructor and turn in any assigned materials by the regular deadline.

Concert Make-Up Requirement

Anyone who missed one concert for an excused reason and has followed the proper communication protocol has the opportunity to make it up for 75% of the concert grade.

Chose two songs from this concert's repertoire. For each song, find 3 examples of the song being performed by a chorus (such as on youtube). If you can't find performances on youtube, you may have to select one of the other pieces we performed. Write a 3 page paper that compares and contrasts the different performances. You should include the following musical elements in your analysis:

- Tone quality (rich, round, warm, thin, spread, vowel shapes, vibrato, etc.)
- Accuracy of pitches and rhythm (including entrances and releases)
- Tempo - did different groups choose different tempos? Do you find one tempo preferable to another?
- Intonation - did the group sing in tune?
- Blend & Balance - is the sound unified or can you pick out individual voices? Are there sections you can't hear or a section that stands out?
- Diction - can you understand the words?
- Performance skills - are the singers engaged with energized facial expressions? Do they connect with the audience? Do they use body motion? Do they have distracting behaviors?

Be sure to include information about the group you are reviewing - what type of chorus is it? Also include your sources.

Format:

The paper should be at least 3 full pages long, typed, double spaced, with side margins at 1.00" and top and bottom margins at 1.00". Font should be no bigger than 12 point. You should include introductory and concluding paragraphs. Please ensure that there is no plagiarized material and any quotations are cited fully.

Due Date:

The paper is due the day of the concert you are missing. If an emergency occurs and you miss the concert unexpectedly, the paper must be submitted by the end of the quarter, which is usually 2-3 days following the concert.

See me if you need help or alternative resources. Good luck!

Conduct

At BCHS we make every effort to teach students more than just the vocational skills they will need to work. In choir, students are expected to learn and demonstrate a strong work ethic, professional and respectful conduct, and good communication skills that are required in every workplace. In class and especially in the community, students are expected to:

- Show up early to events
- Be prepared with the materials and attitude they need to perform their best
- Have a respectful, responsible, and positive demeanor toward themselves, each other, and their teachers, parents, and community members

Choir members are expected to follow the Bear Creek High School & School District Codes of Conduct. In the event an existing school policy does not identify a particular student behavior, the choir director will evaluate the behavior, alongside school administration if necessary, and appropriate disciplinary action will be determined based upon the severity of the incident and its impact on the choir program.

Food & Drink

Absolutely NO food or drink is allowed in the classroom with the exception of water.

Fees

There is a yearly \$80 Co-Curricular Activity Fee for all students enrolled in Sounds. This covers the cost of music, festival entrance, clinicians, etc.

In addition, students will purchase their required concert attire. This cost ranges from \$60-110 depending on the concert attire. All attire will be purchased through the program.

Cell Phone/ Electronic Devices

Cell phones or other electronic devices should not be in use during class time unless permission has been granted for use for a specific reason by the instructor.

Cell phones will be allowed at the beginning of class for putting dates in the calendar, and then must be silenced and put away in a backpack or folder slot during rehearsal time. If a student's cell phone is visible during regular instructional time, the phone will be taken and will be given back after class is over. If a cell phone is taken by the instructor more than once, further infractions will result in zeroes for the daily participation grade and the phone will be turned over to an administrator for retrieval. Please see the BCHS Student Handbook regarding additional school cell phone/ electronic use policies for additional information on use at school.

Co-Curricular Eligibility

Choir is an elective performing arts class taken for credit. Choir is classified as co-curricular, which means it holds academic in-class requirements, as well as out-of-class requirements. In order to participate in choir performances, students must meet the eligibility requirements of CHSAA, Jeffco Public Schools, & BCHS. "Being eligible" means the student is failing fewer than 2 classes. Any student not eligible at grade reporting time will not be able to partake in any extracurricular choir events which include field trips & CHSAA festivals until his or her grades meet the eligibility standards. If a student misses a mandatory event due to ineligibility, they will need to complete the makeup assignment as assigned by the director.

Sheet Music & Folders Policy

Students will be provided with a folder for all scores that they may store in class or take with them each day. If a student forgets their music, he or she should inform the class music librarian before rehearsal begins to get an extra score. Students are responsible for having their own music at *every rehearsal*. Students who do not have music for class or rehearsal will lose 2 participation points each day it's missing from rehearsal. With all music, students are encouraged to make notes in PENCIL. Once music and folders are distributed, students are responsible for their music and folder. If any of it is lost or stolen, the student will be responsible for the cost of replacement.

King Soopers Cards

Please register your King Soopers card to earn money toward our program!

1. Visit <http://www.kingsoopers.com>
2. Select "sign in" or "create an account."
3. Once you have signed in, you can choose My Account.
4. On the next screen, you will see community Rewards listed as an option.
5. Select Community Rewards, choose find an organization, enter "Bear Creek Choir" in the search box, and click search and then click enroll.
6. You will receive a confirmation email that you have successfully enrolled.

BCHS Choir will continue to earn rewards for every dollar you spend at King Soopers grocery store or the King Soopers gas station using your King Soopers Loyalty card or associated phone number.

You **MUST** use your Loyalty card or associated phone number for BCHS Choir to earn rewards.

Thank you for your support of this beneficial program!!

Student Information Form

Student's Name _____

Permanent Mailing Address

Home Phone _____

Student's Email _____

Father/Guardian's Name _____ **Email** _____

Work phone _____ Cell _____

Mother/Guardian's Name _____ **Email** _____

Work phone _____ Cell _____

Contact

Who does the student primarily live with? (Please Circle)

Both Parents Father Mother Equal Time Other: _____

In the event that a parent cannot be reached, please provide at least one emergency contact.

Emergency Contact #1: _____ **Phone:** _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Emergency Contact #2: _____ **Phone:** _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Parent/Guardian Profile Form

The key to a successful program is the support of staff, students, and especially, the parents. If you can be of assistance in any of the following areas, please consider helping us with your time and talents. There is nothing more rewarding than being an active member of a fine organization, and your involvement speaks volumes about how you value the choices your child makes. Check areas of interest below and Mr. Loyd will be in touch with you.

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Names: _____

Phone: _____ Emails: _____

Best way to Contact: _____

Please place a check next to any and all events and activities that you may be interested in assisting us with this school year.

Organize Help Out

_____ _____ **Hospitality:** Social activities, banquets, refreshments, etc.

_____ _____ **Field Trips:** Help plan trips, chaperone students

_____ _____ **Public Relations:** Community liaison, newsletters, photos

_____ _____ **Fundraising:** Help organize fundraiser, work events

SPECIAL SKILLS & INTERESTS

_____ Sound equipment

_____ CPA

_____ Audio/Visual

_____ Graphics/Art

_____ Computers/Web Design

_____ Crafts

_____ Nurse

_____ Carpentry

Miscellaneous - use the space below to describe:

How much time can you help?

____ 5 hours a year ____ Several hours a month ____ Several hours a week ____ Daily

I can help more in the months of _____

Choir Member Contract 2019-2020

By signing below I affirm that:

- I have read and understand the policies stated in the BCHS 2019-2020 Choir Handbook.
- By enrolling in choir, I agree to comply with these policies, procedures, and expectations.
- I have this year's choir calendar and am responsible for attendance at all required events. It is also known that events may be added to or deleted from the calendar with advance notice.
- I intend to give my greatest efforts to achieve the best musical experience as a member of the Bear Creek High School Choir.

Student's Signature

Date

Student's Name (print)

Parent/Guardian:

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian's Name (print)