SOUNDS OF BEAR CREEK

2026-2027

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WELCOME

Welcome to Sounds of Bear Creek!
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.
- I will be available before/after school, during my 2nd 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 Performing Arts is a little bit different than most classes because our classes are different than most classes. Our Performing Arts classes are largely ensemble based classes, meaning the work is inherently collaborative in nature. Because of this collaborative nature of the work, the value is placed on learning our craft (music/theatre) and developing real world skills and work habits that will serve our students after graduation. For this reason, the grading in Performing Arts is weighted more heavily toward Work Habits and Learning & Practice, with a lesser emphasis on Proficiency.

Grades in Performing Arts will be weighted accordingly:

- Work Habits – 40%
- Learning and Practice – 30%
- Proficiency – 30%

Work Habits – 40%

Work Habits include the skills that students learn in daily ensemble/class work that will serve them well beyond high school. They include habits such as punctuality, preparedness, focus on the work, collaboration, ensemble skills, engagement and energy, etc.

These skills and habits are a large part of the learning that happens in collaboration with the full ensemble on a daily basis.

Work Habits grades will be updated every three weeks.

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 the minimum grade of 40%. A student with an excused absence can make up the points by contacting the instructor. All make-up work will benefit the ensemble as a whole.

Learning and Practice – 30%

Learning and Practice includes all of the performing (music/theatre) skills and development that happens regularly in our classes.

Examples include sight reading, workshops, sectionals/small ensemble work, check-ins (notes, choreography, lines, etc.). All mandatory dress rehearsals will also be included in this section.

GRADING (CONT.)

Proficiency – 30%

Proficiency includes all of the opportunities to demonstrate the growth and/or mastery of the performing (musical/theatrical) skills and knowledge that students have gained in the course.

This includes concerts, performances (both inside and outside of class), tests, quizzes, reflections, critiques, and any other work that allows students to demonstrate their proficiency in the skills and knowledge of the course.

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!

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 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 Sounds. This covers the cost of music, festival entrance, clinicians, etc.
In addition, students will purchase a Sounds shirt and concert attire (see below).

CALENDAR

The calendar of all events is available in Google Classroom. Please pay attention to all events in the calendar.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Concert attire at BCHS follows the established standard in use by many professional, semi-professional, and amateur ensembles from across the world. This dress code is known as "Concert Black".
As the name suggests, the defining feature of this dress code is that it is all black, without adornment of any kind.
Regardless of personal style, gender, religious expression, or other factors, attire is expected to be formal, classy, elegant, modest, and above all, allow for comfort and freedom of movement to allow for the best possible performance.
Bear Creek's definition of Concert Black allows students a wide degree of freedom to choose clothing that they can feel good about wearing which, in turn, allows them to focus on their musical performance. If you have any questions about your concert attire, please ask Mr. Loyd.

What is Concert Black Attire?

Students are free to choose the components of their concert blacks within the following guidelines:

- black dress pants, slacks, skirt, or dress (skirt length is below the knee)
- black dress shirt, blouse, or dress (please avoid particularly low necklines)
- black socks or black opaque stockings/tights
- black dress shoes
- jewelry is permitted, but should not be prominent

What is *NOT* Concert Black Attire?

- jeans, sweats, yoga pants, leggings, miniskirts, or shorts
- t-shirts, tank tops, spaghetti straps, halter tops, or crop tops
- flip-flops, slippers, sneakers
- white socks, colored socks, bare legs, or bare feet

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 the hanging cell phone holder.

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.

SOUNDS MEMBER CONTRACT

By signing below I affirm that:

- I have read and understand the policies stated in the BCHS 2026–2027 Sounds Handbook.
- By enrolling in choir, I agree to comply with these policies, procedures, and expectations.
- I have this year's choir calendar (Google Classroom) 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 28.