

Onyx

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2023–2024

Welcome

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.

Contact Me

Email is my preferred method of communication.

Please allow 24 hours for a response (or the next school day if email is sent on a weekend).

I will be available before/after school or during my 1st period plan (by appointment), or you can always sign up for BC Prep.

Expectations

Becoming a part of an ensemble takes teamwork, dedication, and cooperation. None of us is successful until all of us are successful. In order for us to perform and grow to the best of our capability, there are certain expectations for how we approach this work on a consistent basis. These expectations include (but are not limited to):

- **Full participation - every student needs to be engaged with the work at all times**
- **Respect - we will respect one another's time, efforts, skill and contributions**
- **Be Prepared - you must have your music and a pencil at all rehearsals**
- **Be On Time - it is crucial that you are on time for all rehearsals and performances**
- **Electronics - it is important that you are present for the work - put your phone away**
- **Food & Drink - no food/drink/gum at any time (even before the bell) in the choir room - water is the only exception**
- **Professionalism - you represent Bear Creek High School and this program at all times - inside and outside of school**
- **HAVE FUN! - most importantly, we are here to have fun making music together - bring your best attitude every day!**

Grading

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:

Weekly Demonstration of Skills (10 points/week)

- Students are expected to come on-time and prepared to class rehearsals with all materials and demonstrate growth in their musical skills. 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 (100 pts. each) & Dress Rehearsals (20 pts. each)

- Performances are the culmination of classroom learning. They are an important assessment and significant part of a student's grade. All school concerts & dress rehearsals 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!***

Portfolio (no more than 10% of final grade)

- This will include weekly sight singing, singing and memorization tests, as well as any other miscellaneous work in class.

Late Work

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 one 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.

Fees

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

In addition, students will purchase an Onyx shirt and concert attire (see below)

Concert Attire

Students will provide their own concert attire for the 2023-2024 school year.

Concert attire will consist of Concert Black:

- All black clothing (including shoes and socks), no colors

- All attire must follow school dress code

- Dress attire is appropriate

- No jeans, leggings, sweatpants

- Dresses/skirts may be worn - if above the knee, tights or leggings under are preferred

Electronics

It is vital that you are present to the work we are doing daily in class.

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 not be present on the student's person during class. It must be silenced and put away in a backpack or in the student's folder slot.

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.

Onyx MEMBER CONTRACT

By signing below I affirm that:

- I have read and understand the policies stated in the BCHS 2023-2024 Onyx Handbook.
- By enrolling in choir, I agree to comply with these policies, procedures, and expectations.
- I have this year's choir calendar (bearcreekchoirs.com) 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 Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian's Name (print)

Please sign and return no later than Friday, August 25.